

*Shelter To Housing Continuum*  
*Why Not Open Space?*

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Photos: Mike Houck  
City of Portland BES  
Metro Parks and Nature

*Shelter To Housing Continuum*  
*Why Not Natural Areas?*

It's not just about litter or trash

- Inhumane Conditions
- Habitat Destruction
- Soil Compaction
- Water Pollution
- Wildlife Harassment
- Wildfire Danger
- Public Safety
- Millions of dollars of restoration undone
- Some areas may never recover

# Dam on Johnson Creek





# Johnson Creek Debris Flow





# Johnson Creek Fire Damage Exploded Propane Tank



# Johnson Creek Soil Compaction & Tree Removal





# Johnson Creek Human Waste



# Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge





# Willamette Cove Willamette Greenway







Alice Springs Columbia  
Slough, Named After  
The Late Alice Blatt  
Cully Activist



# Big Four Corners BES Restoration Site Columbia Slough





Oak Knoll  
Columbia Slough  
BES





# Beggar's Tick Marsh Metro





# Newell Creek Canyon Metro





# Gales Creek Washington County Metro



*Shelter To Housing Continuum*  
*Why Not Open Space, Including Parks?*

First and foremost, Open Space is not needed

BPS staff response:

“The Buildable Lands Inventory showed us that we have plenty of land to meet the City's housing needs, for everybody.

The constraint on affordability and shelter facilities is the cost of land and the cost of construction and operations, not the amount of available vacant and underutilized land.

If we have enough land to house everybody, it is logical to assume we can fund space for the facilities used to shelter people currently not housed. So no, we do not need to rezone Open Space to meet that need.”



“The reason people want to consider OS zones for shelters is that much of that land is owned by the public already, so it is perceived as free land.”

There’s no such thing as “free” land

Parks aren’t just “open space” or grass.

Essential for public health, both mental and physical

The public voted for bonds and levies to provide recreation and respite

The public will question why they should vote to tax themselves in the future

Real or perceived public safety

They too have natural resource values

*PP&R Ecological Landscapes Program  
Renaturing Public Parks and Open Space*

Renature nature poor neighborhoods

Extend ecologically sustainable landscape management practices over the entire spectrum of PP&R's green infrastructure

Design and manage ecologically sustainable landscapes to increase ecological function and processes.

Increase urban forest canopy reduce urban heat island

Foster an ethic of environmental stewardship

Improve the quality of life

Create spaces that encourage interaction with nature while protecting ecosystem functions

Provide opportunity to grow food and enjoy local abundance.

Connect people to nature

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/490482>



# Alberta Park



Photos: Mike Houck

# Columbia Park



Photos: Mike Houck



# Gabriel Park



Photos: Mike Houck

# Hazeltine Park



Photos: Mike Houck



# Lents Park



Photos: Mike Houck

# Wilshire Park



Photos: Mike Houck



# Midland Park & Library



Photos: Mike Houck, Eric Rosewall

















