



Encampments

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Since June 12, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has been responding to the growing number of people experiencing homelessness that are living in parks temporarily until dignified alternative spaces can be found. The MPRB is working with state, county and city health and human service agencies to find short, medium and long-term solutions. The MPRB along with its partners has been working to operationalize and adhere to [Minnesota Executive Order 20-55](#) protecting the rights and health of at-risk populations during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency.

Numbers At-a-Glance Updates

341 Estimated number of tents in all parks, as of September 22

22 Number of park sites with tents, with 4 sites having 1 to 3 tents, 2 sites having 4 to 9 tents, 7 sites having 10 to 20 tents, 6 sites having 21 to 25 tents, and 3 sites having 26-34 tents as of September 22

Temporary Permitted Encampments

Since July 15, MPRB staff have been working to get encampments temporarily permitted, reduce the number of park sites with encampments to no more than 20, and limit the number of tents to 25 tents per site, including tents for storage or support.

Temporary Encampment Permits – Getting sites permitted was a fluid situation while outreach continued, encampment permit applications were communicated and processed, and park spaces were delineated. Once temporary encampment permits are issued, regular outreach and engagement with permit holders and encampment occupants continues.

- Temporary Encampment Permit applications were due in August. Questions should be directed to encampmentpermit@minneapolisparks.org
- Permit applications were reviewed by MPRB staff and the site approved or rejected based on staff's analysis of the park's capacity to support an encampment and other guidelines outlined in [Resolution 2020-267](#)
- If approved, the MPRB provides restrooms or portable toilets, hand washing stations (as vendor supplies allow), and trash/recycling containers to a permitted encampment within 48 hours of issuing a permit
- Temporary encampment permits are limited to 14 calendar days with the option to renew. All permit holder requests for renewal are reviewed by MPRB staff.
- Due to health and safety concerns the MPRB will not be extending temporary encampment permits into cold weather, anticipated to be sometime in **October**.

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- Boom Island Park, effective August 12 (permit for up to 20 tents; not open to new tents)
- Brackett Park, effective September 3 (permit for up to 25 tents; not open to new tents)
- Franklin Steele Park, effective September 1 (permit for up to 15 tents; not open to new tents)
- Lake Harriet, 4200 Lake Harriet Parkway, effective July 28 (permit for up to 15 tents; not open to new tents)
- Lake Nokomis, effective August 25 (permit for up to 15 tents; not open to new tents)
- Logan Park, effective September 2 (permit for up to 25 tents; not open to new tents)
- Lyndale Farmstead Park, effective August 26 (permit for up to 25 tents; not open to new tents)
- Marshall Terrace Park, effective August 3 (permit for up to 20 tents; not open to new tents)
- Minnehaha Park, effective August 25 (permit for up to 25 tents; not open to new tents)
- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, effective August 25 (permit for up to 25 tents; not open to new tents)
- Riverside Park/Annie Young Meadow, effective August 22 (permit for up to 15 tents; not open to new tents)
- Riverside Park, effective August 25 (permit for up to 25 tents; not open to new tents)
- The Mall, effective August 5 (permit for up to 25 tents; not open to new tents)

Agencies Providing Additional Resources – The MPRB is encouraging use of shelter spaces, which are available daily for families through the Hennepin County Shelter Team and for single adults through Adult Shelter Connect. There is no limit to family shelter capacity. There are also openings in single adult shelter each day and according to Hennepin County there were dozens of beds that went unused each night during the month of July.

- Stephen's Outreach, 612-879-7624
- Stephen's Human Services, 612-874-0311
- Adult Shelter Connect (single adults), 612-248-2350
- Hennepin County Shelter Team (family shelter), 612-348-9410
- After-Hours Shelter Team (family shelter), 651-291-0211

On-Site Services

MPRB staff are providing a variety of increased park-related services at permitted and designated encampments throughout the city, including the following maintenance services

- Amenities: Portable restrooms, handwashing stations, and trash containers
- Maintenance staffing: Increased staffing to support onsite management of site, pick up of trash and recycling, and cleaning of restrooms
- Expanded maintenance service cost: \$262,973 from June 12–August 31 in rentals and additional staff services

Timeline and Actions

September 24 – The MPRB cleared the encampment at Peavey Park in accordance with directives in a resolution unanimously approved by Park Board Commissioners in mid-July. The directives limit encampment sites and does not allow encampments to be located in safe school zones.

The MPRB issued notices to vacate on August 10 to those living in approximately 12 tents in Peavey Park. Hennepin County and park outreach staff were on site for several days offering assistance and providing transportation to other locations. Hennepin County and St. Stephens have since been on site multiple times to connect those living in the encampment to services and spaces available at nearby shelters. Efforts to clear the encampment without the use of law enforcement have been unsuccessful. Full details at [Peavey Park encampment cleared in accordance with unanimous board directive](#).

September 16 – Superintendent Al Bangoura and staff provide an [update on refuge spaces to people currently experiencing homelessness](#) [PDF], with these remarks made by [Superintendent Bangoura](#)

August 19 – Superintendent Al Bangoura and staff provide an [update on refuge spaces to people currently experiencing homelessness](#) [PDF], with [these remarks](#) made by Superintendent Bangoura

August 14 – The MPRB cleared the west encampment at Powderhorn Park after notices to transition were served on July 31 and two weeks of MPRB outreach, transportation offers, and efforts to incrementally move those living in the remaining tents were unsuccessful. There have been significant crime and safety incidents at Powderhorn Park and the encampments in the park are within a safe school zone, which is not allowed per a resolution unanimously adopted by Park Board Commissioners on July 15. For full details: [The Powderhorn Park encampment cleared after outreach and notices served](#).

August 10-12 — This week the MPRB has begun expanding its work to remove encampments with documented crime, without temporary permits or in areas that cannot accommodate a temporary permit. The MPRB served Notices to Vacate on Monday, August 10, to those living in approximately 12 tents at Peavey Park and 12 tents at Elliott Park and on Tuesday, August 11, to those in 14 tents at Kenwood. All three encampments have had significant crime and safety incidents, including assaults. Peavey and Kenwood encampments are also located within safe school zones, which is not allowed per a resolution unanimously adopted by Park Board Commissioners in mid-July. The Elliott Park and Kenwood Park encampments were cleared on Wednesday, August 12.

On Tuesday evening, August 11, there were 35 rounds fired from multiple guns at Peavey Park; no witnesses have come forward and no injuries were reported. On September 2, online and in-person classes resume at K-12 Hope Academy, located adjacent to Peavey Park. For full details: [Notices served at Peavey, Elliott and Kenwood Park encampments; Elliott and Kenwood encampments cleared](#).

August 7 – MPRB distributes news release and announcement to email subscribers, [Minneapolis park staff name 16 parks as permitted or capable of accommodating temporary encampments](#), and leadership staff share how we got here.

August 5 – Superintendent Al Bangoura and staff provide an [update on refuge spaces to people currently experiencing homelessness](#) [PDF], with [these remarks](#) made by Superintendent Bangoura.

July 31 – MPRB distributes [news release and announcement](#) to email subscribers

July 31 – Notices of Transition were served to those living in the estimated 65 tents in the west encampment and elsewhere in Powderhorn Park. The notices informed occupants they will not be able to stay in the park. This transition is the result of significant on-going crime and safety concerns and the encampment's location within a safe school zone prohibits it from being one of 20 park Refuge Sites per [Resolution 2020-267](#) adopted by the Board of Commissioners on July 15.

The Notice of Transition does not set a deadline for complete removal of the estimated 65 tents that remain in the park (down from 560 tents July 9). The MPRB wants to encourage, through transition and the collaboration of supportive partners, an incremental removal of the any encampments at Powderhorn Park, and only engage Park Police to support other's work and/or when it has been demonstrated through repeated instances of engagement that other methods of vacating the encampments have failed. [Here is additional information related to this action](#).

July 18-20 – On Friday July 18, Superintendent Al Bangoura directed that notifications be served to individuals in the Powderhorn [east](#) encampment in the interest of the safety of encampment occupants and neighborhood residents. Notices informed those at the encampment they needed to vacate the east encampment within 72 hours (afternoon of Monday July 20). The MPRB coordinated with Hennepin County Social Services staff and local non-profit outreach providers to aid encampment occupants transition to other opportunities. According to Superintendent Al Bangoura, "There have been growing safety issues at the east encampment at Powderhorn Park. Many homeless individuals, service agencies, and volunteers had already left the east encampment last week out of concern for their safety. The risks to those unsheltered and to residents have risen to an unacceptable level." [Here is some additional information regarding MPRB recent actions related to this action](#).

July 17 – MPRB distributes news release and announcement to email subscribers: [Minneapolis Park Board approves guidelines, process, and limitations for park encampments](#)

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treated like all other parks. Another amendment was added to state if any condition under Executive Order 20-55 exists wherein the judgement of the Superintendent that there exists a documented threat to the health, safety or security of residents, the Superintendent may restrict, limit or close encampment spaces based on exigent circumstances.

July 15 – Superintendent Al Bangoura and staff provide an [update on refuge spaces to people currently experiencing homelessness](#)

July 10 – MPRB distributes news release and announcement to email subscribers: [Minneapolis Park Board to consider resolution providing guidelines for park encampments](#)

July 1 – Superintendent Al Bangoura and staff provide an [update on refuge spaces to people currently experiencing homelessness](#).

July 1 – During approval of the agenda for the regular meeting, MPRB Commissioners removed [Resolution 2020-263](#) amending adopted [Resolution 2020-253](#) to define a duration for the Board of Commissioners' declaration of refuge space in Minneapolis Parks terminating on September 1, 2020, limit the number of parks with encampments to no greater than ten parks, and reduce the number of tents to no more than ten tents in any encampment in a Minneapolis park.

June 19 – MPRB distributes news release and announcement to email subscribers: [MPRB Commissioners pass resolution allowing people currently experiencing homelessness to stay in Minneapolis parks](#)

June 17 – MPRB Commissioners approve [Resolution 2020-253](#) declaring the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's commitment to provide refuge space to people currently experiencing homelessness while continuing to work with the State, County, City, Non-Profit Organizations and other interested parties to identify long term housing solutions for people at the Powderhorn encampment and others throughout the city.

June 17 – Superintendent Al Bangoura provides an [overview of MPRB's response to homelessness in Minneapolis Parks](#).

June 12 – Superintendent Al Bangoura and key MPRB staff begin having daily conversations with city, county and state agencies who serve people experiencing homelessness.

June 12 – After issuing notifications to people in approximately 25 tents at Powderhorn Park, Superintendent Al Bangoura was contacted by the MN Interagency Council on Homelessness, park commissioners and community members and, based on their concerns, issues the following statement: "The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is rescinding its notifications issued this morning for those experiencing homelessness who recently set up in parks. The MPRB believes everyone experiencing unsheltered homelessness is vulnerable and deserving of being treated with dignity and respect. I had hoped to use the next 72 hours to work with local leaders and local agencies to find the resources and connect people to the housing, shelter and services they need, but now recognize that 72 hours is not enough time. Encampments represent a serious health and safety risk – particularly for those staying within the encampment – and do not represent a dignified form of shelter. I am committed to working with the community, local leaders and state agencies on a solution."

June 10 – Following the eviction of 200-300 people from the Midtown Sheraton Hotel who had been experiencing homelessness and had been staying at the hotel, a growing number of people began setting up tents in Powderhorn Park and other parks located throughout the city.

May 17 – [Minnesota Executive Order 20-55](#) protecting the rights and health of at-risk populations during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency takes effect. The executive order includes the statement that if a local government entity is providing sufficient alternate housing, shelter, or encampment space that complies with the MDH guidance, Homeless Services Settings: Interim Guidance for Providers, and the CDC guidance, Responding to COVID-19 Among People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness, or if an encampment has reached a size or status that is a documented threat to the health, safety, or security of residents, state or local governments may restrict, limit, or close encampment spaces.

March 27 – [Executive Order 20-20](#) directing Minnesotans to Stay at Home takes effect. The executive order includes the statement that individuals without a home are exempt from the restrictions in this Executive Order, and they may move between emergency shelters, drop-in centers, and encampments. And that encampments should not be subject to sweeps or disbandment by state or local governments, as such sweeps or disbandment increase the potential risk and spread of COVID-19.

[City of Minneapolis](#)[State of Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)

Park Board Announcements

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The MN Department of Health is leading the statewide response to COVID-19, working closely with local cities; visit www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus. The MPRB is monitoring and partnering with the Minneapolis Health Department and Office of Emergency Management on COVID-19.

EXPLORE OUR PARKS

Established in 1883, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) oversees a renowned urban park system spanning 6,809 acres of parkland and water. Featured among its 180 park properties are 55 miles of parkways, 102 miles of Grand Rounds biking and walking paths, 22 lakes, 12 formal gardens, seven golf courses and 49 recreation centers. Altogether, MPRB properties receive about 23 million visits annually.

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