

**From:** [Meredith Savery](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Gragg Randy](#)  
**Subject:** South Park Blocks Master Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 8:25:22 PM

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I am very much opposed to elements of the Portland Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the South Park Blocks. Anything that removes or damages the magnificent trees that have graced that area for more than a century destroys a space that is iconic for Portlanders. Hasn't enough damage already been done to downtown Portland?

I also object to the reduction in planter boxes, the narrowing of the actual blocks themselves, the insertion of a bike path IN the park, the introduction of tree species, especially evergreens, that are inconsistent with the horticultural integrity of the park, and the addition of infrastructure that interferes with the current design of the park. I support a Tree Succession Plan but only if its intent is to preserve and protect the design that has worked so well for 150 years.

It feels like the Green Loop is being sneaked into this plan under the radar. The Green Loop, which is in many ways a good idea, deserves full vetting and airing in a separate public process.

I don't want to "activate" the Park Blocks. The whole point is that the space is beautiful, calming, serene, restful. If you want activity, go to Oaks Amusement Park.

The South Park Blocks are downtown Portland's major green open space. **VOTE NO ON THE PLAN** and return it to the Parks Department for major revision.

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