



Chase Commons Safe Sleep Site: Update

Provider identified for site to prioritize medical fragile homeless individuals

Latest information

The City of Eugene has recently identified a social service provider, Carry It Forward, to manage the Safe Sleep site at Chase Commons and is reaching out to neighbors and stakeholders to provide more information on progress and site plans.

Background

On July 21, 2021, the Eugene City Council approved the use of Chase Commons undeveloped park for a Safe Sleep site that would consist of 20 sleeping structures and be modeled after the City's Rest Stop program. Safe Sleep sites and Rest Stops provide additional designated locations where people experiencing homelessness can safely stay and receive connections to services. There are currently three Safe Sleep sites and nine Rest Stops operating in Eugene. While Safe Sleep sites generally consist of 40 or more sleeping units, Rest Stops provide space for up to 20 people. In late summer 2021, progress on the project at Chase Commons paused due to the lack of a social service provider to operate and manage the site.

What sort of site is planned?

Carry It Forward, the City, and local healthcare partners are working together to develop a site in a section of Chase Commons Park that will serve medically fragile people in 18-20 uniform, 64 sq. ft. Pallet Shelters. The fenced site will be staffed by trained service providers and highly organized and coordinated for this sensitive population.



Where is the Safe Sleep site?

The site will be on property owned by the City of Eugene near the southwest corner of N. Garden Way and Commons Drive. The Safe Sleep site will occupy about half an acre of the 4-acre park and will be situated near the northeast corner.

Who will stay at the Safe Sleep site?

To help support an unmet need in the community, the Chase Commons site will prioritize people age 18 or older who are medically fragile and therefore experience increased vulnerability to living unsheltered. Potential residents will go through screening and orientation before being permitted to stay at the site. Services will be available to residents to support their healthcare needs and to assist them in improving their overall stability and moving toward permanent housing.

Who will operate and manage the site?

Local service provider Carry It Forward will operate and manage the site. Carry It Forward provides a range of shelter, outreach, and case management services in Lane County for people experiencing homelessness. Carry It Forward will work with other healthcare and health-focused entities to support the needs of site occupants. More information about Carry It Forward can be found at www.carryitforward.net.



How are sites kept healthy, safe, and clean?

Carry It Forward will provide daily supervision and oversight. The site will be fenced to control access. Restrooms, hand washing stations, shower facilities, a common meeting space, clean water, and connection to electricity will be provided. Wastewater disposal will be connected to the sewer. Threatening or violent behavior will not be tolerated. Weapons, illegal drugs, and overnight visitors will not be allowed. Smoking will only be allowed in a designated smoking area on the site. Staff and residents will be expected to follow rules for preparing and storing food, fire safety, heating, storage, waste management and illness prevention. Upon acceptance into the program, residents will be required to sign guest agreements to comply with the rules and procedures of the site. Carry It Forward will ensure residents keep their personal items inside of their sleeping units, and regularly serviced garbage collection bins will be on site. As part of their agreement with the City, Carry It Forward will be expected to ensure the site stays tidy, that residents refrain from disruptive behavior, and that the program is a good neighbor.



When will the Chase Commons Safe Sleep site open and how long will it operate?

Site planning and preparations are underway, and the site is expected to open in summer 2022. It will operate until at least May 1, 2023, with an extension contingent upon its success and City Council's extension of the Safe Sleep site ordinance or approval under a different shelter program.

Why are Safe Sleep sites being established?

The number of people who are unsheltered in our community greatly exceeds the number of shelter beds and low-income housing units currently available—a situation exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Managed sites of this kind reduce the impacts of unsanctioned camping in our community and provide needed stability for people experiencing homelessness, making it easier for them to access services and support their transition into better situations.

Why was this site chosen?

The City makes its best effort to find workable sites that minimize impacts to neighbors and sensitive areas. The land must be suitable for the type of use (large enough, flat and relatively dry) and be able to provide road access. Locations that provide sufficient proximity to public transportation and services are important. The City makes an effort to diversify shelter program locations across the region, for equitable access and addressing this community-wide challenge broadly.

Will unsanctioned camping be allowed near the Safe Sleep site?

City departments will prioritize enforcement response to any unsanctioned camping near the Chase Commons Safe Sleep site, just as they do for other Safe Sleep sites and Rest Stops.

Who do I contact if I have a concern or question, want to provide input or get involved?



An online survey to provide input and feedback for the Chase Commons Safe Sleep site is available at <https://forms.office.com/g/vxF7ASQx7j> or via the QR code to the left. A neighborhood meeting with representatives from the City of Eugene and Carry It Forward will also be held **Tuesday, June 14, 5:30–7:00 p.m.**, at the site.

If you have general questions or concerns about this City-approved program, you can contact Regan Watjus at the City of Eugene at RWatjus@eugene-or.gov or 541-682-8442. If you have questions or concerns more specifically related to program management or activities at the Safe Sleep site once it is operating, you may contact the site operator, Carry It Forward, directly at 541-636-4497. Learn more about the Safe Sleep sites and other City efforts to address homelessness at www.eugene-or.gov/homelessness.