

Camping Code Update

November 15, 2023

Camping Code in context of City/regional efforts

- Framework between Governor Kotek, Deschutes County, Redmond, and Bend
- Managed camps, services, and housing are shared goals
- Deschutes County formalized support for managed outdoor shelters; County will take the lead on establishing and operating managed outdoor shelters
- City has had a role in supporting development and maintenance of 600 shelter beds within the City
- Cities provide core services like public safety, infrastructure, and land use
- City responsibilities include managing public places under the City's control



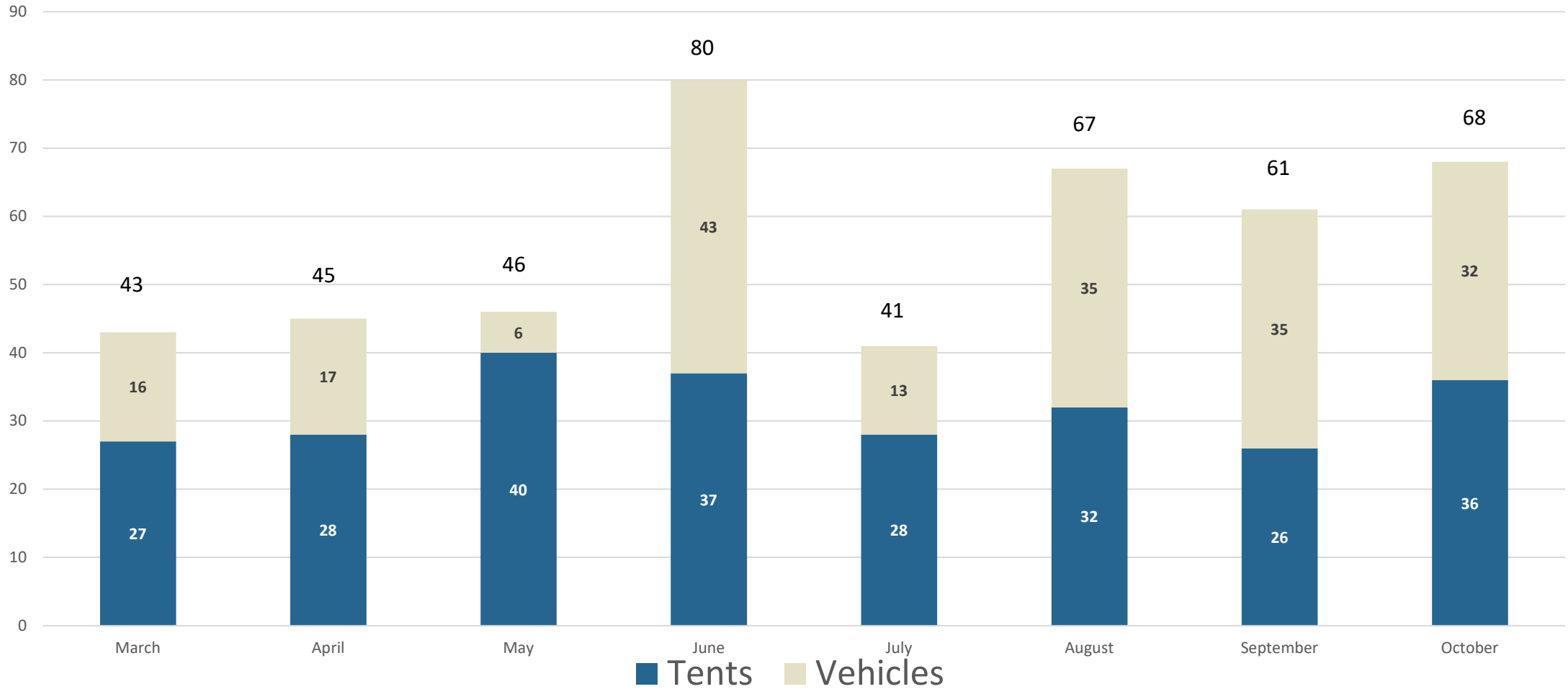
Camping Code Background

- Bend adopted changes to its Comprehensive Plan and Development Code in May 2022 to facilitate siting of multiple kinds of shelters in the City
- Prior to 2022, Bend did not have modern code provisions regulating when, where, and how people could use public places owned or managed by the City to meet their basic needs
- Oregon HB 3115 and court decisions allow reasonable time, place, and manner regulations
- Bend adopted changes to its Municipal Code in December 2022 after a nearly six month public process
- Bend's code does not criminalize homelessness, but does impose reasonable regulations on use of City public rights-of-way
- Application of the new code began in March 2023

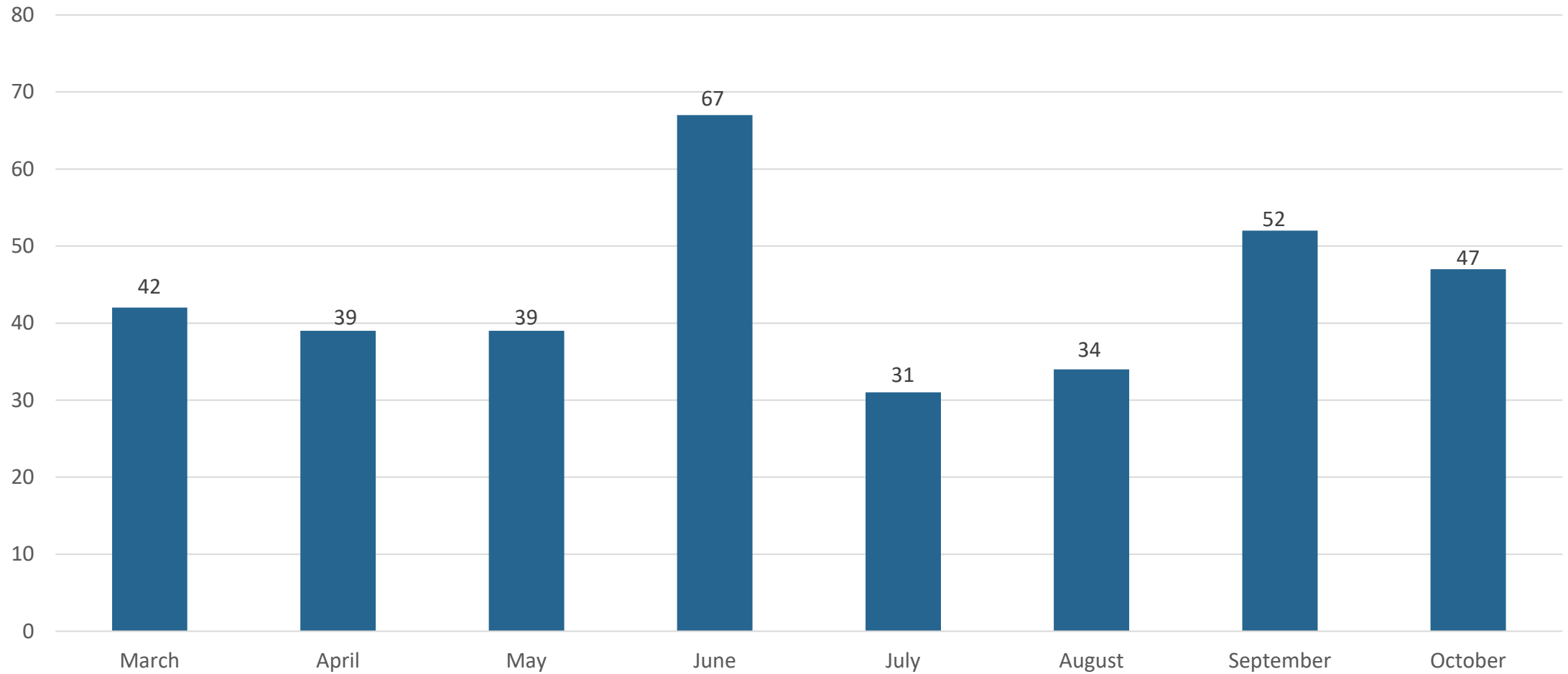


Overview of Data

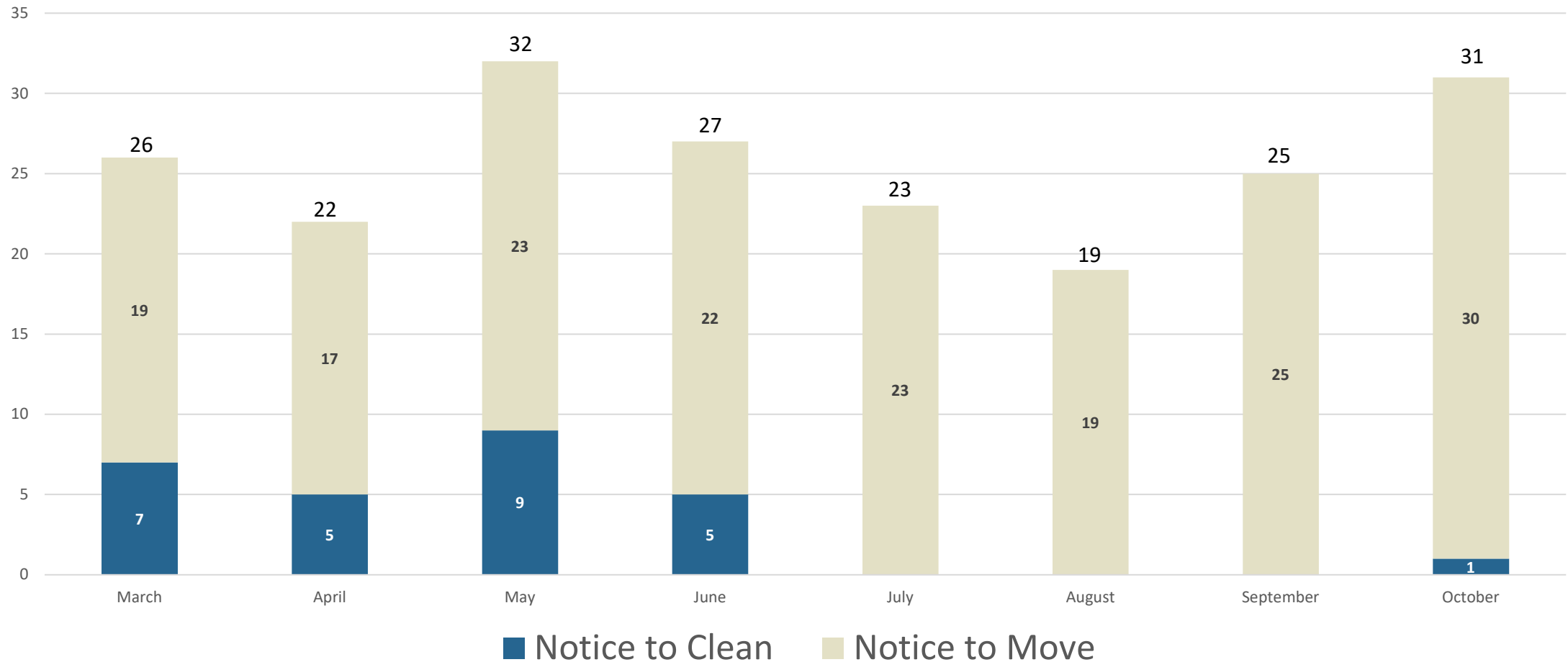
Total Cases Opened by Month (Tents and Vehicles)



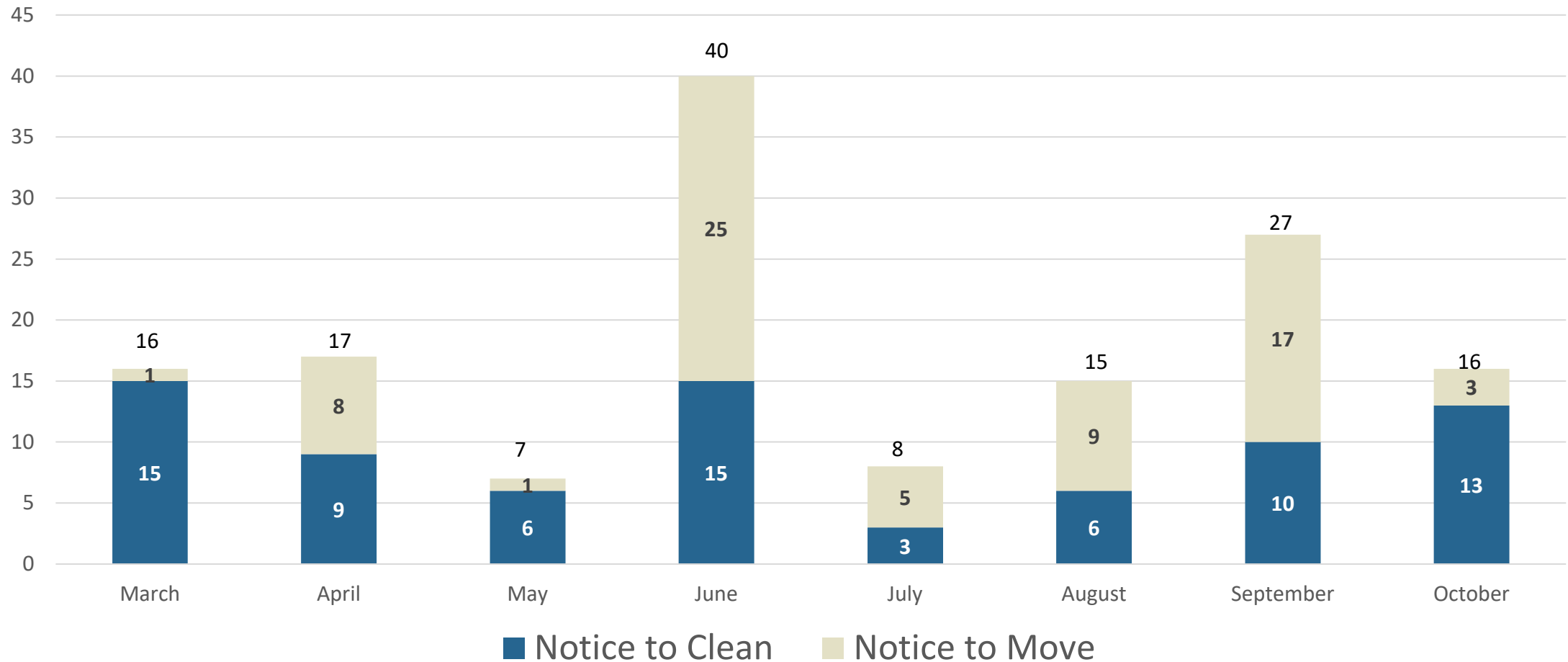
Total Notices Issued by Month



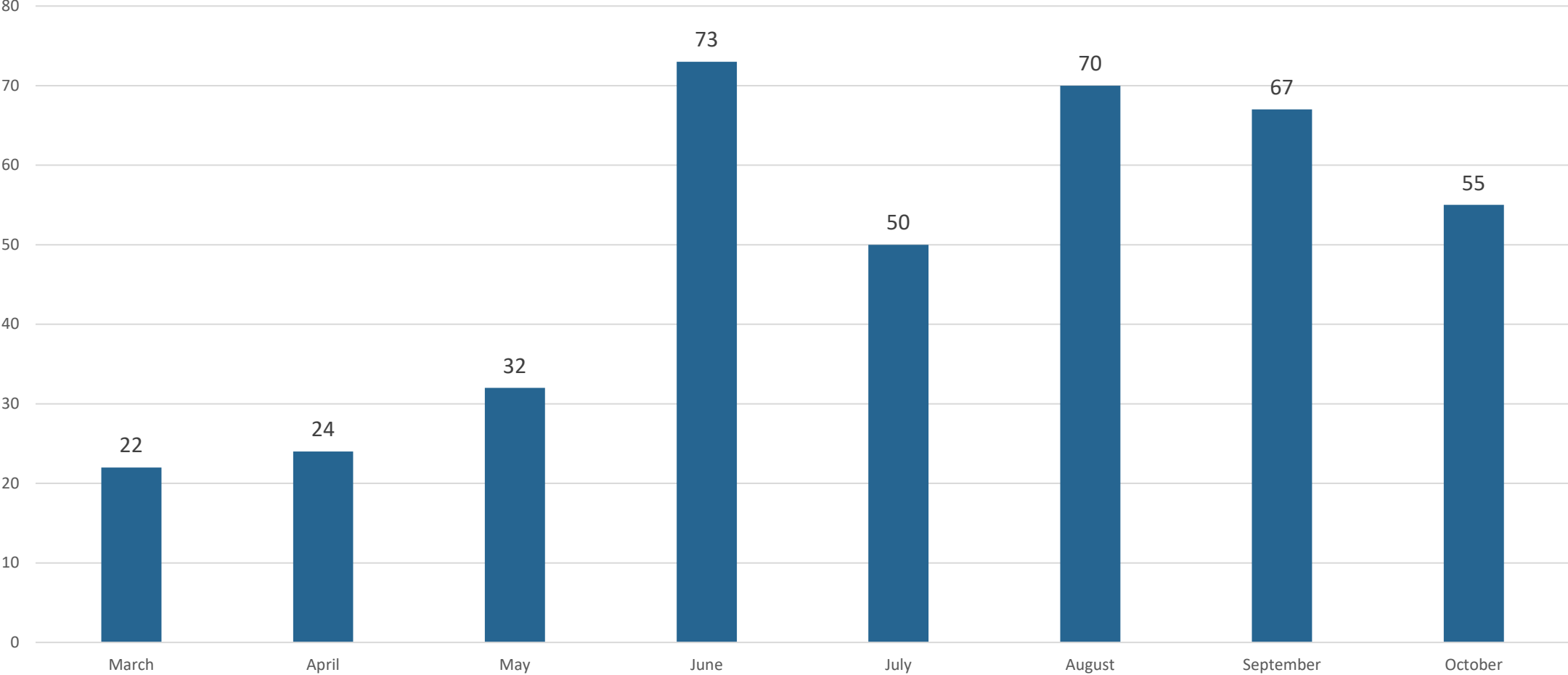
Monthly Notices to Clean and Notices to Move - Tents



Monthly Notices to Clean and Notices to Move - Vehicles



Citizen Service Requests by Month

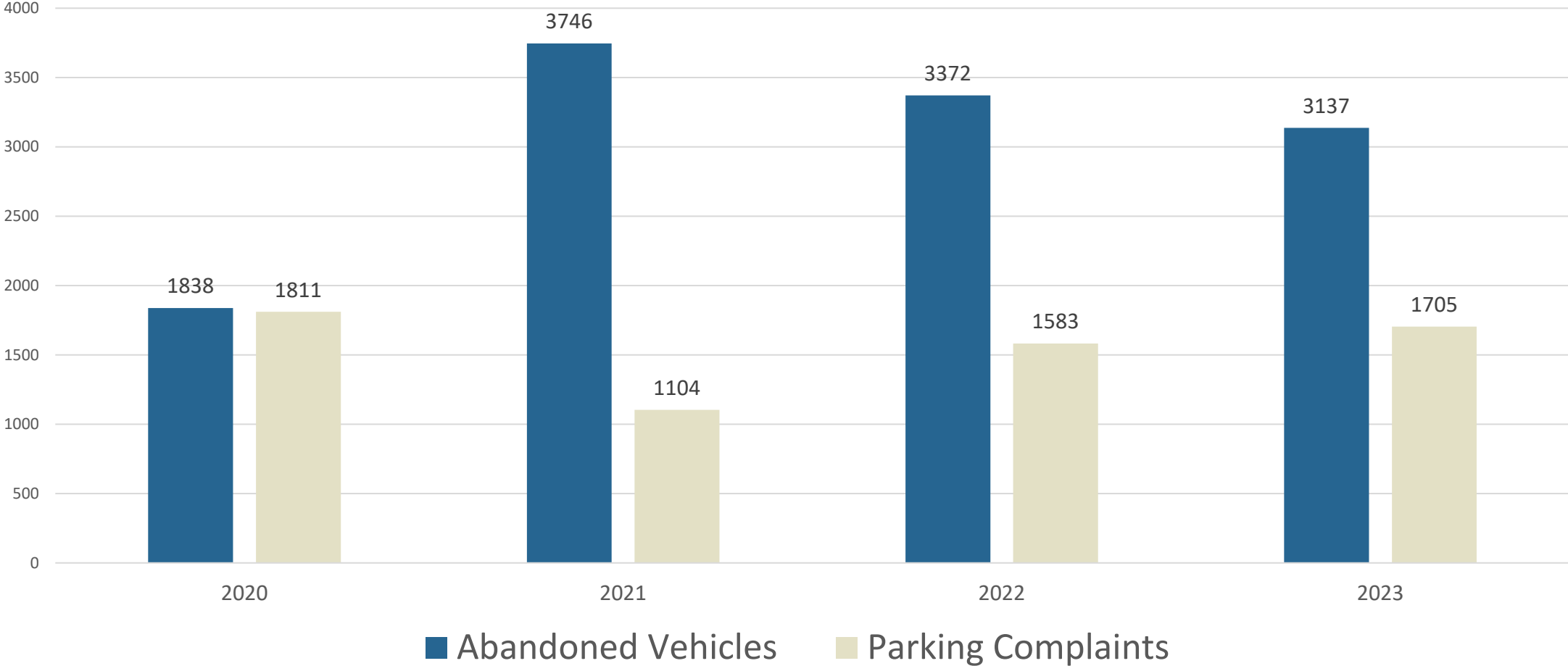


Cases of Property Stored Property Retrieved

Chart Title



Abandoned Vehicle and Parking Complaint Calls for Service



Initial Trends

Few longer term
large tent
encampments

Ability to keep
campsite
footprints smaller
and cleaner

Ability to remove
non-compliant
property for
storage



Vehicles

Some challenges, some additional work needed

Vehicle Rules and Challenges

- Camping code allows people to use vehicles for shelter subject to time, place, and manner regulations that are specific to vehicles
- City has legal authority to tow vehicles
 - Engagement, referral, voluntary compliance, and addressing manner regulations are preferred options
 - Realities of towing vehicles include the need for storage capacity – and that's currently in short supply
- Citations, whether for the camping code or the parking code, may not always influence behavior
- There is a lack of clarity on requirement to move vehicles, or to move a particular distance



Proposed code amendment

- People have asked how far they need to move their vehicles once time is up
- Camping code currently relies on “time” regulation in the parking code, which allows a vehicle to be legally parked for three business days except where a different time limit is designated
- There is a requirement in the parking code for vehicles to move 750’ once time expires, but its application is not always clear
- Staff proposal: amend code to apply the requirement that all vehicles move 750’ once parking time is up, City-wide
 - This is a parking regulation and would not be specific to the camping code or only to people using vehicles for shelter; would apply to everyone



Recommendations

Code amendment
for Council
consideration in
2024

Apply requirement to move vehicles 750 feet City-wide, for all vehicles

Future
consideration

City-wide parking code update project

Gather more experience and data to evaluate potential adjustments to parking code and vehicle regulations

Build capacity to tow and store vehicles, when towing is appropriate and necessary

