

## Amy Johnson

---

**From:** Bob Elliott <robert.eugene.elliott@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 4, 2021 4:58 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Cc:** Mordhorst, Lyle; Pete Courtney; Tina Kotek; paul@paulevans.org  
**Subject:** Re: Homeless camp flooded at Cascades Gateway Park

I never received an answer back on this email? I'm still interested in did we have a plan, if so what went wrong. Somebody had responsibility I was told. Bob Elliott

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 21, 2020, at 8:35 PM, Robert <robert.eugene.elliott@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm a little concerned about this unfortunate situation at Cascades Gateway Park reported today in the paper and broadcast on the news.

In the recent past I sent an email to everyone listed above and asked if we had a plan for high water in the homeless parks near Salem. I received a message back stating that the email was forwarded to the person who has the responsibility to coordinate the homeless issues within Salem.

I received an email back from this person who indicated that there was a plan. I was told many organizations were involved on helping out in a situation like this if it would come to the point and be needed.

My concerns then were who would evacuate those homeless living near the waters edge, where they would go upon being moved, who picks up the personal property of the homeless that they seem to acquire in large amounts, who would pick up the garbage prior to high water so it does not float downriver to Keizer and the communities down river and eventually to Ocean.

I had some relief to know that this action that I asked about was under control and dropped the issue after receiving this email.

The pictures in the article show exactly what I was talking about. So my questions are "What Happened to the plan"? Now who is going to clean up the mess? When will it be cleaned up? Where were the homeless moved to? How much garbage was hauled away prior to the high water arriving? (I suppose after the high waters recede and for safety sakes when it dries out)

I can assume since this high water came over the weekend City crews and volunteers might not be available to help and assist on Sat and Sun. Did the plan account for needed support over a weekend?

I will wrap up by saying that this high water event was no surprise to anyone, reports were out days earlier telling everyone to look out for high water in low areas. On the radio report a homeless woman said the homeless were not notified, I have no idea of the person they quoted was around when they notified or not, maybe she was correct that they were not notified and she did say she lost everything.

Maybe the "plan" was initiated, maybe everything was done that could have been done? Maybe the homeless did not move out when directed or asked to? So I think I have the right to have my earlier

concerns answered, what went wrong with the 'Plan' if anything, where did the homeless go, how much trash was picked up, etc...

This issue impacts all of Salem downstream, Polk County and Oregon. I wonder how much garbage will end up in Salem from homeless camps upstream and deposited on our banks, I just hope that the drug needles do not get buried in the sand for someone to step on this summer.

I do hope to get a response on the items I brought up. Thank You for taking the time to read my email. Concerned West Salem resident, COL Bob Elliott

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bob Elliott <[robert.eugene.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:robert.eugene.elliott@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Homeless camp flooded at Cascades Gateway Park  
**Date:** December 21, 2020 at 7:57:58 PM PST  
**To:** Bob Elliott <[robert.eugene.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:robert.eugene.elliott@gmail.com)>

Check out this gallery from Statesman Journal:

Homeless camp flooded at Cascades Gateway Park

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/picture-gallery/news/2020/12/21/homeless-camp-flooded-cascades-gateway-park/4000263001/>

Sent from my iPhone

## Amy Johnson

---

**From:** Bob Elliott <robert.eugene.elliott@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 5, 2021 12:57 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Oregon weather: Foot of snow expected on mountain passes, river levels rise toward homeless camps

Today's news story, are we ready? Is there a plan? How much is this costing Salem Tax Payers to clean up these camps. This issue is not going away. Next year will be the same. Leadership needs to do something different than the past. Perhaps we do not allow camping in the known flood plain! Both parks are thrashed now, we know how high the water gets so let's mark the high water line and direct them to set up camps above this line. This will at least keep the trash, tents and tarps out of the water during flooding. Even in the Summer keep the line so they do not set up to the point that they will not want to move in the fall. They do not need to have the "river view" they enjoy each summer. Let's try something different, what we have done in the past is not working. Good luck, we are not out of this mess for months. When you look at the picture in the article it is around tents now. Today I just went down and verified the picture and the are being flooded out now. Bob Elliott Checkout this article from Statesman Journal:

Oregon weather: Foot of snow expected on mountain passes, river levels rise toward homeless camps

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2021/01/04/oregon-weather-rain-snow-continue-willamette-river-levels-rise/4130574001/>

Sent from my iPhone

(1)

Name: Diana Samson Paradise Island Date: 12/30/20

I am writing again about the homeless in Cascade Gateway Park. For many of the residents of Paradise Island the park was an awesome place to go to walk & enjoy the scenery. Homeless moved in, unsupervised, no facilities, except 3 pit toilets for 300 people. No longer safe as they carry guns & machetes. Garbage, feces, needles everywhere.

We as a community of seniors feel violated!

1. For allowing homeless to move into the park which took our ~~right~~<sup>rights</sup> away to use the park for safety reasons (and having to pay taxes on something we cannot use)
2. Causing anxiety because of the breakins & stealing our property, cutting trees down to start illegal fires, exploding tanks & burning camps.

Does this sound like anything that should be going on in a city park? Would any one of you want this going on next door to you?

You as Council men & women have taken on the responsibility of being on the Council for not just the easy stuff, but the hard stuff too.

We expect and deserve better than what we have gotten so far.

Please take action and get them out of our park so we can rest easier and enjoy our park again.

(2)

Cory Poole has given you some ideas that are successful in other cities, why not give them a try.

If you want get affordable housing in Salem, then buy them a one way bus ticket to anywhere they want to go. One reason they are here is they know there is no one with a backbone to do anything.

Ones with adictions and those with mental issues, put them in one of the empty buildings around the city and give them the help they need.

Salem has one of the highest crime rates in the US. One's chance of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime in Salem is 1 in 22!

Cory Poole also warned you about the Flood Plain. Now after these rain storms & "Stuff" Floated away, maybe you can take note of the dangers of camping. Buying them tents & equipment isn't the answer either.

You have had 6 months to come up with a solution and at the last Council meeting didn't sound like you were any closer to a solution and you voted for another 6 mo. extension. Yes this is one of the hard things, but we do expect action taken & problems to be resolved or at least major improvement, since you ran for office.

Thank you  
D. Samson

## Amy Johnson

---

**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of mickivwvl@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 10:38 AM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Micki Vander Linden
Your Email	mickivwvl@gmail.com
Street	1511 St Helens St NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>I believe in you December meeting you said that if the homeless camped in undesignated areas they would be immediately removed. Yet under the West Salem bridge where the painted over No trespassing signs are there is camping, also in park along bridge. Why no removal? So as I see it Wallace marine is a crap hole, downtown streets becoming a crap hole again, Cascade gateway, crap hole, Minto Brown crap hole, parkway and hyacinth a slum. Garbage, garbage everywhere, RATS and more RATS. Proud to call this place home , as my home depreciates. You should have implemented plan with Fairview property. Had addiction, mental health, nursing, housing, and Arches all centralized. Skills training. And a place for campers who don't want to sleep in facility. It would have been successful , that sure would have been a problem. My word has meant something apparently your has not. Good luck!</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 1/7/2021.