



Eugene's Rest Stop Pilot Program

What is a rest stop?

A rest stop is a designated area within city limits where up to 20 people are allowed to sleep in tents or Conestoga Huts. Unless for security or health reasons, residents vacate the site during the day and a limited number of visitors are permitted during designated hours. There are currently five rest stops in Eugene that provide temporary, safe, legal places for people who are experiencing homelessness to sleep at night. Each site is approved by the Eugene City Council. The City then enters into an agreement with a nonprofit organization to manage the rest stops, and the program must be periodically renewed by the City Council.

How are sites selected?

The City tries its best to find workable rest stop sites that minimize impacts to neighbors and sensitive areas. Sites are not located in developed parks, environmentally sensitive areas, or in close proximity to residential neighborhoods or schools. The land must be suitable to camping and have road access. Central locations with access to public transportation and services are preferable. These conditions make it very challenging to site a rest stop. We will continue to try to balance the needs and views of all community members when selecting sites.

Who pays for the rest stops?

The cost of establishing and operating each rest stop is paid for and managed by a nonprofit organization. The land is currently provided by the City of Eugene and the Eugene Mission.

Who operates the rest stops?

Two local organizations are responsible for day to day oversight of the rest stops:



Who stays at rest stops?

Individuals 18 or over who are experiencing homelessness are eligible to apply for a space at a rest stop. Applicants are screened to determine if they are a good fit. Rest stops are intended to be a temporary respite, and the managing nonprofit works to connect residents with support and resources to help them move toward a more sustainable housing solution.

How are rest stops kept healthy and safe?

Residents sign agreements to abide by rest stop rules and an onsite manager provides supervision. Best practices for water, handling and preparing food, cooking and cleaning, heating, waste management and illness prevention are followed. There is zero tolerance for violent behavior or alcohol and drug use onsite. Children must be supervised and are prohibited from staying overnight. Portable restrooms and trash collection are provided. Residents are expected to keep the site tidy, refrain from disruptive behavior and be good neighbors. The sites are also fenced to control access and promote safety.

Why is the City allowing rest stops?

There is simply not enough affordable shelter for the high numbers of people who are experiencing homelessness in our area. The rest stop concept is being piloted as an option to help alleviate this need. Residents report that having a secure and safe place to sleep is crucial as they work to access services and find long-term, stable housing.

To view a video about the Rest Stop program, visit eugene-or.gov/reststops.