



In response to the community concerns of aggressive behavior, public health concerns, and criminal activity the City has identified specific actions that can be taken internally as well as community partners and resources to reduce the impact to quality of life and expense for residents, businesses and visitors to the City.

Encampments

- Hired new employee to assist City Work Program in encampment clean up
- 721 hours spent cleaning up 253 encampments in 2018, costing City \$26,390
- GIS mapping tool deployed in Parks, Solid Waste, and Police to track encampments and proper notification and safe storage of found items of value
- Contracted with BIO Northwest for additional clean up assistance \$10,000
- Rewrote parks ordinance to include code of conduct – adopted by City Council
- Significant damage to public restrooms at Lions Park, Edgewater Park, and Plaza on multiple occasions resulting in over \$25,000 in damage
- Fecal contamination to Kulshan Creek due to illegal encampments, State Department of Ecology involved

Other Community Organizations

- Skagit Transit policy and security upgrades at Skagit Station
- Skagit County partnership: funding of social worker in police, leading a permanent supportive housing project with Catholic Housing Services
- Met with Faith group (33 churches invited) on two occasions to discuss City challenges with homelessness
- Mount Vernon 7th Day Adventist church hosted temporary cold weather shelter
- Friendship House assisted with case managing cold weather shelter
- City employees support Family Promise organization

New full time employees specifically hired as a result of impacts:

Law enforcement Parks Ranger (job posted until filled), Solid Waste Laborer, Outreach Coordinator Social Worker

Code Revisions

- City adopted temporary shelter code
- City adopted overlay zones to allow for permanent supportive housing project
- City exploring code to allow tiny houses as a shelter alternative

Historic Downtown

- Law enforcement patrol emphasis June – August = 400 extra patrol hours
- Volunteer patrol hours = 436 hours
- 35% reduction in police calls for service
- Meetings with Downtown Association
- Security reviews of businesses by police crime prevention staff
- Evaluated overnight bathroom – significant damage and criminal activity experienced with porta-potty left open overnight
- City expenses of \$9,000 per month for police overtime

South Kincaid Neighborhood

- Mayor & City Councilmembers met with Friendship House Board
- Friendship House meeting 2x per month with police crime prevention
- Monthly neighborhood meetings
- Street light installation (4) = \$15,760
- Security reviews
- 50% Reduction in calls for services to police after reduction in meal service at Friendship House
- 34% decrease in calls for service to police from Red Apple Market