



Homelessness: Camping Rules Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if people are camping in violation of the adopted time, place, and manner restrictions?

To report camps not in compliance, please call Washington County Non-Emergency Dispatch at 503-629-0111.

I'm concerned about mental health issues and drug use in the community. What is the City doing to work on these issues?

If you believe someone is in a crisis related to mental health and/or addiction, call Washington County's Crisis Line at 503-291-9111. If there is immediate, life-threatening danger, dial 911.

The City of Hillsboro recognizes that there are gaps in mental health care and addiction treatment both nationally and locally.

The City of Hillsboro works to connect people to Washington County's [county-wide mental health and addiction services system](#). To add capacity, the County is developing a new [Center for Addiction Triage and Treatment](#) with additional treatment beds, a peer drop-in center, and many other services.

How will the new camping rules be enforced?

The Hillsboro Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team, Bicycle Team, and Code Compliance Team work together to connect face-to-face with community members, address livability issues, and enforce laws, including those related to camping restrictions, vandalism, controlled substances, and littering.

For the Hillsboro Police Department, City Manager's Office, and community partners, the current focus is to provide education and services rather than issue penalties to community members living unsheltered.

Penalties for Violation

Exclusion (Removal From Area)

- People breaking camping rules may receive a citation or be removed and banned from the City-owned property — known as exclusion. They will have an opportunity to comply before an exclusion notice is issued.
- Exclusions are limited to the area where the violation took place & may last up to 90 days.
- If an excluded person stays on the property or returns, they may be arrested or cited for Criminal Trespass II.

Personal Property

- Personal property used for camping or stored on public property in violation of the rules may be taken for safekeeping.

Private & Sanctioned Camping

- The City Manager may remove approval for sanctioned and private camping for property owners and/or guests who break camping rules.

When the camping rules are enforced, how will people camping be connected with services?

Hillsboro Police Department staff carry and distribute contact cards with information for Washington County's Community Connect homeless response system. They may also direct people living unsheltered to day centers and other resources.

What resources are available for people living unsheltered?

Day Centers:

- Project Homeless Connect
363 SE 6th Avenue
Phone: 971-713-8965
- Open Door HousingWorks
34420 SW Tualatin Valley Highway
Phone: 503-640-6689
- HomePlate Youth Services (serves ages 12 to 24)
494 E Main Street
503-320-8965

Shelter & Homelessness Resources:

- Call 211 or Community Connect at 503-640-3263

Why doesn't the City just create enough shelter beds so camping does not need to be allowed in public spaces?

While we know shelter services don't end homelessness, they are an emergency response resource to serve people experiencing a housing crisis.

The City and Washington County have greatly increased local shelter capacity over the last couple of years. We continue to work towards ensuring year-round shelter capacity that meets the needs of everyone who is living outside, including work on projects such as the [Safe Rest Pods on SW 17th Avenue](#) and the [Year-Round Shelter Project](#).

Available shelter options may not be accessible to everyone. An assessment of the situation and needs of each person must be made to determine if there is a shelter bed available for them at a given time.

How will people experiencing homelessness know whether shelter beds are available?

The expectation would not be for community members living unsheltered to know whether a shelter bed that meets their needs is available.

Instead, the Hillsboro Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team will work with compassion to complete individualized assessments and connect people who are camping with local outreach teams, service providers, and appropriate shelter.

The Crisis Intervention Team works with local shelters on a day-to-day basis and can connect community members with emergency shelter beds if they are available.

Individualized assessments are especially important to determine shelter availability, as not every type of shelter meets the needs of every person in the community.

For example:

- A shelter with stairs and no elevator would not meet the needs of a person who uses a wheelchair.
- A shelter that does not allow animals would not meet the needs of a community member with a pet.

How will litter, garbage, and debris be managed?

Per Oregon Revised Statute 164.805, offensive littering is a Class C misdemeanor. In addition, the Manager's Administrative Rules require trash or other debris to be discarded properly.

The Hillsboro Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team, Bicycle Team, and Code Compliance Team work together to connect face-to-face with community members, address livability issues, and enforce laws, including those related to littering.

We have also launched an Outdoor Cleanup through Supportive Employment project, and are working with contractors to remove trash, debris, and shopping carts from Hillsboro's public spaces and natural areas. These teams will work in areas of the City where camping in public spaces is allowed to occur and other hotspot areas.

Did the community provide input on the updated camping rules?

A Hillsboro Camping Planning Group of City staff and partners convened in January 2023 to plan logistics, content, and execution for community engagement surrounding the updates to camping rule.

Community-wide Engagement

In March 2023, an [Engage Hillsboro project page](#) launched with engagement opportunities:

- Camping Rules Survey
- Questions & Answers
- Watch Camping Ordinance Workgroup meetings, read discussion points

893 survey responses were received. [View the survey results.](#)

Camping Ordinance Workgroup

Thirty to 40 diverse community stakeholders were invited to join a Camping Ordinance Workgroup. They met three times in April and May to:

- Learn about ordinance updates
- Review questions and survey results
- Provide recommendations to Hillsboro City Council

The Hillsboro City Council reviewed the Workgroup's recommendations and community survey results as they considered the required ordinance updates and the Manager's Administrative Rules.

For more details on the engagement process, visit [Engage Hillsboro](#).

How were allowed camping areas selected?

The City did not directly choose specific areas where camping is allowed.

Instead, we created a list of areas where camping will not be allowed, with considerations for:

- Community feedback & Camping Ordinance Workgroup recommendations
- Safety (not allowed near roads with high speed limits)
- Accessible locations (near public transportation)
- Leaving adequate space for all people who do not have shelter

The Workgroup and City staff also worked to ensure that the overall camping rules are objectively reasonable.

By identifying areas where camping is not allowed, we were able to identify allowed locations. [View the Camping Areas Map.](#)

Will the camping code apply to land within the City that is owned by other public entities?

The updated camping ordinance rules apply to City-owned property. The City does not control land owned by other private or public entities, such as State-owned property.

However, the rules do apply to all publicly-owned rights-of-way within the City limits that are not governed by camping rules created by other agencies.