

Craig, Sondra

From: Reynolds, Mitch
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 3:08 PM
To: Elsen, Nikki
Cc: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Camping on City property

#24-0510

Mitch Reynolds

Mayor
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Re: City Land "Camping/Squatting"

To whom it may concern,

The environmental problems are numerous and I think the DNR should be consulted about the growing community of "campers" and the environmental impact on the marsh and other areas along our waterways.

One reason, from what I understand, that so much waste had to be hauled out from the encampment along the river was that surface soil had to be removed because of the contamination caused by human feces, urine and drug paraphernalia, especially needles and syringes. The areas that are being occupied now will have the same issue and quickly considering the short amount of time the other areas were occupied.

Aside from the physical contamination, there is also a social contamination. Almost all homeless encampments like these tend to be rampant with drug use. There are those who live there, who have chosen that life for some reason. There certainly are others who live there because of mental illness, but many if not most of the people who occupy these encampments have serious addiction problems and their presence along our public waterways, walkways and roadways pose a danger to the public, young and old alike, for which these areas have been dedicated. Not only are they danger to others, but they are a danger to themselves, especially in such concentrated and primitive conditions.

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