

# SAFETY AT UNPERMITTED HOMELESS CAMPS

## *Key Messages (March 12, 2021)*

### WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THIS NOW?

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is removing trash and debris from ODOT-owned property that is within Bend city limits. Additionally, ODOT has posted no trespassing notices and may be requiring people located on the property and in violation of posted notices to leave the property. According to ODOT Region 10 Manager Joel McCarroll, ODOT may take these actions when “there are impactful and persisting issues related public safety and public health.”

Bend Police Department is providing on-site safety to allow ODOT to proceed with the removal of trash and debris, and to assist with the removal of individuals who are trespassing, if requested by ODOT. This process of Bend Police responding to calls for service related to public safety and trespassing is not unique to ODOT-owned property. It is a similar response for any public property owner or individual private property owner who reports trespassing.

### ITEMS OF NOTE

- Many of the homeless camps within Bend city limits, particularly adjacent to U.S. 97 and U.S. 20 on- and off-ramps, are on property owned and managed by ODOT. These properties may also be referred to as “rights of way”.
- Since the property is not City-owned, the City does not make decisions about when to clean the site, remove campers or other property management efforts.

### ODOT RESPONSE TO PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Camping is prohibited by state law on ODOT rights of way. ODOT is required to follow certain procedures before removing personal property from unlawful campsites on state rights of way. ODOT will take the following action when public safety complaints are received and/or when the conditions of the camps on its property become a public health concern for those inside it and to the community:





- Issues a 24-hr notice of violation of the State's "No Camping" administrative rule and the need to vacate and remove personal property.
- ODOT shares the notice with social services agencies so that people living in the camps are provided needed services and information.
- Those trespassing on the property have 24 hours to vacate the site and 10 days to remove personal property.
- If after a minimum of 10 days, people are still present on the property or have not removed their personal property, they are considered in violation of the law. ODOT may call local law enforcement to help with enforcement.
- If the ODOT property is within Bend city limits, ODOT contacts Bend Police for support.
- If the ODOT property is in unincorporated areas of Deschutes County, ODOT contacts the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office for support.

## BEND POLICE RESPONSE TO SUPPORT REQUEST

- The Bend Police Department responds to ODOT's call for service with a courtesy warning to violators of the posted notice.
- If compliance is not achieved with a courtesy warning, Bend Police enforces the law, which may include issuing citations for trespassing.

## WHAT IS THE CITY DOING ABOUT HOMELESSNESS?

There are nearly 1,000 people who are experiencing homelessness in Central Oregon on any given night. This number includes families with children and youth who do not live with an adult. Learn more in [Central Oregon Homelessness Facts & Figures](#). The City is working with public agencies and community partners to support homelessness solutions for our community. This includes finding ways to keep people in their homes, provide temporary transitional housing, and increase the availability of affordable housing.

The City of Bend is working with other public agencies and community partners to support individuals and families in our community who are experiencing homelessness. On Oct. 21, 2020, Bend City Council supported a staff plan to create an Emergency Homelessness Task Force to identify short-term needs and corresponding resources. The Council intends for that task force to work with the community to create a City of Bend homelessness action plan.





The appointment of an Emergency Homelessness Task Force will ensure a high level of collaboration among public agencies and community partners to obtain the largest number of shelter beds across Bend and to professionally manage all shelter sites and camps. Learn more about the Emergency Homelessness Task Force at [www.bendoregon.gov/ehhf](http://www.bendoregon.gov/ehhf).

See the graphic on the last page of this document for a summary of the City's efforts to support homelessness solutions. Beginning March 17, information about the City's efforts to address homelessness in our community will be available at [www.bendoregon.gov/homelessness](http://www.bendoregon.gov/homelessness).

## CONTACT INFO

- Questions or comments regarding homeless camp removal on ODOT property or rights-of-way should be directed to [ODOT District 10](#) at 541-388-6169.





# Housing Response: *Supporting Homelessness Solutions*

## KEEP HOUSING

Housing Insecure



**Keeping People in their Homes**

**Bend Utility Funding Relief for Residents & Businesses**

**Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)  
Rental & Mortgage + Heating  
Bill Assistance**

## TEMPORARY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Individuals or Families Experiencing Homelessness



### CAMPS

- Development Code



### SHELTERS

- Turnkey Project
- Veterans Village
- St Vincent de Paul
- Shepherd's House
- Bethlehem Inn
- Development Code



### SAFE PARKING

- Municipal Code



### EXCISE TAX FUNDING

- Housing Output TBD

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing Insecure



**950** total units in the pipeline

**60+** units from 4 land acquisitions

### COLLABORATING AGENCIES

#### City of Bend

- Policy
- Funding
- Land Ownership
- Law Enforcement

#### Deschutes County

- Funding for Direct Services
- Land Ownership
- Law Enforcement

#### Public Agencies

- Land Ownership
- Policy
- Funding

#### Non-Profit (HLC/REACH)

- Continuum of Care
- Direct Services
- Coordinated Entry Program
- Housing Management & Operations

### COLLABORATING AGENCIES

#### City of Bend

- Policy
- Funding

#### Private/Non-Profit

- Development
- Management & Operations



### Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Joshua Romero at [jromero@bendoregon.gov](mailto:jromero@bendoregon.gov) or (541) 693-2185.