

Seattle Human Services Department

Navigation Team

SEATTLE
CITY HALL



City of Seattle

City of Seattle - Navigation Team Background

Goal: To connect vulnerable people living unsheltered to services & shelter, remove encampments that pose serious public health and safety risks.

Background: Launched in 2017 to address growing unsheltered community, impacts from unmanaged encampments.

Navigation Team is comprised of specially trained police officers, outreach workers, and field coordinators and works closely with service providers & other public agencies.



City of Seattle -Rules & Protocols for encampment removals

Multi-Departmental Rules (MDARs)

The MDARs call for, in some scenarios, to provide at least 72-hour removal notice and advanced outreach to encampments on public property, with offers of shelter, services, and storage of personal items. These clean-ups can only proceed if the City has enough shelter beds for every person in the encampment the day of the removal.

In other circumstances, the rules call for the City to remove encampments that pose a hazard or an obstruction to public property without 72-hour notice or advanced outreach. These removals do not require the City to hold shelter beds in order for the clean-up to proceed, however the City will offer shelter and connect people to shelter.

These rules are designed to balance both the rights of people living unsheltered, with the City's responsibility of maintaining public health and safety.

Often, encampments on WSDOT property fit the criteria for removal and frequently are prioritized for Navigation Team work.



City of Seattle - Navigation Team Prioritization



With an estimated 400 unmanaged encampments in Seattle, the team prioritizes sites for removal that pose the most significant public health and safety concerns.

Public Health & Safety Factors:

- Obstruction to public use (*upper left photo*)
- Hazardous location (vertical drops)
- Exposed to vehicular traffic (roadways)
- Criminality beyond substance abuse
- Large quantities of garbage, debris, waste (*lower photo*)
- Hazards to occupants/community (threats to infrastructure)
- Difficulty in extending emergency services (greenbelts)
- Scheduled construction/work
- Damage to natural environment
- Proximity to schools, hospitals, eldercare facilities

City of Seattle – Navigation Team Partners



Seattle
Human Services



Washington State
Department of Transportation



Seattle
Parks & Recreation



Seattle Public Utilities



Evergreen Treatment
Services

Public Health
Seattle & King County



City of Seattle

City of Seattle – Navigation Team outcomes



Through the end of the third quarter of 2019, the team **interacted with 2024 unique individuals** and connected **594 unique individuals to shelter**.

Enhanced shelters were the most frequently utilized resources through the end of the third quarter 2019, consisting of **77% of all shelter referrals**.

Also through the end of the third quarter **2019** the team removed **1154 tons of garbage, waste, and debris** from public property.