



Dallas Park & Recreation

Homeless Encampment Briefing

Park and Recreation Board Meeting
August 5, 2021

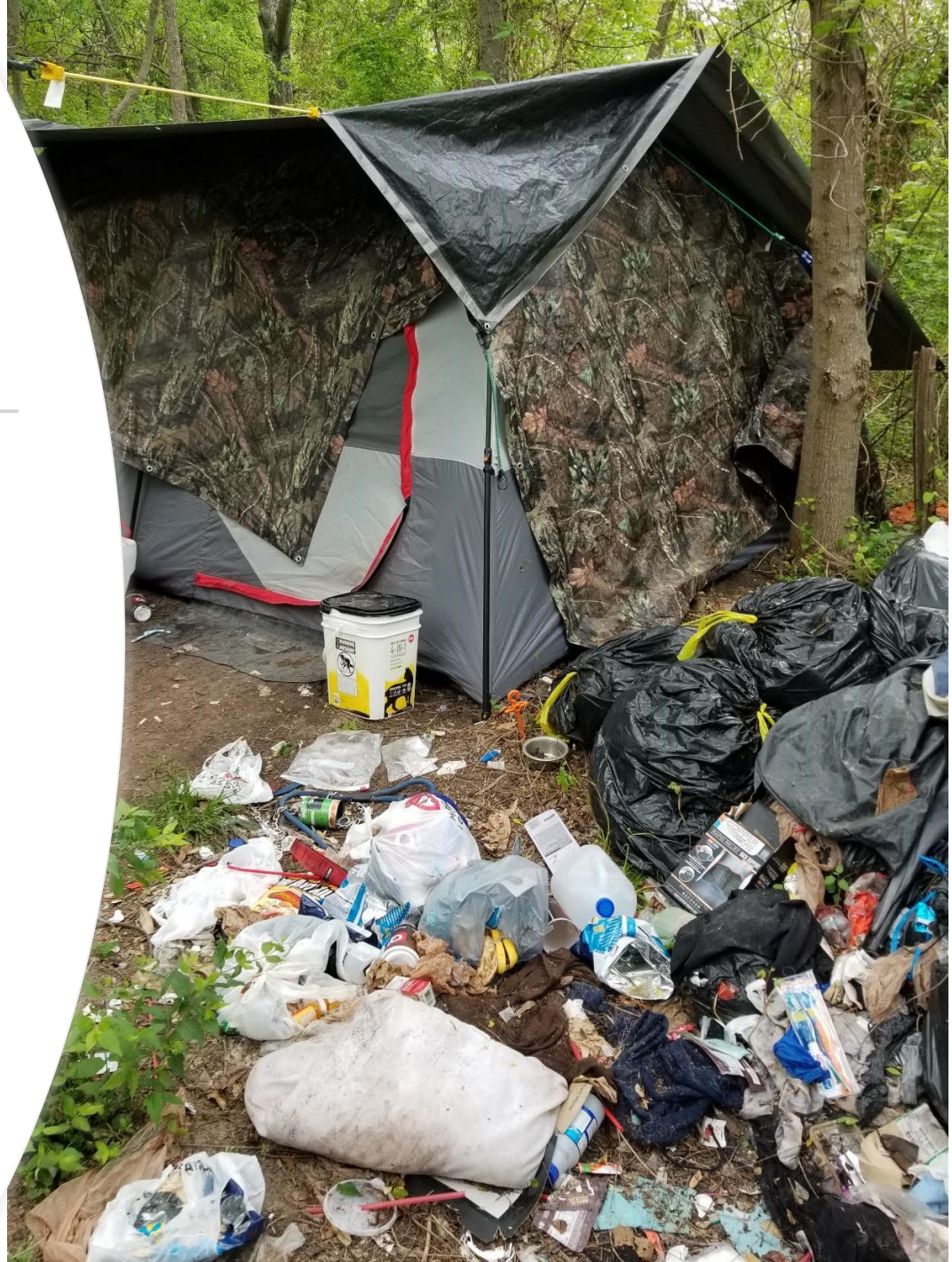
Overview

- Purpose
- Background
- Encampments/Locations
- Implementation Strategy
- Office of Homeless Solutions Outreach
- Cottonwood/Chronic Encampments
- Austin Encampment Tour
- Next Steps



Purpose

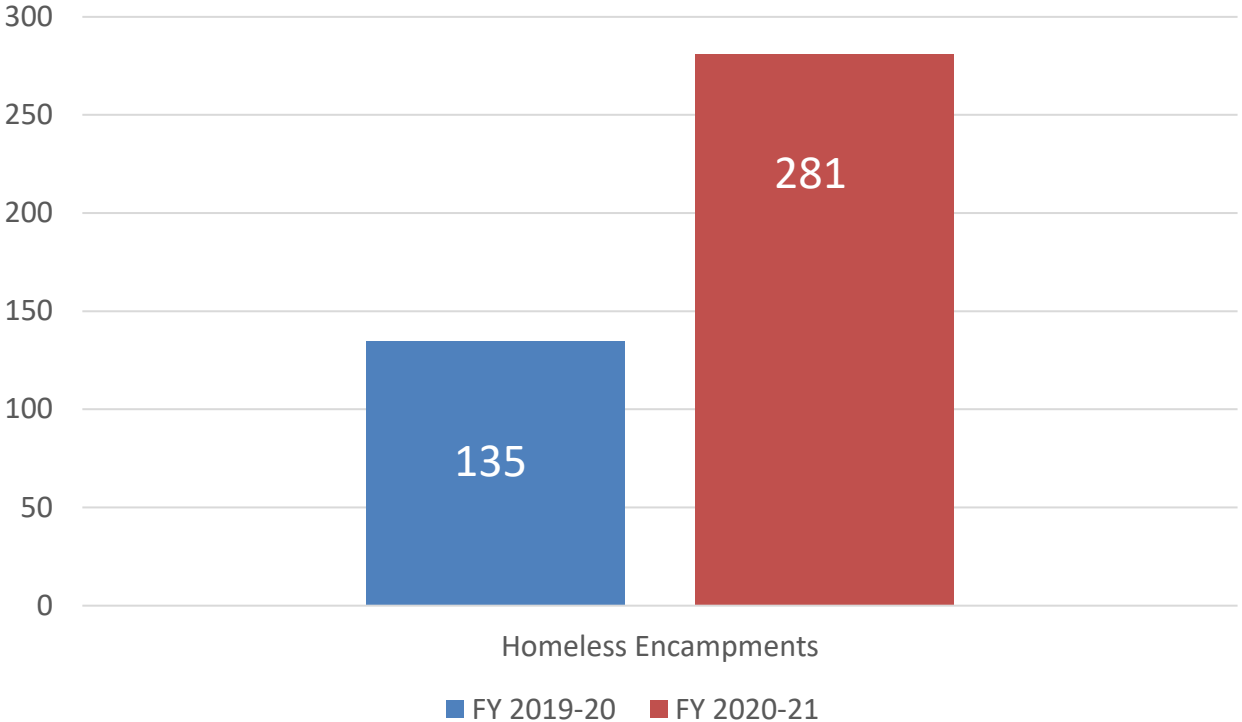
- Brief Park and Recreation Board on homeless encampment operations and implementation strategy



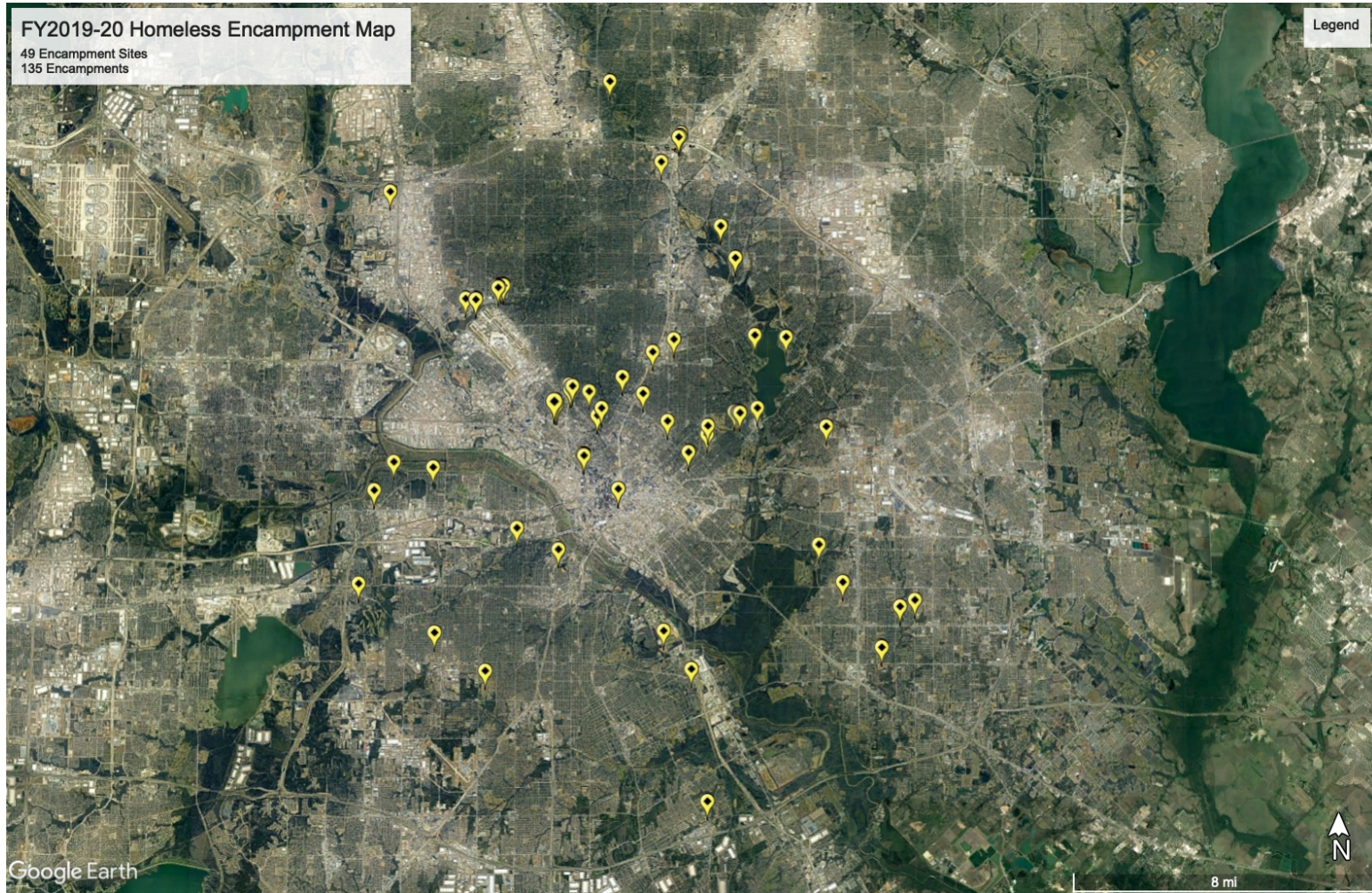
Background

- Effective December 2020, due to COVID-19, a temporary suspension of encampment removals was issued by the City Manager's Office.
- Effective March 2021, the Park and Recreation Department was granted authority to execute an encampment removal action plan
- 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 for fiscal year 2020-21 (administrative/staff labor and contracted services)

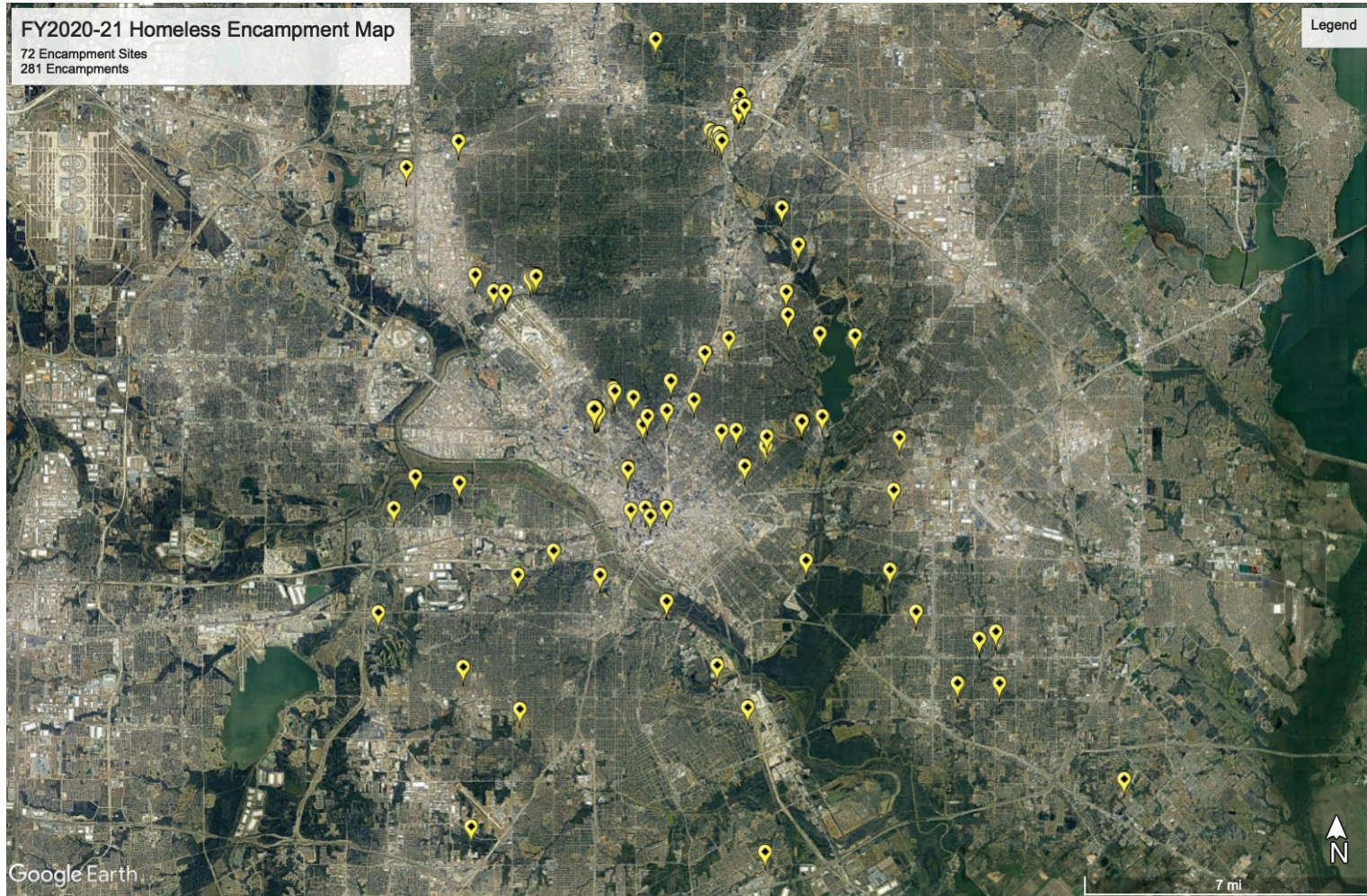
Encampments on Park Property



Encampment Locations



Encampment Locations



Encampment Locations FY 2019-20

Park	# of Encampments
Garrett	13
Old East Dallas Work Yard	10
Lake Cliff	7
Maria Luna	6
Pike	6
Craddock	5
Bachman	4
Turtle Creek	4
Katy Trail	4
Lake Highlands North Recreation	4
Bonnie View	4
Hamilton	4
Cottonwood Trail	4
Kiest	3
White Rock Lake	3
RP Brooks	3
Santa Fe Trail Trestle	3
St. Augustine	3
Santa Fe Trail	3
White Rock Greenbelt	2
Cole	2
SoPac Trail	2
Pioneer Cemetery	2
Kleberg-Riley	2
Stevens Park	2

Park	# of Encampments
Swiss Avenue Medians	2
Marcus Annex	2
Apache Park	2
Glencoe	2
Boulder	2
Dealey	1
Civic Garden	1
Crown	1
Ridgewood	1
3858 Ruidosa Ave	1
Katy Trail	1
Martyr's	1
Main Street Garden	1
Gateway	1
Old East Dallas Work Yard	1
4100 Avondale	1
Cochran	1
Fair Oaks	1
Crawford	1
Umphress	1
Forest	1
White Rock Creek Trail	1
Valley View	3
TOTAL	135

Encampment Locations FY 2020-21

Park	# of Encampments
Craddock	35
Maria Luna	25
Bachman	18
Garrett	15
Cottonwood Trail	14
Fruitdale	11
Old East Dallas Work Yard	10
Pike Park	9
Santa Fe Trail	9
Kiest	7
White Rock Lake	7
Martyr's	7
Hamilton Park	6
SoPac Trail	6
Coombs Creek	5
Stevens Park	5
Moore	4
Santa Fe Trestle Trail	4
Ridgewood	4
Valley View	4
Lake Cliff Park	3
Jaycee Zavagoza	3
Turtle Creek Park	3
Martin Weiss Park	3
Samuell Garland	3
St. Augustine Park	3

Park	# of Encampments
Gateway	3
Westhaven	2
Katy Trail	4
Cole	2
Kleberg-Riley	2
Apache	2
Dealey	2
3858 Ruidosa Ave	2
Main Street Garden	2
Fair Oaks	2
St. Francis	1
Holcomb	1
Tipton	1
Guard	1
Field Fraizer	1
William Dean Park	1
Exposition Plaza	1
Lake Highlands	
North Recreation	1
Bonnie View	1
Cleveland Street & MLK	1
3424 Blackburn	1
Bark Park Central	1
Pacific Plaza	1
Miller Family	1

Park	# of Encampments
Sargent	1
Ledbetter - Eagle	
Ford	1
Burt Field	1
RP Brooks	1
Kessler Park	1
White Rock	
Greenbelt	1
Willie Mae Butler	1
Overlake	1
Pioneer Cemetery	1
Swiss Avenue	
Medians	1
Marcus Annex	1
Glencoe	1
Boulder	1
Civic Garden	1
Crown	1
Everglade	1
Cochran	1
Willis Winters	1
Crawford	1
Umphress	1
Forest	1
TOTAL	281

Encampment Resolution Implementation Strategy

The Department's goal is to maintain parks, ensure compliance of park rules and reduce public health and safety hazards.

The Office of Homeless Solutions is designed to prevent and intervene in homelessness by combating the complexity of homelessness with innovative and effective solutions. Additionally, the Office is intended to promote collaborative efforts of private and public partners, ultimately solidifying a diverse resource portfolio to adequately address homelessness.

Encampment Resolution Implementation Strategy

The Dallas Park and Recreation Department works in collaboration in managing the site assessment process on parks and trails with guidance and support from the Office of Homeless Solution Outreach (OHS). Cleaning notices are issued on behalf of PKR to individuals camping on park property to ensure compliance of park rules. The Department's goal is to eliminate and reduce any public health and safety hazards.

1. Notice of Cleaning

- OHS – Determines active or inactive encampment status and issues 72-hour Notice of Cleaning to tenants
- PMO – Determines the appropriate cleaning method
- DPD – Supports staff during site assessment

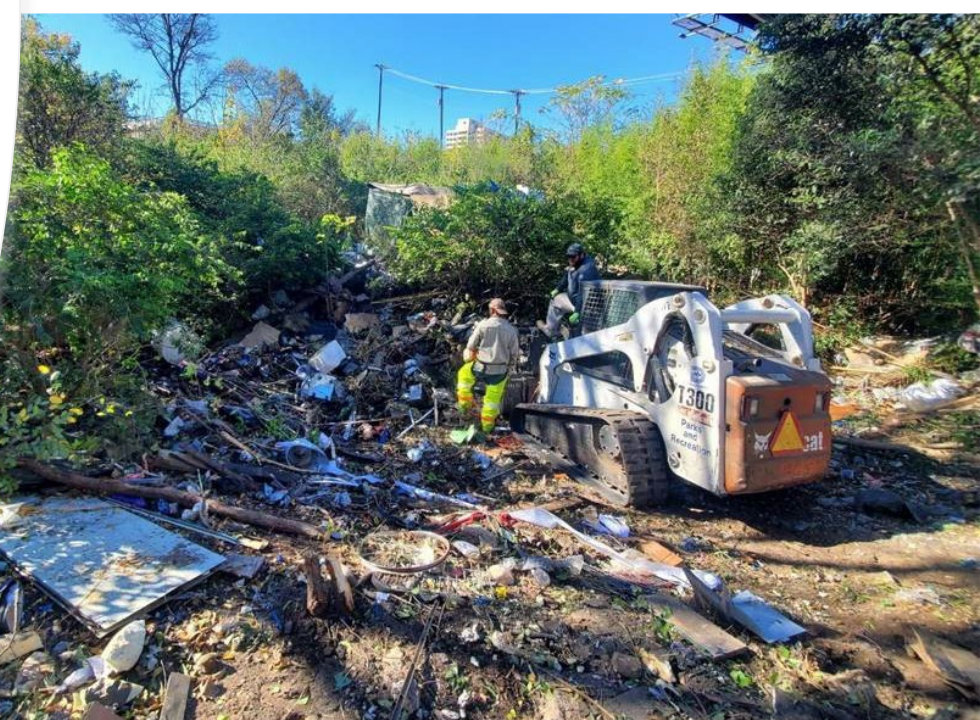
Encampment Resolution Implementation Strategy

2. Site Cleaning

- Maintenance staff or cleaning contractor will begin site cleaning 72 hours after the notice of cleaning is issued
- OHS is present to offer tenants available resources
- DPD is present to enforce the notice

3. Monitoring

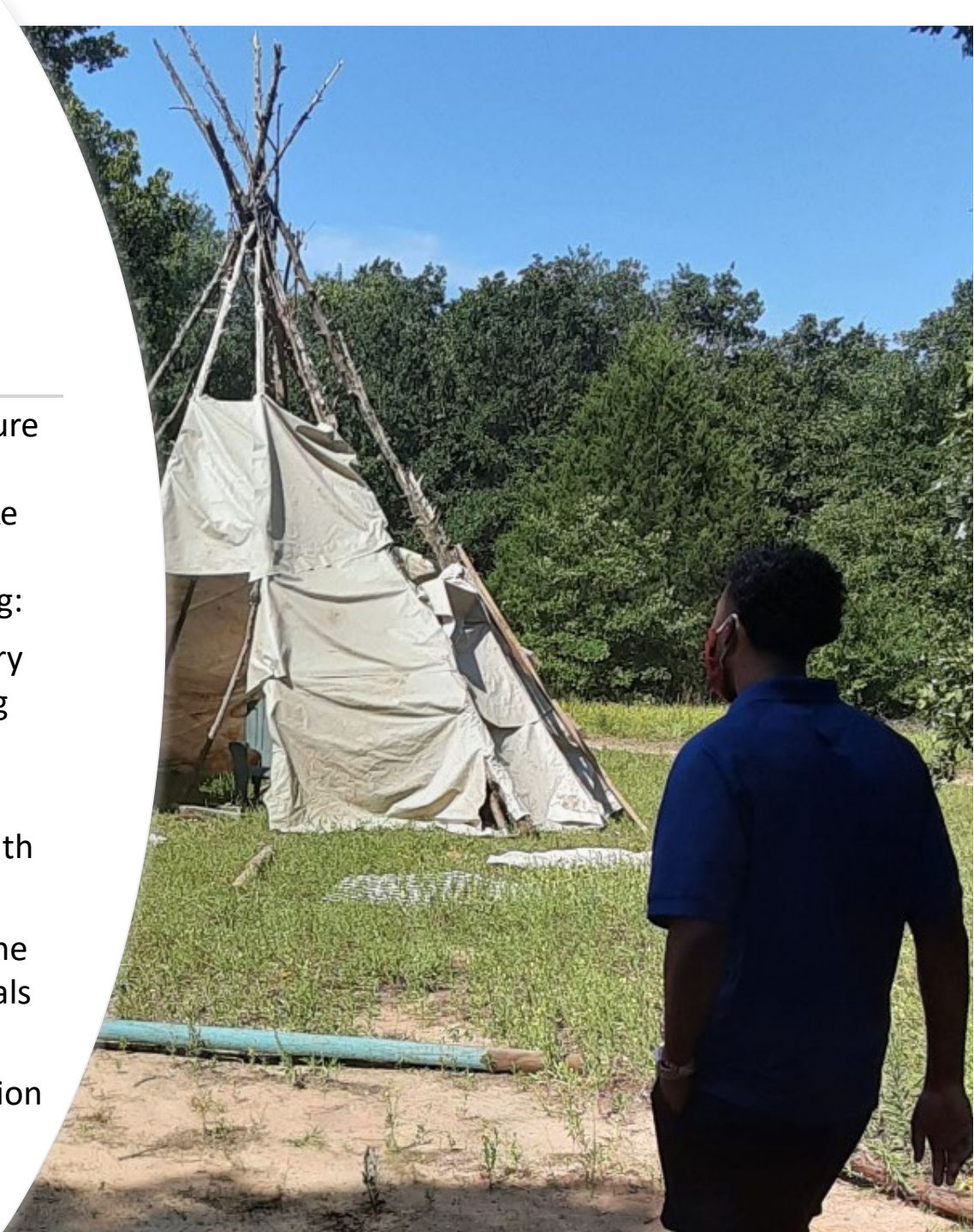
- A 90-day monitoring plan is implemented to observe potential re-entry



Office of Homeless Solutions Outreach

PMO ensures that OHS is present to ensure the delivery of services as it relates to tenants. OHS will offer services and make referrals to those seeking assistance including, but not limited to the following:

- Emergency Shelter - A temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness
- Treatment - Alcohol/substance abuse, physical and mental health services, and general services
- Covid-19 testing - Referrals to the nearest testing site for individuals to get tested for Covid-19
- Long-term unsheltered population on park property



Cottonwood
Trail
Chronic
Encampment
Strategy



Cottonwood Trail Chronic Encampment

On March 19, 2021, several departments met to evaluate the numerous encampments along Cottonwood Trail.

Office of Homeless Solutions Outreach – Identified encampment sites to issue Notices of Cleaning and to offer services to the unsheltered

Park Rangers – Logged encampment locations to monitor twice daily for the next 90 days

Marshals – Logged encampment locations to monitor twice daily for the next 90 days

Cottonwood Trail

Chronic Encampment Strategy

Park Maintenance Services – District VI and Forestry teams identified areas for tree and underbrush maintenance.

- Clear underbrush opening line of sight
- Clear volunteer trees to provide mow strips along retainer wall
- Selectively remove trees in areas to be cleared to prevent hidden spaces
- Remove dead trees

Cottonwood Trail Chronic Encampment Strategy

Dallas Police Department – Document and report encampment locations to PKR & OHS and create presence on trail with goal of twice a week. Talk to patrons and build repour. Broadcast presence on social media.

Code Compliance - Identified encampments on private property adjacent to trail. Notice of Violations were issued to the property owners to gain compliance.

Dallas Animal Services – Offered resources for pet owners.

Contracted Cleaning Services – Cleaned encampment sites after 72 hours of notices were issued. Contractor specializes in hazardous waste removal.

Other Partners and Agencies – In conversations with other agencies.



City of Austin Encampment Tour

On May 19, 2021, PMO Staff toured the City of Austin's largest Homeless Encampment sites with Wes Bickham, Park Department Homeless Response Coordinator.

- Met with Chris Baker, Executive Director of The Other Ones Foundation (TOOF), who manages the Camp Esperanza and serves as PARD's encampment cleanup contractor.
- TOOF also manages the work program that cleans the encampment sites.
- An annual budget of \$525,000.00 is allocated for cleaning encampment sites through the Clean Community Fee fund.
- Fees are collected from the water/sewer payments from residents.

City of Austin
Encampment
Tour



Next Steps

- Continue to collaborate and support the Office of Homeless Solutions
- Leverage health and safety practices and compliance on all park properties to support park users, staff members and the unsheltered
- Develop work plans and efficiencies to streamline resources



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