



# Eugene's Rest Stop Pilot Program

## What is a Rest Stop?

In response to the growing need for safe places for people to sleep, the Eugene City Council approved a rest stop pilot program in October, 2013.

Rest stops allow up to 15 people to sleep overnight in tents on certain property in Eugene. Each site must be managed by a community agency or organization that acts as a site provider and signs an agreement with the City to supervise the site.

## What are the rules at Rest Stops?

At all rest stops the site provider is responsible for:

- Ensuring the site is supervised at all times;
- Providing clean, portable restrooms and trash collection on site;
- Keeping a roster of individuals who are allowed on the site; and
- Ensuring all campers and visitors follow the site rules.

Alcohol and illegal drugs are not allowed on the site. The rules also prohibit any physical violence or threatening behavior, weapons, loud music or noise, and overnight visitors.

The sites are usually fenced to help control access to the rest stop. No more than 20 people, counting both guests and visitors, may be on the site between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The intention is that campers do not usually stay at the sites all day. Specific rules and schedules vary according to the needs of the site and those residing there.

## Where are the Rest Stops?

Currently, two rest stop sites are open in Eugene: one at Garfield and Roosevelt and a second at Northwest Expressway and Chambers. Both of these sites are managed by Community Supported Shelters. The City is looking for a provider/manager for a third site.



## Community Supported Shelters

Community Supported Shelters (CSS) is a site provider for two of the rest stops in Eugene. It is a community-based, non-profit organization that is dedicated to developing affordable micro-housing solutions.

In addition to the two rest stops, CSS also runs the Conestoga Hut Project in Eugene, which provides people in need with a small, easy to build, lockable, and dry shelter. CSS is a community non-profit that relies on donations of volunteer time, materials, and money to support their work.

To learn more visit their website at:

<http://communitysupportedshelters.org>



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## Why is the City allowing Rest Stops?

According to a recent one night homeless census, Lane County's homeless population exceeds 1,750 people on any given night. Eugene and Lane County continue to experience high numbers of homelessness and housing insecurity. Despite ongoing and dedicated, publicly and privately-supported homeless services in our community, the demand for emergency shelter continues to exceed the supply.

Rest stops provide a temporary, safe place for people to sleep. Providing safe forms of shelter is crucial in preventing long-term homelessness and helping people who are experiencing homelessness get the services they need to find permanent housing.

Rest stops provide short-term interim relief for a relatively small number of individuals. This widespread ongoing problem is beyond the scope of the City of Eugene to solve, and the City continues to work with other local governments and agencies, as well as state and federal governments, to find more comprehensive, longer term approaches.

## What has the City been doing about homelessness?

Homelessness is a complicated and ongoing problem not only for our community, but others around the nation. As a community, Eugene has prioritized helping people who experience homelessness. In addition to investing more than \$4.4 million in the Human Services Commission over the last three years to fund local human services, the City of Eugene has:

- Expanded the car camping program to accommodate more people and added Conestoga Huts to the program.
- Provided a site for Opportunity Village, a transitional micro-housing facility for 30-40 homeless individuals and couples.
- Funded emergency winter strategies with \$225,000 of one-time funding to bolster existing services for people who are homeless, or in jeopardy of becoming homeless including the Egan Warming Shelters, Looking Glass and St. Vincent DePaul (SVDP).
- Supported the expansion of the SVDP Service Station to provide more day time space for the unhoused and improved facilities for feeding people, providing phones, washing machines and showers, and storage lockers.
- Approved the rest stop pilot program in late October and designated two sites on City-owned property. The first was opened in December 2013 and the second opened in March 2014; both are operated by Community Supported Shelters.
- Continued to partner with local nonprofits to build quality affordable and special needs housing. Over the last four years, the City has helped create nearly 200 permanent affordable homes for families, veterans, and people with disabilities.

## How are sites selected?

The Eugene City Council and staff are trying their best to find workable rest stop sites to locate a very vulnerable group of people in our community and not leave them without options. So far we have been looking at City-owned property, with the Council direction that the sites not be located in City parks, residential areas or close to schools. A number of locations have been reviewed, but many have been eliminated due to their location or problems with the site. The City Council and staff have been receiving many comments and will continue to try to balance all the needs and views of community members.

More information at [www.eugene-or.gov/homelessnessupdate](http://www.eugene-or.gov/homelessnessupdate)