



Dallas Park & Recreation

Homeless Encampment Briefing

Park and Recreation Board
March 9, 2023

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Background



Dallas Park and Recreation Department, Office of Homeless Solutions Outreach (OHS), Dallas Animal Services and the Dallas Police Department collaborate to address the homeless encampments on park property.

\$106,000 was allocated for encampment resolution services for fiscal year 2022-23 (administrative/staff labor and contracted services).

Emergency homeless encampment cleanings are led by OHS through the H.A.R.T Program to respond to Mayor and City Council requests.

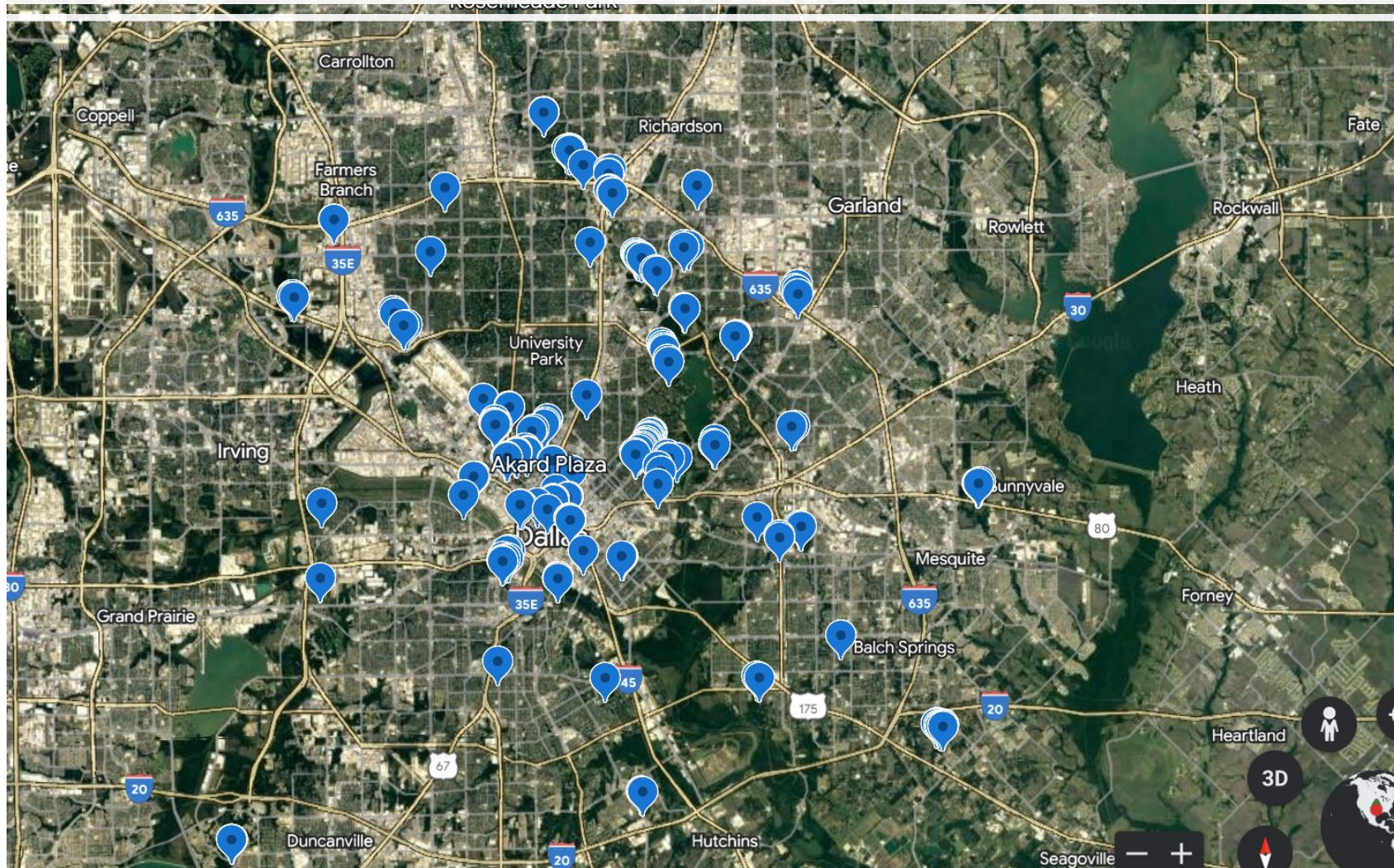
Active Park Sites Identified (Oct 1, 2022- Present)

Akard-Young
 Anderson Bonner
 Apache Trail
 Arcadia
 Bachman
 Bark Park Dog Park
 Beckley Saner
 Benito Juarez
 Bert Fields
 Betty Jane Lane
 Celebration of Life
 Cherrywood
 Civic Gardens
 Cottonwood Trail
 Craddock
 Crown
 Dixon Branch
 Exall
 Exline
 Forest
 Forest Audelia
 Fruitdale
 Glen Meadow
 Glencoe
 Griggs

Hillview
 Jaycee Zaragoza
 Katy Trail
 Kessler
 Kiest
 Kleberg
 Lake Cliff
 Lake Highlands North
 LB Houston
 Main Street Gardens
 Maria Luna
 Martry's Park (non-park property)
 Meadowstone
 Merriman
 Military Pkway
 Moore
 Oakcliff Founders
 Old City Park (non-park property)
 Olive Shapiro
 Overlake
 Park in the Woods
 Pleasant Mound Cemetery
 Police Memorial
 Reverchon
 Ridgewood

Rosemeade
 Samuell Farm
 Samuell Grand
 Samuell-Garland
 Santa Fe Trail
 Santa Fe Trestle Trail (Moore Park)
 Scyene
 SoPac Trail
 Spine Trail
 Stemmons
 Tenison Park
 Timberglen
 Tommie Allen
 Trammel
 Turtle Creek
 Urbandale
 Valley View
 White Rock
 White Rock Creek Trail (PARC)
 White Rock Hills
 Woodland Springs
 Young Street Medians

Homeless Encampment Map – Past 3 Years



Rosemeade Park - Updates



Rosemeade Park - Updates

On February 10, 2023, Park Marshals, OHS and PMO staff gathered to evaluate the numerous encampments at Rosemeade Park to develop and execute an action plan for removals

Office of Homeless Solutions Outreach – Identified encampment sites that were issued Notices of Cleaning and offered services to the unsheltered on February 7, 2023

Park Rangers and Marshals – Previously visited the encampment sites a total of 53 times from October 1 to present

Contracted Cleaning Services – Previously removed and cleaned abandoned encampment sites a total of 3 visits totaling \$6900.00 from October 1, 2022 – February 15, 2023

Office of Homeless Solutions - Updates

Update from Christine Crossley, Director
Office of Homeless Solutions

Encampment Resolution Vs. Decommissioning

All encampments on City parks qualify for immediate removal as clear and present safety and health hazards to those encamped and area residents in a high use/traffic area

Resolution Defined:

- A resolution is an encampment closure that removes individuals from an area without providing housing for them to move into

Decommissioning Defined:

- A decommissioning is an encampment closure that closes the site through a 4 – 8 week process wherein area unsheltered residents are engaged in the housing process by the Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing (DRTRR) Initiative. The result is a sustainably closed site, with all individuals housed, breaking the cycle of homelessness

*Why are all sites not decommissioned? The DRTRR is ramping up in speed but is not yet able to be at every site in need of closure – especially those which are grounds for immediate closure, as city parks are.

Encampment Resolution Strategy

Site Cleaning and Removal of Encampment

- Maintenance staff or cleaning contractor begin site cleaning 72 hours after the notice of cleaning is issued
- OHS Outreach is present to offer services and available resources
 - Emergency Shelter - A temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness.
 - Treatment - Alcohol/substance abuse, physical and mental health services, and general services
- Law enforcement (usually City Marshals) present to enforce the notice and ensure vendor safety

Monitoring

- A 90-day monitoring plan is implemented to observe area and respond to any re-establishing of sites

Encampment Decommissioning Strategy

Sites are selected based on multiple criteria: location, number of unsheltered individuals, hazards to the surrounding community, and so on.

OHS Outreach hands out pre-closure notices at encampment site(s) during the Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing.

- Pre-closure notices give encampment residents a chance to gather their belongings prior to and on the day(s) of decommissioning. It also allows for Outreach to conduct assessments of individuals and offer pathways to housing

During the decommissioning process Outreach and its partners offer services such as acquiring identification, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Coordinated Access System (CAS) entry, treatment pathways based on mental health assessments and drug and alcohol assessments, and individualized case management

Encampment Decommissioning Strategy

Housing placements are offered and if accepted individuals are placed in permanent supportive housing or transitional housing (depending on an individual's ability to maintain housing)

- Individuals who refuse housing are notified that they cannot remain at the site and must move on. Outreach continues to offer supportive services even when refused by individuals

OHS Outreach works with Dallas Police Department/Marshals to conduct patrols on a weekly basis to maintain the integrity of the decommissioned encampment.

- OHS also partners with community partners to help with fencing, beautifying spaces and the like

Encampment Decommissioning Strategy



NOTICE

You are not authorized to use the _____ [address/block number and street/area description] to erect a tent or other structure, or to otherwise encamp or stay, at this location. The conditions violate Dallas City Code Sec. 31-13.1, which prohibits the unauthorized placement, erection, or maintenance of temporary shelters on designated public property. These conditions that violate the Dallas City Code are described in more detail below in this notice.

You must remove your property and leave this location by no later than (INSERT DATE) at 9 a.m. Occupying this space after (INSERT DATE) at 9 a.m. is not permitted.

If you would like to seek assistance from the City of Dallas in finding alternative shelter, medical assistance, or other treatment, please call: Office of Homeless Services (OHS) anytime at _____ or visit The Bridge Homeless Recovery Center located at 1818 Corsicana Street or by calling 214-670-2067. If you do not have access to a telephone, you may reach the City by going to _____, Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM.

This encampment and the conditions in and around the encampment violate the Dallas City Code, create a public nuisance, and otherwise endangers the life, health, safety, and welfare of the encampment residents, the surrounding community, and the general public for the following reasons:

CODE SECTION	REGULATION, OR PUBLIC NUISANCE CONDITIONS
Dallas City Code, Sec. 31-13.1	A person commits an offense if the person places, erects, or maintains a temporary shelter in or upon any designated public property.
Dallas City Code, Sec. 7A-3	No person shall throw or deposit litter in or upon any street, sidewalk or other public place within the city, except in public receptacles, in authorized private receptacles for collection or in official city dumps.
Dallas City Code, Sec. 43-12	No person shall sweep out or deposit on any of the sidewalks or streets of the city any loose paper, filth or trash of any kind.
Dallas City Code, Sec. 43-13	No property owner, occupant or agent of any property that abuts or adjoins any paved street in the city shall allow or permit any animal or vegetable substance whatever, any tin, glass or

WRITTEN NOTICE FIRST DISTRIBUTED ON: (INSERT DATE)
WRITTEN NOTICE FIRST POSTED: (INSERT DATE)



	pieces of iron or any trash, mud, sloop, refuse matter or filth of any kind or description whatever to accumulate or remain on any part of the sidewalk abutting or adjacent to the premises owned or occupied by such person on such paved street in the city.
Dallas City Code, Sec. 31-18(a).	(a) A person commits an offense if he urinates or defecates: (1) in or on a public street, alley, sidewalk, yard, park, building, structure, plaza, public or utility right-of-way, or other public place; or (2) in public view.

The conditions pose an immediate hazard and danger to the life, health, safety, and welfare of the individuals in the tents, the nearby residents, local businesses, first responders, and the public at large. Your immediate compliance is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

You must remove your property and personal belongings and leave this location as soon as possible but by no later than (INSERT DATE) at 9 a.m. Abandoned property, property deemed hazardous, and debris remaining at this location will be removed by the City of Dallas on (INSERT DATE) at 9 a.m.

Storage is available if you need storage for personal items you are unable to move or take with you. The Outreach Team will provide you with storage bags for these items. The bags will be sealed, tagged with your name and securely stored by City of Dallas, OHS Street Outreach staff on your behalf at a nearby storage facility.

You may retrieve your items by contacting Alonzo Grape at 469-616-9528. The City will dispose of any stored items that go unchecked/unclaimed **after 90 days**. Due to public health concerns and space limitations, the City is unable to store any illicit items, items that have bodily fluids on/in them, or large items, such as mattresses, couches/sofas, etc.

WRITTEN NOTICE FIRST DISTRIBUTED ON: (INSERT DATE)
WRITTEN NOTICE FIRST POSTED: (INSERT DATE)

Park Sites By the Numbers

On-going collaboration to resolve:

- Alpha / Hillcrest
- Rosemeade
- Maria Luna

Decommissioned park sites include:

- Craddock Park (4601 Lemmon)
- Garrett Park (1506 N Garrett)
- Cottonwood Trail (12225 Willowdell)
- Cottonwood II (8201 Forest)

Service Requests Addressed

- FY 20-21: 191
- FY 21-22: 182
- FY 22-23 (To Current): 124

Homeless Action Response Team

The Homeless Action Response Team (H.A.R.T.) strives to provide a quick response to immediate safety concerns around homeless encampments and hot spots. We strive for excellence by helping address the needs of our unsheltered population, City affiliated agencies, local businesses, City Council and other City-related concerns, tied to encampments and hot spots in our communities.

Primary Team

- OHS supervisor
- OHS Staff
- Dallas Marshals
- Code Enforcement
- Dallas Animal Services

Secondary Team

- Other departments as needed (Dallas Fire Rescue, Park and Recreation, Sanitation, etc.)
 - Mobile Crisis
-

Homeless Action Response Team

PMO H.A.R.T Program Funding

- Received \$382, 977 FY 2022-23 for staff, equipment and supplies
- Three (3) Worker II's

Homeless Action Response Team

The H.A.R.T team responds to extremely unsafe encampments in need of immediate resolution.

Examples include:

- A condemned, vacant building housing an estimated 50 people experiencing homelessness that is structurally unsound and filled with black mold, with a 24-hour notice to vacate
- Confirmed reports of weapons discharged at an encampment

H.A.R.T responds to issues concerning illegal solicitation or those who are unsheltered causing immediate safety concerns

Examples include:

- Older female experiencing homelessness on a park bench, near a school, increasingly displaying erratic behavior linked to substance use, resulting in public indecency
- Older male smoking weed and holding a sign soliciting for money or weed in the middle of traffic while aggressively harassing passers-by

Homeless Action Response Team

The program's anticipated goals:

- Increased safety by addressing emergency Service Request's & fewer Mayor and City Council requests for assistance
- A reduction of people in crisis
- Increased enrollments in Coordinated Access System (CAS) and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Increased opportunities for housing
- A decrease in illegal solicitation
- Posted signage and more enforcement
- Appropriate referrals, as needed, for alcohol & drug treatment, and mental health services, etc.

Homeless Action Response Team

Accomplishments:

Since the December 2022 launch, H.A.R.T has accomplished the following:

Performance Measure	Total
Number of Service Requests closed within 10 days	106
Number of Encampments Visited	175
Number of individuals engaged	482
Number of HMIS entered	40
Number of panhandlers engaged	60
Number of Pets Transported to DAS	30

Next Steps

Hire staff for the PMO H.A.R.T. Program

Continue collaboration with all City agencies



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