

From: [Sabrina Louise](#)
To: [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: South Park Blocks Master Plan
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 6:26:24 PM

Greetings City of Portland officials,

I am writing today to implore that you vote NO on this Master Plan for the South Park Blocks on July 7th. It should be voted down, or postponed until it can be drastically revised.

As I see it, since Wheeler pledged publicly and nationally to do everything he can to reduce carbon and achieve neutrality by 2030, we need all of the carbon sequestering trees we can get! This plan should NOT be lumping tree management and the short sighted "green loop" together!

Did you know that elms live to be at least 300 years old?

Did you know there are 22 species of trees with interconnected complex root systems that have allowed 97% of them to remain healthy by sharing nutrients and moisture?

Did you know that deciduous trees remove THOUSANDS more carbon from the atmosphere per year than evergreens do?

Do you know that evergreens face their own distinct fungus and disease associated with this warming climate?

Did you know that construction in the area will damage the root systems and cause them to become vulnerable to new disease and infections?

Have you considered carefully building a boardwalk ABOVE the existing area instead, without removing perfectly healthy trees?

Have you considered that this grove of trees are the LUNGS of our city, and what it will mean for the cooling effect on the entire region as the climate continues to warm???

Please, I implore you, please separate from the Master Plan both:

- 1) the Tree Succession Plan (so a maintenance plan can be included!) and
- 2) the Green Loop to allow separate processes for those major projects.

They are too important to be buried in this Master Plan.

Thank you for hearing me, and considering the immense consequences of destroying this grove of trees with unnecessary development.

The South Park Blocks are HOME for too many to destroy them as this plan will do.

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