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# Police take aim at Portland's 'Tillamook Caves'

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PORTLAND, Ore. - A haven for drugs and crime known as Portland's 'Tillamook Caves' has been swept clean for now, and there is a new effort to keep it that way.

"It is a great spot as far as concealment and protection from the weather, but that's what makes it extremely difficult to patrol," said Lt. Bob Day with the Portland Police Bureau.

Before the latest sweep by police, the hand-carved sleeping areas under North Interstate Avenue were littered with garbage, caps from syringes and pop cans converted into lids for cooking heroin.

"We've addressed issues here, but it got to the point where it was so unsafe and so unsanitary that PDOT couldn't come and do their visual inspections of the place to make sure it was still secure and safe for travel," said Lt. Day.

A sign has now been posted stating that the area is an illegal campsite and is patrolled regularly by police.

In addition, the city hopes to install a huge fence with razor wire at the top and bottom, and dug into the ground.

"We are working to make sure that we get the fence done correctly so that we don't have to try to get back in there and fix it," said Jane Ames with Commissioner Sam Adams' office. "If you do it right the first time, you're not going to have to do it a second time."

Local businesses have already chipped in \$20,000 to put in a security fence and the Portland Police Bureau has promised another \$20,000. The city is now looking for the additional \$60,000 that is needed for the project.

In the meantime, police will continue to patrol the area.

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