



Rats becoming a growing concern in Eugene

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EUGENE, Ore. – The Eugene city council is addressing the growing problem of rats in the city.

Brian Richardson, spokesman for the public works department, said the concern over rats in the area has been increasing over the last couple of years. He said crews bait the sewer lines with rat poison when requested. In 2015 they received 15 requests for poison, and 24 in 2016. However, he said they have already received 84 requests this year.

Bill Bezuk owns Eugene Backyard Farmer. He said the increase in rats could be due to urban farming which has become popular in Eugene. Bezuk said urban farmers may not be properly storing their chicken feed, which could be attracting more rats to our area.

"Chickens eat food and also chickens eat a lot of our scraps," said Bezuk. "So if we're leaving all of our food out there on a regular basis and over-feeding our chickens, the rats are going to come late at night and eat all the excess food. So we want to make sure we're taking away that extra chicken food."