



CITY OF SALEM

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Revisions to the Agenda

City Council

Monday, May 10, 2021

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

6. I. 21-212

Sheltering at Cascades Gateway and Wallace Marine Parks

Ward(s): Wards 1 and 2

Councilor(s): Councilors(s) Stapleton and Andersen

Neighborhood(s): West Salem Neighborhood Association and
Southeast Mill Creek Association (SEMCA)

Result Area(s): Natural Environment Stewardship; Welcoming and
Livable Community.

Attachments: Parks Camping Letter.pdf

Wallace Marine Park Camping Graphic.pdf

Cascades Gateway Park Approved Camping graphic.pdf

Added - Report Added



Staff Report

File #: 21-212

Version: 1

Date: 5/10/2021

Item #: 6. I.

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Steve Powers, City Manager

SUBJECT:

Sheltering at Cascades Gateway and Wallace Marine Parks

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Councilor(s): Councilors(s) Stapleton and Andersen

Neighborhood(s): West Salem Neighborhood Association and Southeast Mill Creek Association (SEMCA)

Result Area(s): Natural Environment Stewardship; Welcoming and Livable Community.

ISSUE:

Sheltering at Cascades Gateway Park and Wallace Marine Park

RECOMMENDATION:

Information Only

SUMMARY:

Salem is planning to end the sanctioned sheltering at Cascades Gateway and Wallace Marine Parks beginning June 1. With our partners, the City is already working with an estimated 200 campers in these areas to encourage moving into managed shelter settings where available.

The goal for unwinding is to:

1. Restore park use and environmental compliance at Cascades Gateway and Wallace Marine Parks.
2. Help unsheltered residents' transition to alternative shelter (outreach has been ongoing, with stepped up efforts as of April 29, 2021.) and prepare more sheltering options.
3. Return Cascades Gateway and Wallace Marine Parks to safe and active use for our community.
4. Support the creation of as much low-barrier and managed emergency shelter options as feasible.

The work involved in carefully concluding park camping will be ongoing and difficult. There are not enough shelter options for everyone living un-sheltered in our community. Some persons may be unwilling to move into a managed shelter setting or may need substantial services to be appropriate for a shelter.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

At an upcoming City Council work session, staff will have an update on sheltering efforts and the sheltering emergency in Salem. The information will include ordinance options that would give the City more flexibility in designating areas of our community for emergency sheltering like managed pallet housing or car camping. The work session will also be an opportunity for City Council questions regarding the City's operational approach to sheltering and the parks.

According to Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, there are an estimated 1,188 people sleeping outdoors or at temporary shelter sites in our region. The number of chronic homeless residents in Salem is higher than state average. The Salem area does not have enough shelter capacity for unhoused residents. Some homeless residents are afflicted with behavioral health illness, drug and alcohol addiction, and other barriers to services and housing. The City and service providers have limited ability to compel individuals to follow City code and state law.

Outreach from service providers and Salem Housing Authority staff will occur before Police and Code Enforcement provide notice to individual of the need to move. Areas will be cleaned up immediately following a camp being abandoned. Communications will be with those sheltering in the parks, non-profit agencies, and the public. The City has added contractor resources for cleaning the park areas (and other areas throughout the city).

BACKGROUND:

Parks and sidewalks are not safe, healthy, or welcoming locations for people to shelter. The work of the City, Salem Housing Authority, and non-profits has been, and will continue to be, connecting individuals with services, appropriate shelter, and, for some, housing. While this work continues, there will be unsanctioned sheltering throughout the community.

The City and Salem Housing Authority's work with non-profit organizations, volunteers, churches, regional organizations, and the state to shelter, serve, and house our residents will continue. A few recent and specific examples are the Safe Park program, Housing Rental Assistance Program, the SHA navigators, Redwood Crossings, and the Portland Road pallet shelter. Learn more about ongoing efforts [<https://www.cityofsalem.net/housing>](https://www.cityofsalem.net/housing).

Attachments:

1. Parks Camping Letter
2. Wallace Marine Park Approved Camping Locations graphic

3. Cascades Gateway Park Approved Camping Location graphic



Dear Park Campers,

Beginning Tuesday, June 1, 2021 sleeping overnight will no longer be allowed in the park. We understand this hardship and want to help you find alternatives arrangements. We are working with local shelters, navigators, and non- profit groups to make this transition as smooth as possible. Please see the information below for more information about shelter and housing.

Sincerely,

City of Salem

RESOURCES

- Speak to a case worker about food benefits, child care, or cash assistance : **503 373 0808**
- Speak to a counselor about finding a rehab and sober living facility: **1 800 780 2294**
- Contact ARCHES for a local service assessment : **503 399 9080**

REMINDERS

- Please plan to take all your personal belongings with you when you leave. Parks crews will be closing areas of the parks for clean up and maintenance.
- Remember COVID-19 social distancing practices, staying 6 feet a part, wearing facial coverings and washing your hands often.

NEED HELP OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES ?

VISIT [HUD.GOV/FINDSHELTER](https://www.hud.gov/findshelter) OR SCAN THE CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FOOD PANTRIES, SHELTER AND HEALTH RESOURCES IN SALEM.



CITY OF *Salem*
AT YOUR SERVICE

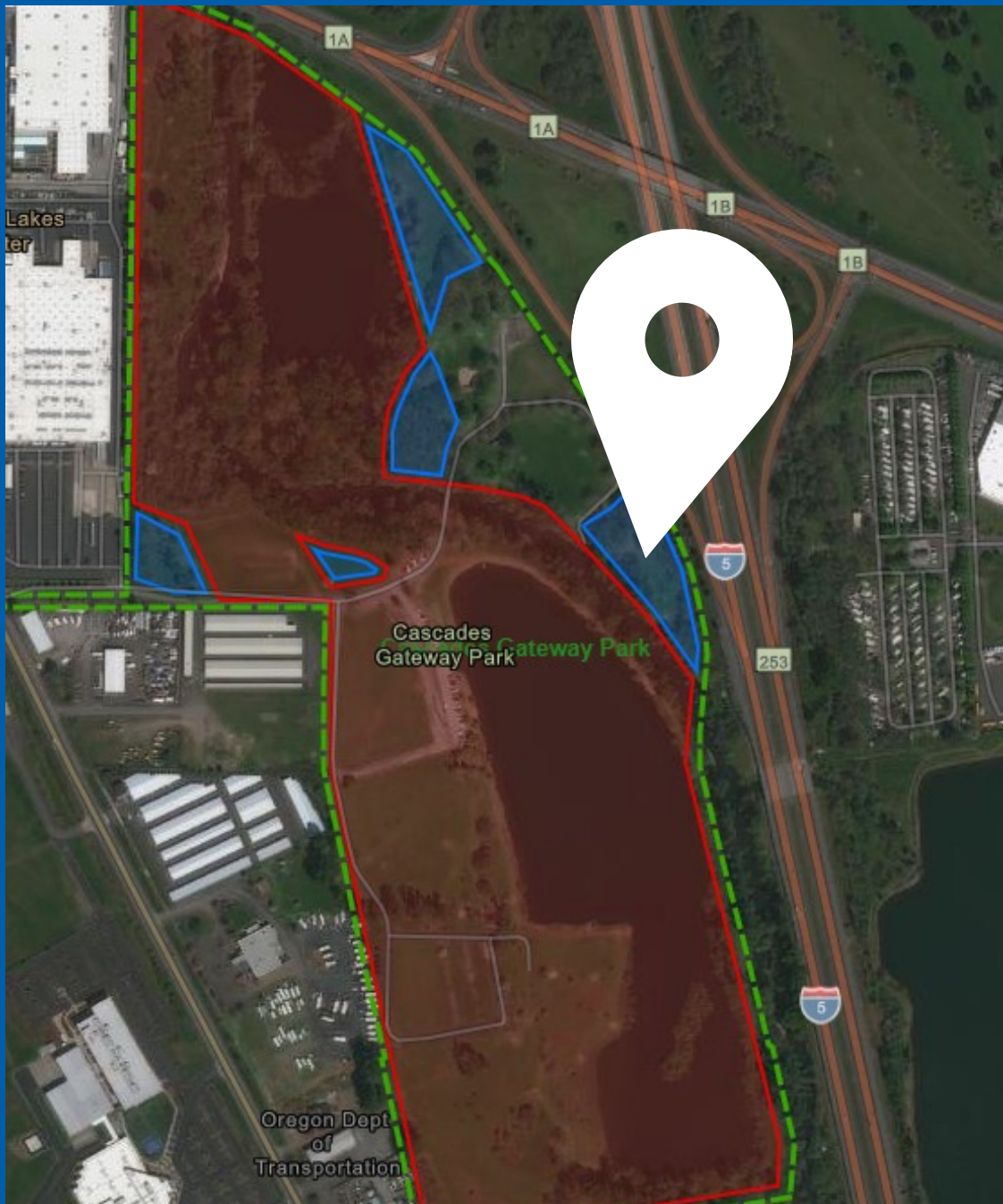
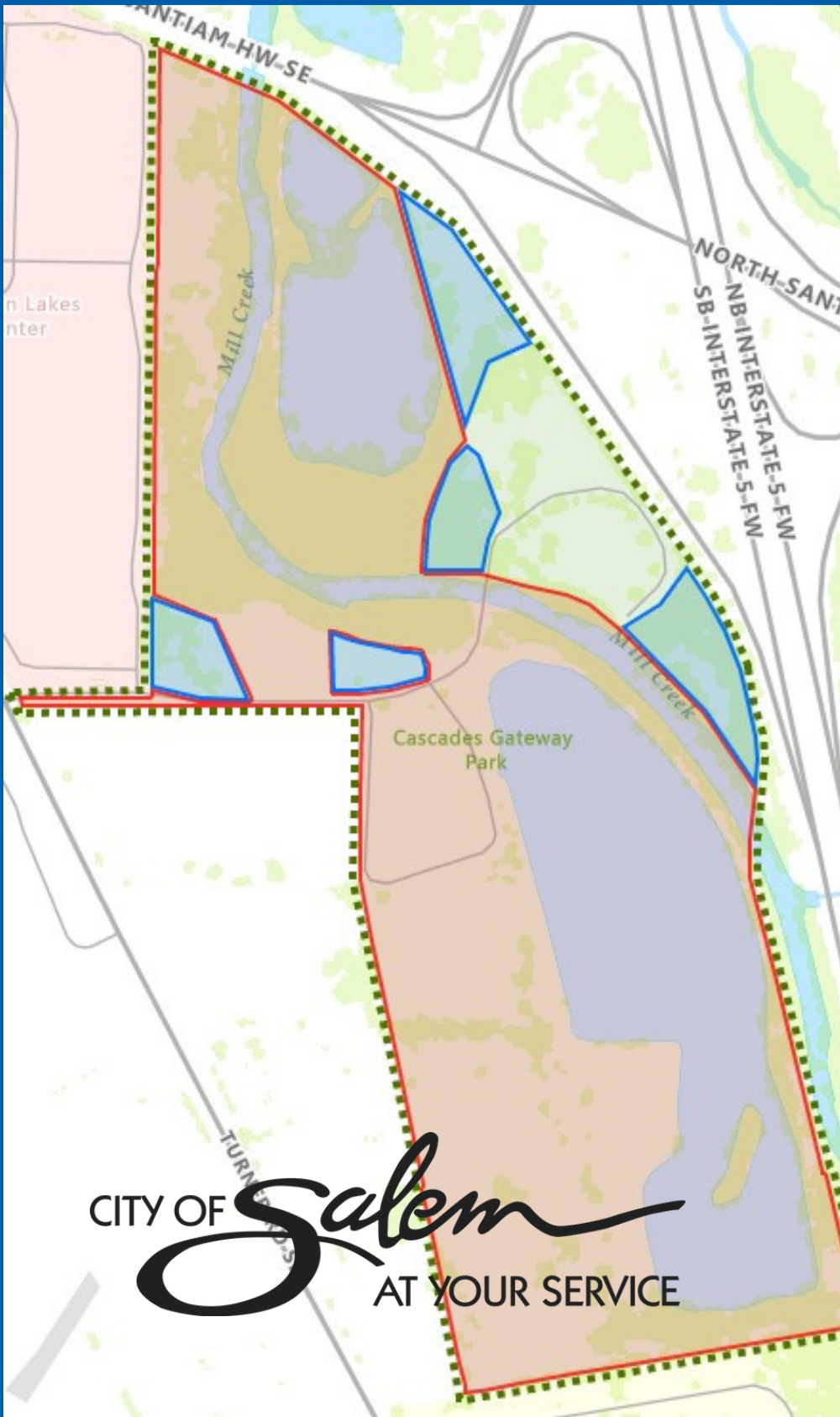


Wallace Marine Park

Overnight camping allowed in

blue areas only until

June 1, 2021.



Cascade Gateway Park

Overnight Camping allowed in
blue areas only until
June 1, 2021.