

Ruth Stellmacher

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of sharontrekingon@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 1:35 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Sharon Peterson
Your Email	sharontrekingon@gmail.com
Your Phone	9719152500
Street	3100 Turner Rd. SE Unit 122
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	<p>Re: Cascades Gateway Park and the homeless who occupy said property One or more homeless broke through the gate that is directly behind my house in the past month and that for what reason but to enter my private space/yard that I pay for monthly. Being a widow that makes me tremble for it happened at night when I am most vulnerable. How would you personally feel if it was your mother's home? I would hope that each one of you seriously vote to close the park to homeless campers. It is only the right thing to do. Paradise Island Mobile Home Park is the tax paying citizens fair right to feel secure. Too much vandalism has happened since allowing the homeless to camp there as well as destroying our city park. There is much to be said about the safety and well being of all citizens who own and live in Paradise Island . Please say "No more camping in Cascades Gateway Park! " Thank you, Sharon</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 12/11/2020.

Ruth Stellmacher

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Cabak3100@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 1:56 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Cathy Baker
Your Email	Cabak3100@hotmail.com
Your Phone	5035081477
Street	3100 Turner Rd #606
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	I am supporting a council decision to extend homeless camping at Cascade Park. I am a resident at Paradise Island Park and I've seen very little impact due to the campers. Please consider adding services ie. more portable toilets, refuse containers, police safety and surveillance. These folks are neighbors in a hard situation. I support them .

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 12/11/2020.

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Ingrid Rudy <ingridrudy1940@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 2:20 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascades Gateway Park

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Ingrid Rudy
Paradise Island Park
3100 Turner Rd SE #102
Salem OR 97302
503-990-6889

Please do not extend the homeless camping for Cascades Gateway Park, I know they have to have a place to stay, but I do not think it is not behind a Senior Community.

I moved here because I can not afford to live in an Assistant Living Community and felt this was a safe place, but the City of Salem changed all that. I do not go out after dark because it is not safe any more My take on this is: Salem City Council thinks: A GOOD PLACE FOR A HOMELESS CAMP IS BEHIND GRANDMA'S HOUSE.

I encountered strangers from the homeless scamp while walking, so I don't do that anymore. There has to be a better solution for all this. I would move, but at my age that would be really hard and I also can not effort that. There are campers so far away from the porta-potties that I know they relieve themselves in the grassy areas.

What one time was a nice place for family outings is now covered with garbage and being destroyed. There is no oversight or supervision.

I would like an update on what is being done to make things better.

Sincerely

Ingrid Rudy

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Roger Brostrom <rogerbirene@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 11:16 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: HOMELESS CAMPERS on and around CASCADE GATEWAY PARK

About 6 Months ago I wrote a note to the City Council about the increasing activity of the HOMELESS along TURNER RD.
The activity has increased by the day, and today I would like to ask the City Council to address the Deteriorating Beauty and Security of our community.

I live at Paradise Island Park, and our park owners have updated our Security Lighting to improve our safety and security.

Cascade Gateway Park looks like a Junk Yard full of Trash with wall to wall Tents and HOMELESS TENANTS.

It appears that there are no Camping Rules for C.G Park.
So, I would like to ask that something be done to help protect my safety and security.

How many times a day do the Salem Police patrol C.G. PARK?

PLEASE HELP
ROGER BROSTROM

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Linda J. Cunningham <nurselinda3@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 12:04 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Homeless at the Cascade Gateway Park-- Find Solutions to help Them

I currently live at the Paradise Island Park on Turner Rd in Salem. It is a 55+ mobile home park. I understand there are those who want to complain about the homeless who are living in the Cascade Gateway Park. The notice I got was upsetting in that these homeless people are being treated as criminals and drug addicts. This is a terrible way to treat or fellow humans! Instead of complaining and trying to get these folks thrown out we, as decent humans, should be looking for solutions to the issues brought up in this letter.

As you may infer, I am not one who believes these people should be shuffled off out of site of the world because we cannot stand to see where our way of life has brought us. I suggest we look at creating a dumping station, see if any lumber places are willing to donate scrap lumber, for these folks to use for heat, shelter etc., have port-a-potties placed and dumpsters for garbage. These folks have NO Place to go obviously. How quickly we have forgotten the fire from summer and the losses people have had as well as job losses from the Pandemic.

I would like to see us find solutions that do not make people feel like garbage, they are not throw a way's. **THEY ARE PEOPLE! THEY HAVE FEELINGS! THEY ARE TRYING TO SURVIVE THIS WORLD WE FIND OURSELVES IN!** Winter is coming and there are mass evictions that are likely to happen to more folks. This includes families with children, but why should that matter to those who have thier needs met? **BECAUSE IT COULD HAPPEN TO ANY OF US OR OUR FAMILIES!**

I suggest that the Staff of Paradise Island park and the owner Cory Poole do not get what they are asking for. Where are those people supposed to go? Are they really hurting anyone? Can't we be more compassionate to our fellow humans? **ALL LIFE AND PEOPLE HAVE VALUE!** Let us be the ones who look to fix the issues not hid them away, or arrest them, or take away the little stability they have right now when there is so much uncertainty in all our lives right now.

I thank you for considering options to help those in need not punish them for needing.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Cunningham RN

3100 Turner Rd SE # 606

Salem, Oregon 97302

541-704-5728 Cell #

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Rita Alves <ritahankalves@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 4:34 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Public comment on city council agenda

I would like to make a comment regarding section 5 of the extension and amendment of the emergency declaration related to COVID-19: the plan to extend the suspension of camping prohibition at Cascades Gateway and Wallace Marine Park until June.

As a city parks worker, I have seen much more of this situation than most citizens of Salem. I feel that simply extending this again is a slippery slope. It is sad to see the parks degrading at this alarming rate, but the bigger issue I see is a lack of real effort on the part of city council to work on a comprehensive plan to effectively manage the growing homelessness problem. This cannot be done by simply allowing for camping or building shelters. We need to look at the big picture.

This is a problem involving mental illness, drug addiction, and barriers to employment, i.e. arrest records. The current situation enables these problems rather than working towards overcoming them. I would like to urge you to consider fast-tracking the implementation of a social-service based program such as "Cahoots", and/or creating a department or task force to build a plan that will address the root of the homelessness problem, rather than simply extending the time they can camp in the parks. Thank you.

Ruth Stellmacher

From: newellf5 <newellf5@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:54 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascade Gateway Park

Council members, initially I supported the use of the park for the homeless if they were provided with water. Toilets and garbage. As months have passed, however, we here at Paradise Island manufactured home park have have incurred increasing crime in our community. Car, RV yard, porch and carport thefts are occurring at an alarming rate. Also the occasional random rambling man trespassing on park property.

I have lived here many years and know shit happens, things change. This change, however, can be directly connected to the huge nearby influx of the homeless at Gateway Park.

Please help those of us here at Paradise Island regain our safety and piece of mind.

Faith Newell
3100 Turner Rd SE
Salem, OR 97302
503-409-3569

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Linda Bierly <bierlyskl@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:10 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: 5.a 20-506 Extension and amendment of the Emergency Declaration related to COVID-19 (Resolution No. 2020-57)

City Council,
I ask your NO vote on this resolution.

Resolution no. 2020-57 extends the state of emergency until June 1, 2021, modifies the restrictions on public gatherings, and continues the suspension of camping restrictions in unimproved areas of Wallace Marine and Cascades Gateway parks.

Limited Camping. The resolution continues the suspension of City regulations prohibiting camping in unimproved areas of Wallace Marine and Cascades Gateway parks. All other laws and park rules continue to apply. Individuals violating other laws and parks rules while camping in allowed areas are subject to enforcement, including exclusion from City parks.

This resolution unfairly targets two parks and the neighbors around them. If you really want to allow camping in parks, allow it in all parks. Actually, Marion Square Park makes the most sense. It is closest to Arches and UGM, two of the main service centers for the homeless.

You might also consider allowing camping in the parking lots of the new Salem Police station. Homeless camps come with trash and crime. The new police station parking lots would be the ideal place for these camps. It would minimize the crime, or if crime occurs, provide a speedy response. Camping in a parking lot would also minimize the environmental damage that is being done to both Wallace Marine and Cascades Gateway parks.

Again, homeless camps are no way to deal with poverty and dysfunction, even on a short term basis. You do no one a favor, including the homeless, by allowing them. Shut them down immediately.

Thank you,
Linda Bierly
Ward 8

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Aaron Cooper <anmcooper@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:59 AM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder
Cc: Mary Cooper
Subject: homeless camping in Cascade Gateway Park

As residents of Paradise Island mobile home park we would like to express our concerns about the homeless camping at Cascade Gateway Park. We are both in our eighties and moved to Paradise Island a few years ago to be in a safe and friendly environment. The safe environment has changed dramatically since the city of Salem opened the park to homeless camping. There have been several burglaries of residences and property damage since the homeless camping inception.

Our home is approximately 75 feet from the park boundary and often at 2 or 3 AM we will hear voices that last for several minutes which is very concerning to us.

As we are both in ill health and could not defend ourselves or our property. I am feeling the need to arm myself for the protection of life and property.

I would like for the council members to drive through the park and observe the people and living conditions of those people and then honestly find that they wouldn't mind living next door to them.

We realize that there is no easy solution to the homeless population but placing them next door to an aged community is probably not the wisest decision. Plus observing what they have done to a beautiful park that was for years used as a family recreation area and now is no longer a beautiful area that ordinary citizens can safely use and enjoy.

We urge you to make a wise decision that is in the best long term interest of all the citizens of Salem.

Thank you,
Aaron & Mary Cooper
Paradise Island mobile home park

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Jeff <linderjs@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:17 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascades Gateway Park Camping Policy from Paradise Island resident

Salem City Councillors;

Today is Sunday, December 13, 2020. It is now 11 a.m. and have just personally felt and witnessed the explosion(s) and subsequent fire at the homeless camp in Cascades Gateway Park. Fire personnel and equipment were on scene and quickly took control of the situation. Fortunately, it was 300 yards away at the other end of the park where emergency vehicle access was simple.

If this had been at the southern end of the park next to Paradise Island Park, where trees and our homes are situated close to the fence separating the two parks, the outcome would have been far more severe as the only access is through a locked gate on Turner Road and across a field.

My wife Linda and I live across the street from houses on the fence line. Of the seven houses in our immediate vicinity on that side, six are inhabited by single women. Two of those homes have locked access gates to the park. One gate was kicked in and broken. That resident called me because she was scared and feared far worse could happen. Another resident had two instances of large fires just over the fence not 20 yards from her house where tents were set up. Another resident asked me if getting a large dog would help or should she consider other types of protection. Break-ins and burglaries of storage sheds and garages are way up in our community. Vehicles have been broken into and stolen with an alarming frequency never before seen in our park.

To give credit to a certain degree, the city did come in and trim up the lower limbs on the many trees at this end of the park, reducing immediate spread of fire, but not eliminating it. It also deprived homeless campers a source of easy fuel. In other areas of the park, the campers are now cutting down trees for fuel. Open campfires and bonfires have no place on any city owned property. As the events of this morning prove, the problem is getting worse.

As Paradise Island residents for over a dozen years, the steady decline of Cascades Gateway has become overwhelming. The entire north end of the park, restrooms and picnic area across the bridge is no longer accessible. We used to take grandkids down there to fish or play in the creek. No longer. Camps line the banks along most of the creek and the car-camp fills the old parking lot and borders the lake restricting access. Who in their right mind would take their children past people shooting up or pooping in front of you? Right where you used to fish?

To extend your current camping policy for another six months is lunacy. It is no longer safe here. It is no longer a healthy vibrant park. Not to mention all city residents downstream who are the unintended recipients of the human waste that flows past their homes and business.

The city council is responsible for the health, safety and welfare over of 173,000 residents of Salem, and expect you to take care of our city.

Cascades Gateway Park has approximately 300 homeless whom are there living illegally on land paid for with our taxes. Since when has 2/10s of 1% of our population meant more to you than the rest of Salem citizenry?

Now we can truly say WE KNOW why you wouldn't put any homeless camps in the park by YOUR homes.

Sincerely,

Jeff Linder
503-584-1058
Unit 121, Paradise Island MHP

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Laura Presley <lpresley2250@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:04 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Homeless in Cascade gateway park

I live in Paradise Island Park, I understand your having a meeting to discuss City Parks and homeless 12-14 . I did respond to putting them near our homes of elderly when you had a meeting. Now there in Cascade Park, there is no supervision, outside the parking lot. A few porta_potties there, and there dumping waste into mill creek.,wildlife habitat shared by animals such as deer, herons,geese, ducks,beavers,foxes, bald eagles, We have been having alot loitering and theft in our park now. People sleeping in car in our park, wondering around. 12-13 explosion of propain tanks in Cascade park, possible meth,drug addicts, criminals. Please come up with a solution, not only property values decreasing, but our lives are in jeprety to.

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Sandra Meckem <sandra.d.meckem.civ@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 6:44 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Homeless Campers at Cascade Gateway Park

Dear Council,

Please take into consideration in moving these campers from this park as soon as possible. As residents of Paradise Island Park we have been victims of theft ourselves, and on numerous occasions our hot tub was used for the homeless population to bath in. Our neighbors have been terrorized in the middle of the night with people knocking on their bedroom windows and are afraid to be alone. Relic family heirlooms have been stolen out of the yards that have been there for years untouched. Many of our residents at Paradise Island are geriatric and fear for their safety. Don't we have a responsibility to care for our elderly? Would you want your parents or grandparents living in this situation? Thank your time and I hope you will take this matter seriously.

Sincerely yours,
Sandra Meckem

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Jo Williams <jats23@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 7:29 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Homeless Camping Renewal Vote

I live in Keizer, but of course we also are affected by Salem's decisions. I have a suggestion that I've played with for months, driving around Salem; offer some sort of tax break for the larger business properties (with lots of green areas) to adopt one, two, a few homeless persons. A sort of, contract maybe; allow them a space, maybe a tent, etc., in exchange forsome small service- picking up trash, helping security personnel....

Perhaps put up a sign, letting visitors know this business has adopted these homeless; good public relations? Rather than one or two large campsites, this would have the advantage of smaller, dispersed sites. The city could provide certain necessities, and work outreach programs that would include the business.

Yes, the idea needs work, different ideas, but consider corporate adoptions, even if temporary. It might work?

Jo Williams Keizer, OR
(503) 393-1517

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Karen Sjogren <sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:18 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Agenda item 5a, Resolution 2020 57

I am writing in opposition to this resolution, which would extend homeless camping in Wallace Marine Park and Cascade Gateway. Please incorporate by reference my letter to the mayor dated October 2, and the sentiments expressed by Linda Bierly. Extended camping simply kicks the can down the road and is irresponsible on the part of the city council. This camping is causing irretrievably damage to the parks, including cutting down 200 trees, demoralizing parks staff, trashing the parks, which trash eventually gets into the Willamette River, and degrading a very nice urban neighborhood which I live in. As Linda has said, if you must sacrifice a park, it should be Marion Square, which has trees too large to cut down, is away from the river and closer to the services these people utilize, as well as the police station. Maybe the police will be more responsive to complaints if they are closer to the problem. By next spring both parks will be used more and they should not have to put up with homeless camps and their residents.

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Patrice Hadsell-Evans <pehadsell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:24 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Cascade Gateway Park

Council Members,

My name is Patrice Evans-Jeffs, my husband, Gary and I are residence of Paradise Island Mobile Home Park at 3100 Turner Rd in Salem. We retired and moved to Oregon in 2017, soon after our arrival my husband became critically ill and our lives changed. We had to sell our house in West Salem, I couldn't manage it by myself. The decision to scale down and find a neighborhood which provided us a safe environment was of the utmost importance. We wanted a close contact community, one which offered sense of community, one in which I didn't need to be worried about dangers outside our front door. We chose Paradise Island, we thought we would be safe here, WE ARE NOT! I thought we would feel secure here, WE DO NOT! I thought we wouldn't feel vulnerable within the walls of our home, WE ARE VERY VULNERABLE and it is because of the decisions the city council made by placing a homeless camp right on our doorstep.

When the city council made the decision to remove homeless camping from the downtown area, placing them "out-of-site" of the general population you completely ignored the safety and security of the most vulnerable population. I've had several altercations with some of these residence of CGP while working in my own garden, minding my own business. They walk or drive into our neighborhood during the day to scope-out what they can steal at night. I installed security cameras and they were stolen when the perpetrator was attempted to break into my shed. They got into my car and I can't tell you how violated I felt knowing they were right outside my bedroom! I feel violated... EVERY DAY...EVERY NIGHT as I try to sleep unsure if they're coming back, and they will be back! Why? Because we are an "easy mark" We can't protect ourselves like we use to. Many residents have problems with vision, mobility, hearing etc. in other words...sitting ducks..easy prey and perpetrators know it. One more thing, seniors are targeted because many have pharmaceuticals and "drugs are currency". They count on it, and they will continue to do so as long as they occupy that park.

My husband is a retired law enforcement officer, he served as both a Captain and Assistant Chief. He served as a Fire Chief for 8 years, he served honorably, with dedication and integrity. He contributed 33 years to keeping others safe and now that he's at his most vulnerable time of his life, it falls to me to keep him safe. Now I live in anxiety and fear that I'm not up to the challenge. With law enforcement being shackled how do I know they will come when called? I am scared, so are many of my neighbors. Your decisions have promoted uneasiness and fear.

With the Wuhan virus knocking on the door of the elderly population we have enough to be worried about..we don't need this to.

With the climate in our cities and state of lawlessness, of burning, looting, smashing, and shooting running rampant in some cities, with the elected officials standing by doing very little, with the hands of law enforcement tied, defunding police and disabling their ability to "DO THEIR JOBS" keeping the "LAWFUL" citizens safe. Its no surprise the thugs that inhabit some of these homeless camps are turning them into breeding grounds for more lawless behavior. It's no wonder ordinary citizens are arming themselves at an alarming rate!

Let's talk about the incident with the exploding propane tank and fire this weekend!
There is nothing but "fuel for a firestorm" between them and us!

October 8, 2017 Santa Rosa, California "Tubbs Fire"
"JOURNEYS END MOBILE HOME PARK" All homes 160 destroyed.
RESIDENTS INCINERATED!

October 28, 2020 Talent and Phoenix, Oregon "Alameda Fire" right here in Oregon 1000 homes in 18 mobile home parks HOMES INCINERATED!

With all the illegal fires being lit every day and every night in CGP and the prevailing winds coming out of the northwest, how much longer will it be before a spark ignites? What happened in Santa Rosa, California and Talent/Phoenix Oregon is bound to happen right here in Paradise Island.

Do you care? Do you care at all?

"UN-ANNOUNCED VISITORS MAYBE ATTACKED"

That, dear Council-members, is the "welcome" sign the residence of Cascade-Gateway Park have erected! THAT is the prominent attitude in the minds and hearts of many residing you have placed right next door to the most vulnerable tax paying residents of Paradise Island Mobile Home Park. You should be ashamed!

We, those who do PAY TAXES, (re: your salaries) who pay to keep and maintain that park, (which we can no longer use due to threat of bodily harm) demand that you "figure it out!" That the homeless population be relocated to a more suitable location. One in which you don't violate another population of citizens who have such fading voices!

Patrice Evans-Jeffs
3100 Turner Rd SE

Unit 402
Salem, Oregon 97302

Ruth Stellmacher

From: A OKay <aokgotit@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:27 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Public Comment - Salem City Council Meeting 12/14/2020

To: Salem City Councilors

Re: Salem City's Homelessness and Encampments

What happened to the December 2019 proposal to launch a residential program for the homeless at the shuttered Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility campus in southeast Salem? Why hasn't this been revisited?

It seems to me that this would be a feasible solution to shelter Salem's homeless during the pandemic. It is absolutely deplorable that the seniors living at Paradise Island Park are subjected to so much crime and violence due to the city's negligence of allowing homeless encampments at the nearby Cascades Gateway Park.

The homeless encampments under the I-5 underpass on Market Street and along the freeway have increasingly become unsanitary as tents continue to grow. The crime rate has also increased in the NESCA neighborhood.

The city has had an entire year to come up with a viable homelessness solution to keep Salem's community safe yet you have failed. Please revisit the Hillcrest facility as a possible shelter.

Anne O'Rourke
PO Box 2835
Salem, OR 97308
503-610-3445

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Kris B <kb111302@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:23 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: December 14 meeting; Item 5a

Dear City Council,

I am writing to urge you to extend the emergency declaration through June of 2021. The COVID crisis is rapidly worsening here, and the items listed in the declaration are needed now more than ever. I especially urge you to protect Section 5 of the resolution-- it would be cruel and inhumane to further uproot the lives of our unhoused neighbors. It is bad enough that we have unhoused neighbors, it will be worse to deny them the stability of being able to maintain a campsite during a global crisis. We need to provide more resources to our neighbors, please also consider how to do so.

Best,
Kris Bifulco

December 14, 2020

Mayor and City Council
555 Liberty Street SE, Room 220
Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: Communication Concerns Regarding Campsites in Salem's Parks

Dear Mayor and Councilors:

The mission of the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB) is to advocate for the preservation, protection and enhancement of Salem's parks, natural areas, and recreational opportunities for current residents for generations to come.

For the past few years, Salem has struggled to find solutions to address the needs of the increasing population of people lacking shelter in our community who are sheltering or camping in parks. The horrendous outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020 exacerbated those challenges. SPRAB shares the concerns of our community for people who do not have secure housing. We all want to help our community members lacking shelter and address these issues as best we can, but we need to find ways to help without putting our parks and our public at risk.

On January 9, 2020, SPRAB sent a letter to the Salem City Council in regards to camping in city parks. The letter included three points:

1. "... SPRAB voted unanimously to recommend that Salem parks not be used to establish permanent or temporary campsites."
2. "The Parks Operations Section is seriously constrained due to lack of personnel and funding in its efforts to maintain our parks in a safe and sanitary fashion at a level that ensures the greatest public access and enjoyable use."
3. "Please make sure to include SPRAB in any further discussion on this issue"

At the October 26, 2020 Salem City Council meeting (during the public comment period), Corey Poole, Southeast Mill Creek Neighborhood Association (SEMCA) Chair, shared a presentation entitled "Please Save Our Parks". The presentation included photos from, and expressed concerns about, the garbage, human waste, destruction of 100 trees for firewood and construction of temporary campsites, and illegal campfires occurring in Cascades Gateway Park.

At the November SPRAB meeting, the Board was provided a very informative Parks Operations Update describing current status of actions being taken by the City and the outcomes associated with sanctioned camping on our park grounds. The destruction of an additional 100 trees at Cascades Gateway park and lack of information on Wallace Marine was especially alarming. The description of the effects was a limited

assessment due to the inaccessibility of certain undeveloped park areas and serious concerns regarding the safety of Parks staff. The report was greatly appreciated by the Board.

The growing population of people sheltering or camping in our parks and the resulting crisis has demonstrated an even greater need for critical communication between the City, public entities, and Salem's citizens. Between January and November, SPRAB received limited information on the effect of sanctioned camping in Wallace Marine and Cascades Gateway parks. We understand there will always be costs associated with efforts to find solutions to such complex problems. But when those costs include excessive and irreparable damage to public properties under SPRAB's purview and safety concerns for City Parks staff, it is vital that the Board be kept current on any actions taken and their effects on our park system. Furthermore, Salem Revised Code under CHAPTER 13. - PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD states:

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the City that all matters relating to public parks, playgrounds, and related activities and programs shall be submitted to the Board for counsel and advice (SRC Sec. 13.025. – Policy).

Therefore, in order to facilitate improved communication and our ability to provide informed recommendations, we request the following:

- A City Council contact to ensure open, transparent, timely and sustained communications with SPRAB on any actions being considered and taken and their subsequent positive or negative effects on our parks system.
- Quarterly updates on the City's strategies and programs in order to facilitate SPRAB's ability to be an effective partner in this all-hands-on-deck approach to assist people lacking shelter in our community.

In conclusion, SPRAB appreciates the commitment and perseverance City leadership and staff continue to devote to help mitigate the needs of the growing population of people lacking shelter in our community. This is a crisis that impacts our whole community and it is vital that affected parties be included in the discussions and have opportunities to provide input. The Board takes its responsibilities seriously and we look forward to collaborating when and where we can in finding acceptable solutions for all involved parties.

Respectfully,



Dylan McDowell, Chair

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Name:

Amy-Joyce Tene

Date:

12-9-20

We've have had enough!

1. Breaking in to our homes -
2. Stealing anything they get their hands on!
3. the garbage - we have to pay to get cleaned up!
4. dumping the RAW SEWAGE in Mill Creek!
5. What is this going to do to our property values -
6. Some residents are afraid to leave their homes for fear of what they will come back to!

please make "Cascades Gateway the Park" we paid for - a wonderful place - it "used" to be -

City of Salem
City Council
555 Liberty Street, S.E.
Salem, OR 97301

Paradise Island Park is a community of 55+ citizens of Salem. We were a peaceful park, with thefts rare and a sense of security until Cascades Gateway Park was opened up to the homeless earlier this year.

Since then we have to be truly vigilant in keeping our homes, sheds and belongings under lock and key. I myself was awakened one night by someone trying to get into my house. This was unnerving and the night I lost my sense of security and well being. Since then I have been awakened by someone loudly knocking at my door.

Cascades Gateway Park has also suffered much damage and has become a place where citizens of Salem are afraid to go.

THIS HAS GOT TO STOP!!!!!!

Please listen to us and do not extend this camping policy as it would be detrimental to both Cascades Gateway Park and to the neighboring Paradise Island Park.



Pat Richter
3100 Turner Road, S.E. #415
Salem, OR 96302

Name:

Rm + Dixie Pearson

Date:

12/11/20

Dear Council Members,

My wife and I would like to add our voice to the decision you are about to make concerning the homeless camp located at Cascade Gateway Park.

The park has always been a place for all of us in the Salem area to bring our kids and grandkids to fish and enjoy the day. For the past few years that has been impossible. My wife and I now live at Paradise Island Park next door to Cascade Gateway we've felt the impact. We've had things stolen from our porch and seen homeless people wandering around our community no longer feeling safe and Cascade Gateway is being destroyed. We understand that your decision is a tough one but we feel that we've been impacted beyond what's fair. Something has to be done and a change made that is a permanent solution rather than a temporary fix where everyone is not safe and loose.

Thank-you

Rm + Dixie Pearson

Name:

JOHN Shealy

Date:

12/12/2020

Please help these people
by giving them, Firewood, shelter
cleaning up & being kind to
these struggling homeless people.

THANK YOU

JOHN Shealy

#309

Name: Sharon Walke

Date: 12/11/20

There must be someplace other than Cascade Park that the homeless can camp in. The park is no longer friendly or available to Salem residents.

I live in Paradise Island, since July 2020 and mistakenly assumed that it would be a safe place to live but since I have been here there have been numerous thefts and very strange people walking in my neighborhood. I would love to buy a bike to ride for exercise but they are being stolen all over the park with bike locks being cut, so it is futile to get a 3 wheels because I can't leave it in my carport.

One day there was a scrubby man looking at my house & he was obviously on something because he would dance around & then sit on the sidewalk & then act like he was going up to my neighbors house & then do twirls in the street. We are an older community, mostly widows & this is darn scary. Please do something.

Name: Dick Moody / Alice K Merrill

Date: 12-10-20

Since opening the campground there has been increased vandalism in Paradise Island. We have felt safe up until this time. We have had our cars burglarized and now must lock them at all times. I'm not sure how it has come to the place where tax paying citizens seem to have fewer rights than the homeless and criminal.

M

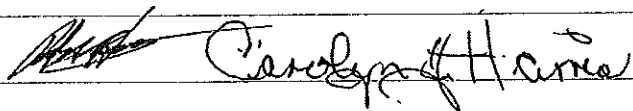
Dr. Richard M. Moody
Alice Kay Merrill
3100 Turner Rd SE #809
Salem, Oregon 97302

Name:

Date: 12-10-2020

MY WIFE AND I ARE RESIDENTS OF PARADISE ISLAND PARK AND HAVE BEEN FOR 12 YEARS. IN THIS TIME WE HAD TROUBLE IN THE PARK PRIOR TO THE HOMELESS BEGUNNING TO CAMP IN CASCADE PARK. IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE COULD BLAME THE CRIME INCREASE ON THE RESIDENTS (CAMPS) AT GATEWAY PARK BUT WE CAN'T, CRIME IS ON THE UP SWING EVERYWHERE.

IT WOULD BE NICE IF THE HOMELESS WERE NOT IN CASCADE PARK, HOWEVER, WHERE ELSE CAN THEY GO? WINTER IS A VERY BAD TIME TO MAKE THEM MOVE. IT IS TOO BAD THAT THERE IS NO WAY TO PAY THEM A SMALL AMOUNT TO KEEP THE PARK CLEAN OR AT LEAST HELP TO KEEP IT CLEAN.

 Carolyn Hanna

Dave Gould #216 Paradise Island Dec 11th

I testified at the last council meeting regarding problems at Cascade Gateway Park and its impact on Paradise Island. 2 nights later my property in my car was stolen - I have filed a police report - SMP 2090064. That same night, Paradise Island photographed a man going through the Island fence and returning with stolen goods.

The city needs to take control of the Park. No one is enforcing City Park rules. (I have included camping rules promulgated by the Oregon Forestry Dept. concerning their lands).

I recommend a proactive approach to regain control of the park.

1. Enforce hours in the park (posted already). In Canada Parks were locked at 10 PM. people in the park were given rules and regulations for expected behavior in the park.
 2. The city should have designated places for disposal of garbage.
 3. Anyone defecating in other than already authorized areas, should be expelled.
 4. Interview all people entering the park. Those found "responsible" should be allowed to enter a "privileged camping area where spacing of sites are clearly defined. Portapotties are available for so many per camper. Portapotties are cleaned each day.
 5. Make social services available at the park to help those reintegrate into society and the workforce.
 6. All responsible campers have access to Showers.
 7. Any drugs found in possession - means expulsion from the park.
- Ask Salem residents to respond to a "go fund me" page to help support the above expectations. Linda and I would support this effort. Dave Gould 3100 Turner Rd SE, Unit 216, Salem 97302

Dept of Forestry rules for camping in Oregon on forestry land.

- Don't camp within 25 feet of a river or stream.
 - Check open fire restrictions during fire season.
 - Don't clear your own campsite or disrupt the natural environment.
 - Pack out what you pack in. Take all garbage with you when there are no garbage receptacles.
 - Don't deposit human waste within 100 feet of any campsite, trail or body of water.
 - No fireworks.
 - Animals must be on 6 foot leash at all times and animal waste must be disposed of properly.
 - Limit of 8 people and 2 vehicles per campsite (except in designated group campsites).
- See OAR 629, Division 25 for a complete list of rules and regulations affecting camping on Oregon State Forests.

December 11, 2020

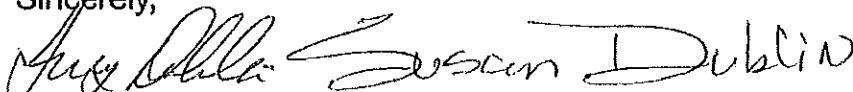
To Salem City Council:

As residents of Paradise Island Park, this is the second letter we have sent regarding the removal of the homeless camp in Gateway Park, located adjacent to us.

Ever since they have been allowed to take over this PUBLIC park, we have experienced numerous break-ins and thefts. We as senior citizens, do not feel safe in this environment.

REMOVE THIS ILLEGAL CAMPSITE and quit extending their permission to PERMANENTLY reside there! Besides being illegal, this is a major environmental hazard. Getting them off the streets of Salem and dumping them here, just so you don't have to see them, is NOT THE SOLUTION!

Sincerely,


Jerry and Susan Dublin

Name:

Date:

Move them out

Name: Edwin R. Helton

Date: 12-10-2020

I very much enjoyed living in Paradise Island Park but it has become not a desired place to live due to the stealing by the Gateway Park Residence living there.

It coming to the point that I am considering leaving Paradise Park due to the City of Salem allowing people to live there. I used to go fishing there.

The Tax Payer pay for the park (gateway).

Now the Tax Payer (as myself) will not go visiting the Park or fish there.

Please consider moving people from the park that live there.

Thank you for listening to my Griplet

Edwin R. Helton Space 505 Paradise Island Park

Name: Diane Hammock.

Date: 12-10-2020

I believe these people have to live somewhere.
The folks @ Cascade Gateway park need lots of things.

as a community we need for them to have

1. patrols - supervision
2. a place for garbage pick up & ~~in~~ anywhere else in Salem
3. a place with showers as well as toilets for folks -

They need to be thought of as human beings
not something bothersome to move elsewhere
anywhere as long as away.

We all have hard times this year -

We, any one of us, could be homeless. Shame
on us all, that we let this kind of thing happen
& then just push it off or blame someone else.

Please find ways to help the homeless &
to help us here @ Paradise Island Park too —
to help our wildlife, our quality of life.

Name: Jon BLONDIN # 405

Date: 12/10/20

Dear Salem city council:

Please be it known to you that I have had someone break my picketed fence gate to enter my yard and try to enter the garden shed etc, since you have allow campers into Cascade Gateway Park.

I used to walk my dog in the park but no longer.

I have a seegestion that will help the council etc. show more compasion for the homeless by sitting up assisted camping in the large area in front of the State House which has proper acomadation with supervision to maintian proper appearance of this area.

The campers would have bathroom facilities, water supply, and trash removal if you were to provide it there.

Also the people of salen and Oregon would, insure, rally to support such an effort to show loving compasion for these people forced to live on the streets etc.

Jon Blondin

Name:

Date:

Marelep Annette

12-11-20

I have had to call police
They enter Paradise Island
Guest Fight. clam 84
live alone on the
greenbelt and read a lot
at night. They seem to
surface at midnight.

Marelep Annette

#204

503-581-8036

Name: Melody Bearden - John Miller Date: 12/10/2020

We are well aware that there are few good solutions to the growing homeless problem in Salem. Ruining a family oriented lovely park is not one of them.

I have personally called the police as someone entered my storage shed and stole food from my refrigerator. I called when I heard gunshots and saw a fire across the creek. I subsequently found out they were burning trees!

The damage done is both frightening and disgusting. We do not believe that a quiet, clean, and law abiding neighborhood should be despoiled by fellow citizens who have no inclination or desire to improve themselves or the area.

As much sympathy as I have for these unfortunate people lines should be drawn when one group infringes upon another.

I hope you will see fit to consider the negatives of the situation. Thank you for your attention.

Melody Bearden

Name: Monna Bob Miller
PARADISE ISLAND / 55th OVER PARK

Date: 12-12-2020

WE ARE WRITING THIS BRIEF BUT URGENT
ATTENTION IS REQUESTED.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THE EXTENSION THAT WAS
GIVEN TO THE HOMELESS TO OCCUPY CASCADE
GATEWAY PARK.

THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE
TO THAT PARK BECAUSE OF THEIR OCCUPANCY.

Drive by OUT THERE, TAKE A LOOK, IT IS
SO SAD, TREES ARE BEING CUT DOWN, FOR
FIREWOOD AND STRUCTURES.

TRASH, AND 'UNMOTIONABLES' EVERYWHERE.
WE HAVE SEEN AND WITNESSED THEFT AND
DAMAGE TO OUR PROPERTIES. THEY (HOMELESS)
WANDER AROUND OUR PARK MAKING FOR
A VERY UNCOMFORTABLE / UNSAFE ATMOSPHERE.

THINK ABOUT THIS IN REALITY, WOULD YOU
OPEN UP EACH OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS?

PLEASE DO NOT EXTEND ANOTHER 6 MONTHS,
LET THE PARK RETURNED TO ITS ORIGINAL PARK!

Name: Salem City Council

Date: 12-9-20

Please note to make Cascades Gateway
park a REAL PARK AGAIN. No Camping!

May I suggest that you make one lane
of I-5 for homeless camping, or maybe
one lane of Turner Rd. Thank about it.

Bob Morin

Paradise PARK

Name: Barbara Lowery

Date: 12-16-2020

Please reconsider using Cascade Gateway Park as a home for the homeless population of Salem.

We moved into Paradise Island Mobile Park because of the feeling of security! Now we must keep all of our doors locked all the time

Why must the homeless leave their trash everywhere when containers are provided?

Please consider removing them from the park or at least have supervision so we don't feel threatened!

Name: Anne Esch

Date: 12/11/20

Enclosed is a summary of ^{what} is going on
at Cascade Gateway Park and all that is taking
place here in Paradise Mobile Home Park.

Hopefully some changes can be made to
solve the problems.

Thank You

Name: Barbara House

Date: 12-10-78

I am an 83 yr old widow & the
homeless people are starving and they live at
Paradise Island. They don't seem to be managed
in any way. They have no proper facilities of
any kind. Please help us. I used to walk over
there & it's no longer a safe place to be.

Thank you

Name: Gary Johnson

Date: 12-11-2020

Writing to tell city council their Gateway Park
camping is a JOKE. Since it started I have
Had 2 - Breasin in my Home. in Paradise
Island Park. Seen fire all times at Night,
we have reported it. But NOTHING is done.

Gary Johnson
Paradise Island

Name: Debra Paxson

Date: 12-10-2020

Dear City Council City of Salem,

I would like to see the
homeless camp leave Cascades
Gateway Park. I cannot enjoy
the park because of all the
tents and people who live
there permanently.

Thank you,
Debra Paxson

Name: Ken & Donna Baker

Date: 12/10/2020

We are seniors that have lived in Salem our entire lives. We have recently moved to Paradise Island Park on Turner Rd. We chose this Park because it was quiet, safe, near shopping & Cascade Gateway park. We have many good memories of the park. As children, teenagers & adults. My husband and I walked for Salem Health and attended our annual hospital picnics there. Our children loved the park and we had many family memories there fishing, feeding ducks & picnics.

Recently, we drove ~~there~~ to spend some time there and were shocked and appalled. Since the city opened the park to the "homeless" it looks like a dangerous, garbage dump instead of what I remember from just a few years back. I now know I can never go back there nor take my grandchildren there and recreate any memories for them.

I'm appalled that the city of Salem and Council members would allow this to happen to one of our beautiful Parks. Not to mention next door to a senior living park in our Community.

I plead with you as a life long Salem resident now in my golden years to deal with this problem and clean up this area to be used again for us who appreciated it.

Please Council members realize we have paid taxes and loved our city for all our lives. Don't let us down.

Sincerely, Donna & Ken Baker

3100 Turner Rd SE #213

Salem, OR 97302