

HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

February 3, 2025

14

Total Active Sites

99

Total Occupants

98

Total Tents

73

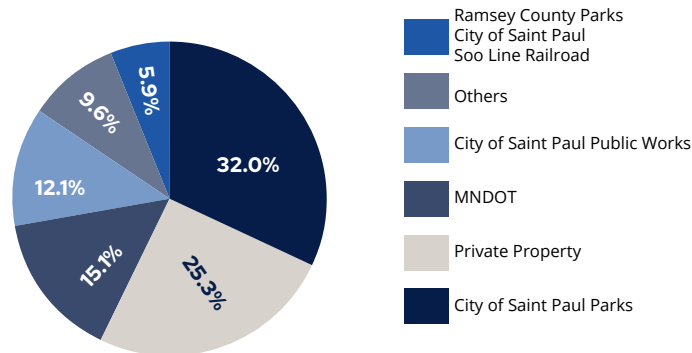
Total Male

26

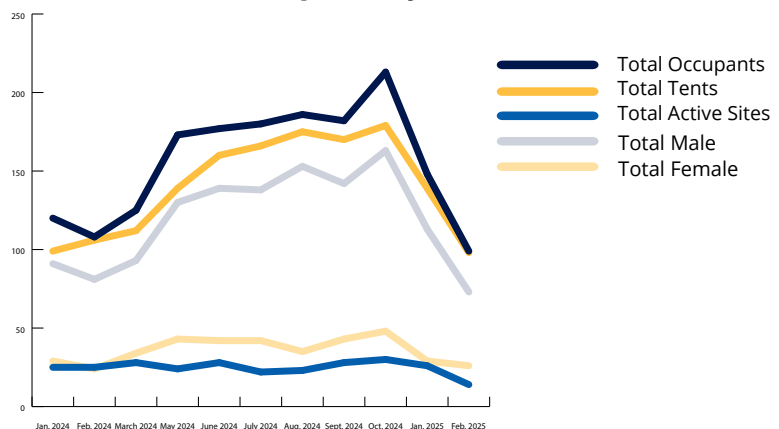
Total Female

City Data Summary

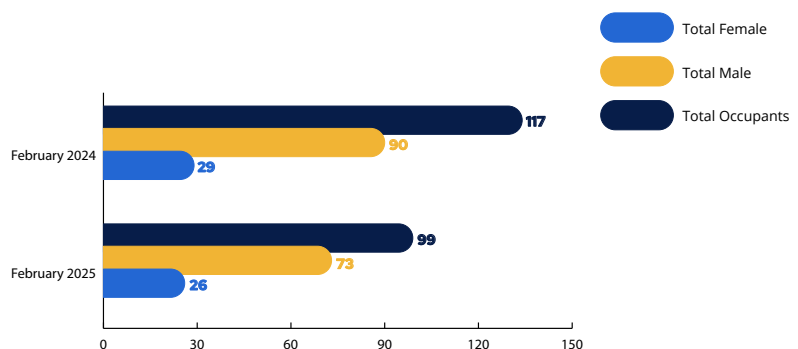
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

HART Contact Information

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Above: DSI distributes sleeping bags rated to 40 degrees below zero to unsheltered individuals. These sleeping bags offer shelter from extreme cold temperatures and reduce the need for open fires to heat a tent. **Below:** SPFD personnel extinguished unattended open/external fires to prevent potential spread to nearby tents or the surrounding nature reserve.



City of Saint Paul Supporting the Unsheltered During Freezing MLK Weekend

As temperatures plummeted over Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, the City of Saint Paul and its partners worked around-the-clock to provide critical support for the unsheltered community during one of the coldest stretches of the winter. With the mercury dropping below zero and wind chills reaching dangerous levels, the City prioritized the safety and well-being of individuals living in encampments by offering essential resources and ensuring fire safety measures were in place.

In response to the freezing temperatures, the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI), in collaboration with Saint Paul Fire Department (SPFD), distributed sleeping bags rated to -40 degrees to 35 residents across the Fish Hatchery site. These specialized sleeping bags were designed to keep the user warm in extreme cold, offering a layer of protection against hypothermia and frostbite. For many unsheltered individuals, these sleeping bags are a lifeline, especially during the harshest winter conditions.

In addition to distributing sleeping bags, SPFD personnel conducted rounds through the site to assess fire safety measures. Fire safety is a serious concern in encampments, where individuals may rely on improvised heat sources like open flames or propane heaters. The team ensured that fire safety practices were being followed, including keeping fire hazards away from tents, ensuring proper ventilation, and checking that fires were safely managed or extinguished.

SPFD's expertise helped ensure that safety protocols were in place to prevent fires from escalating into emergencies. Fire chiefs provided guidance to camp residents on safer heating options and offered tips on managing heat sources within tents.

The City of Saint Paul's combined approach—providing life-saving resources like sleeping bags and fire safety checks—was a testament to the power of collaboration in addressing homelessness during a crisis. Alongside these immediate efforts, HART continues its year-round work to connect individuals with long-term shelter solutions and other critical support.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

February 25, 2025

15

Total Active Sites

103

Total Occupants

104

Total Tents

77

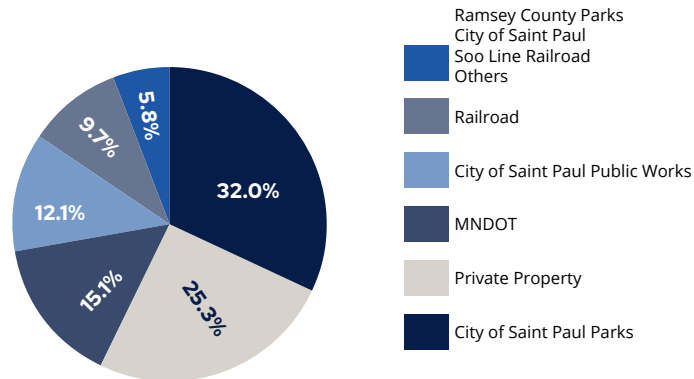
Total Male

24

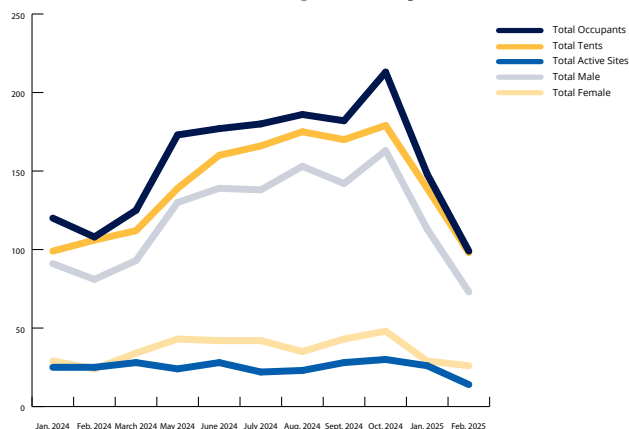
Total Female

City Data Summary

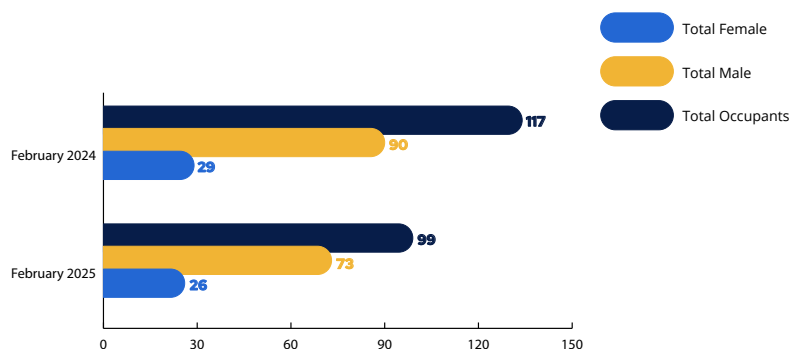
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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Assisting the Unsheltered Community During Extreme Cold

As temperatures plunged below zero over the past few weeks, multiple City departments worked together to ensure the safety and well-being of the unsheltered community. Saint Paul Emergency Management, alongside HART, provided extreme cold weather sleeping bags and pads, helping to assist vulnerable individuals through these harsh conditions.

In addition, the Community Alternative Response Emergency Services (CARES) team and Saint Paul Fire Department (SPFD) have been essential in actively checking encampments and responding to emergency situations. Their timely interventions have been critical in preventing cold-related injuries and providing immediate assistance where needed.

Together, these teams have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to public safety, offering essential support to those most at risk during this severe winter weather. We thank Emergency Management, CARES, and SPFD for their unwavering dedication to protecting our community and their continued work to assist those in need.

SPFD Emergency Medical Services respond to an emergency call at a camp during extreme cold temperatures.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

April 8, 2025

22

Total Active Sites

174

Total Occupants

173

Total Tents

130

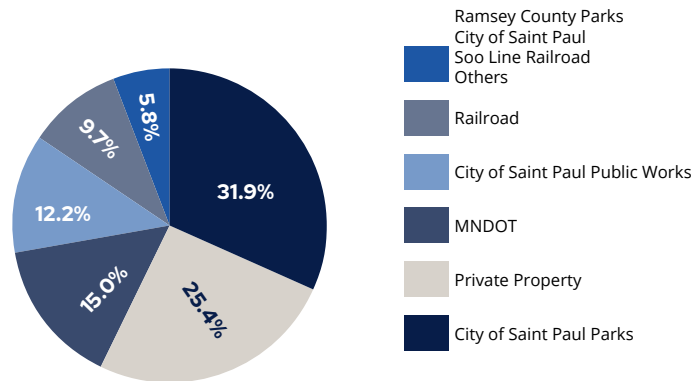
Total Male

42

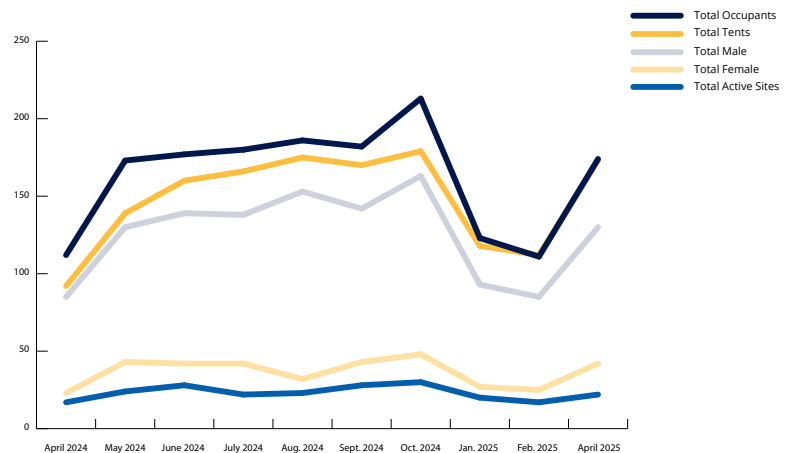
Total Female

City Data Summary

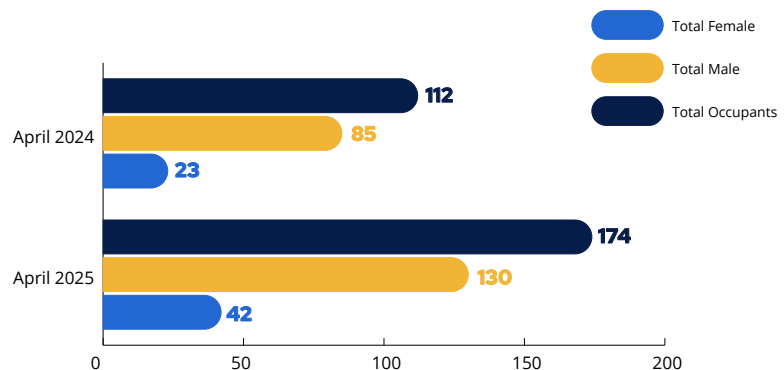
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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Lafayette Bridge Encampment to Close Due to Bridge Maintenance

In a crucial step towards necessary infrastructure repairs, the encampment under Lafayette Bridge is scheduled to close on Thursday, April 10th. A coordinated effort between local organizations is ensuring that alternative housing options are available and residents are not simply relocated to another encampment.

HART, Familiar Faces, RADIAS Health, and various key partners have been working closely to support residents in finding stable housing and accessing necessary resources. Our goal is to provide more than just a move to another location, "We want to ensure that residents have access to shelter, treatment and permanent housing so they can take steps towards a more sustainable future.

While the closure marks a significant change for the Lafayette Bridge encampment community, the ongoing efforts demonstrate the power of collaboration in addressing homelessness.

The agencies involved remain committed to ensuring that every individual has the tools, resources, and opportunities to improve their lives and thrive in the community.

In addition to the pictured notices posted around the site, we work with our partner agencies to personally notify as many residents as possible.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

June 3, 2025

19

Total Active Sites

132

Total Occupants

142

Total Tents

94

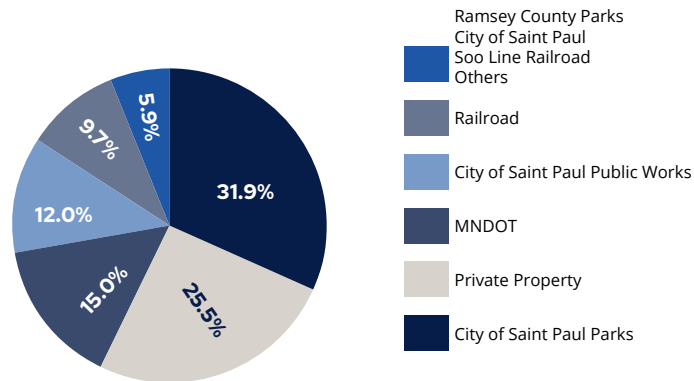
Total Male

38

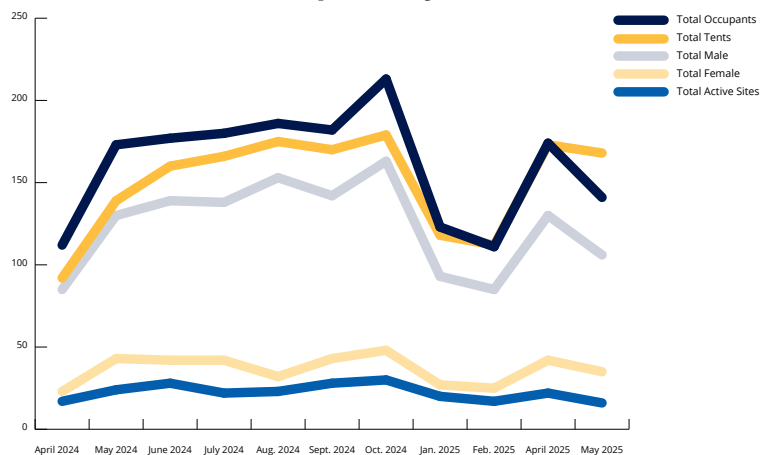
Total Female

City Data Summary

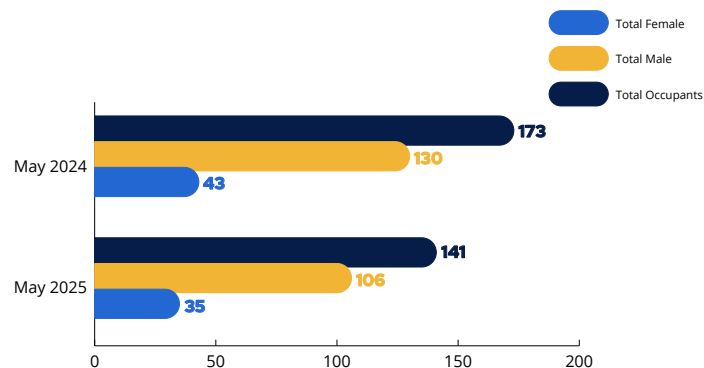
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Total Sites and Occupants by Month



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HART Celebrates Recently Housed Clients

Over the past few weeks, our outreach team has worked tirelessly to connect clients with stable, supportive housing. Their success exemplifies what's possible when relentless engagement and inter-agency teamwork converge to the benefit of the community we serve.

Among those recently housed are people who had spent years navigating the hardships of life on the streets. Thanks to HART's dedicated outreach/housing team and our community partners, three more people now have a safe place to call home; a foundation from which they can rebuild their lives.

One client, Jack, expressed joy as he turned the key to his new apartment for the first time. "I'm so happy for what [HART] has been able to do for us," he said.

Jack and his partner, Sandy, have been struggling with homelessness for more than three years while also dealing with various ailments, facing each day with resilience. While they've had opportunities for housing in the past it never came to fruition. Thanks to the continued hard work of HART outreach and dedicated housing providers, they finally have a place to call home.

This achievement reflects the power of personalized support and persistence. From securing vital documents to navigating housing applications and providing transportation, HART's holistic approach ensures they're supported every step of the way.

While we know the path to stability doesn't end with housing, it's important to highlight these successes as they occur – each is one more step towards long-term prosperity.

To the people who have taken this brave step toward change: we see you, we celebrate you, and we are honored to walk beside you on your journey.

Jack, Sandy, and their dog Champ (above, right) relax in their new apartment. Enduring years of setbacks, HART was able to connect them with partner groups and secure housing.

Kevin and his dog Shadow (right) relax after moving in. Relentless engagement and strong partnerships make successes like these possible.



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SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

October 8, 2025

14
Total Active Sites

127
Total Occupants

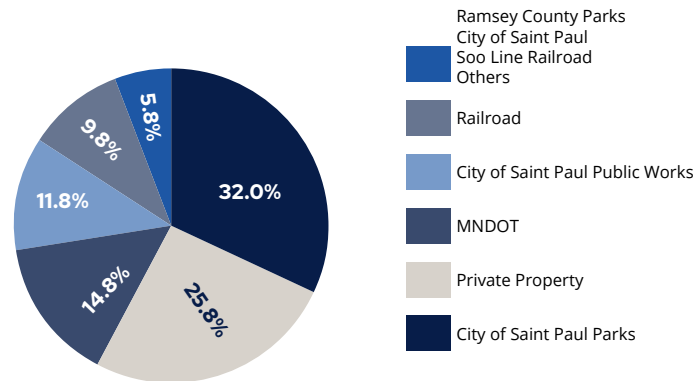
125
Total Tents

87
Total Male

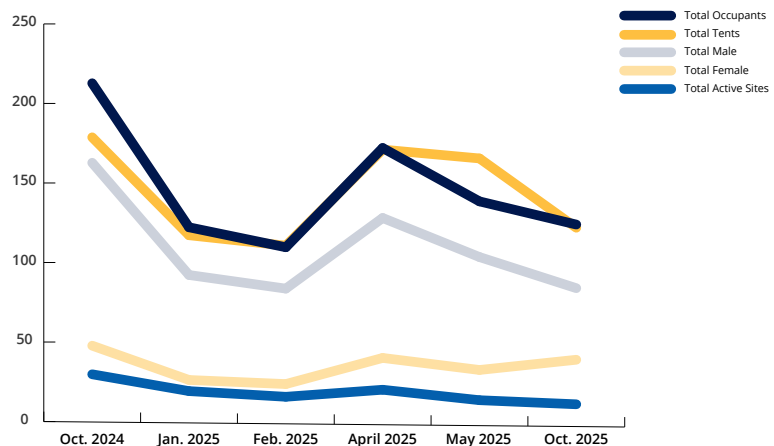
42
Total Female

City Data Summary

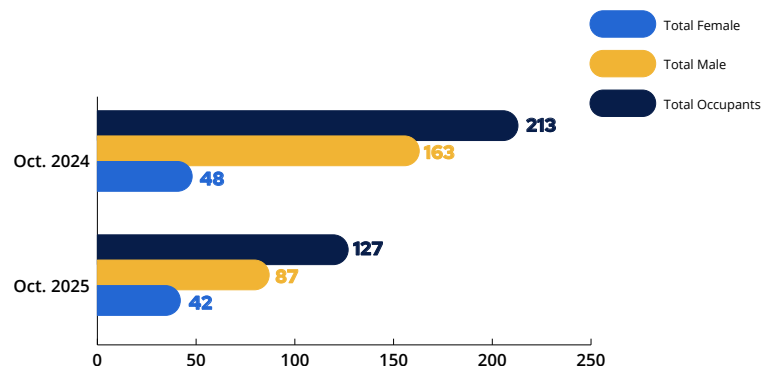
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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Progress in Addressing Encampments Across Saint Paul

Over the past several months, the Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART) has continued working diligently to connect people experiencing homelessness with safe and stable alternatives to encampments. Recent data shows encouraging progress: both the number of encampments around the city and the overall occupancy of existing sites are lower year-to-date. At the same time last year, we recorded 204 encampment occupants and 190 tents across the city. This year, those numbers have dropped to 127 occupants and 125 tents.

This reduction is tied in part to external factors such as ongoing safety concerns, infrastructure projects, and construction that have made it more difficult for long-established encampments to remain in place. While HART staff continue to provide outreach, resources, and shelter connections, these external pressures have also contributed to the decline in overall encampment numbers. The result is fewer large, long-standing encampments across the city, though many individuals still face the challenge of finding safe and stable alternatives.

At the same time, local shelters are operating at or above maximum capacity on a regular basis. This reality highlights how much work still needs to be done to ensure that everyone has access to safe shelter. Unsheltered service providers across the city are working diligently to meet the growing needs of the community, often stretching limited resources to provide critical support. Yet, the lack of available space leaves many without immediate alternatives, which results in more people choosing to camp outside, even during harsh weather conditions. Expanding capacity and investing in long-term housing solutions remain essential to creating a stronger, more sustainable response.

The work is far from over, and while these numbers show some progress, significant challenges remain. Unsheltered service providers continue working tirelessly to meet the needs of the community, supporting individuals living outside and connecting them to resources whenever possible. Fewer camps reflect some shifting conditions across the city, but ongoing efforts are needed to ensure safer neighborhoods, cleaner public spaces, and stronger support networks for those experiencing homelessness.

Looking ahead, HART will continue strengthening partnerships and supporting long-term housing solutions. With sustained, compassionate engagement and additional resources, we can move closer to a future where no one has to sleep outside.



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SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

October 29, 2025

9

Total Active Sites

125

Total Occupants

123

Total Tents

81

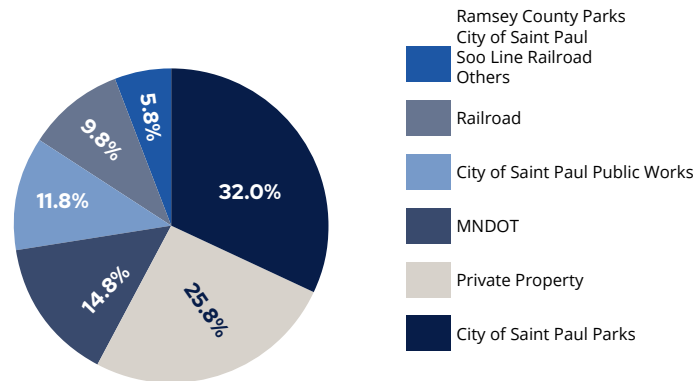
Total Male

44

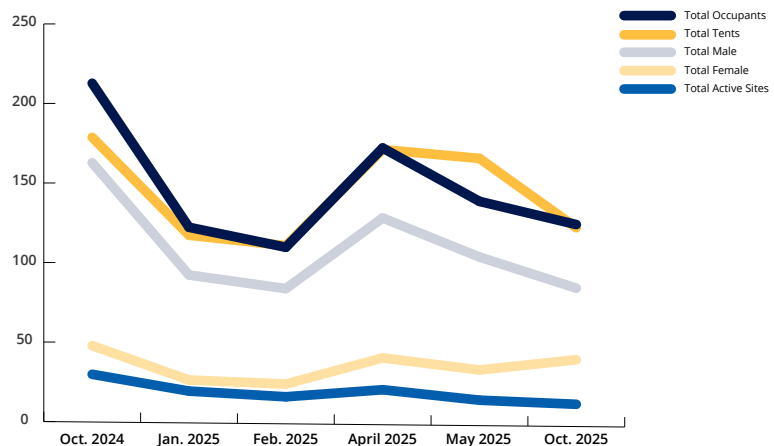
Total Female

City Data Summary

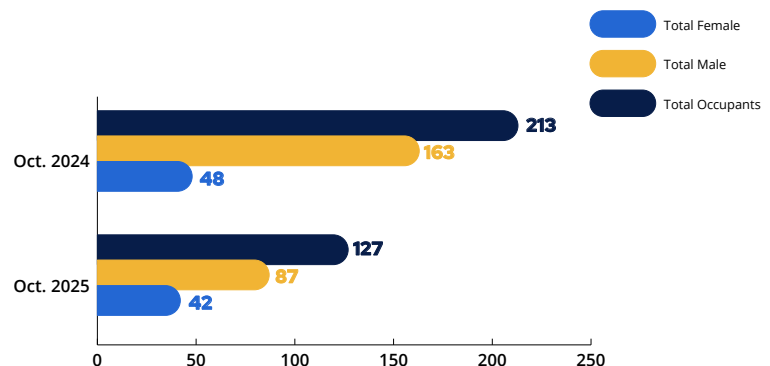
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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Helping Neighbors as the Seasons Change

The City's Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART) continues working alongside local service providers to connect with our unsheltered neighbors and link them to the help they need. Through strong partnerships and coordinated outreach, HART and its partners are building trust, sharing resources, and making steady progress toward safer and more stable housing options for all.

As the colder months approach, The Listening House is in need of men's clothing donations—especially warm layers, socks, and jackets. Donations can be dropped off at 421 7th St E, St. Paul, MN 55101.

Together, collaboration and compassion can make a difference.



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