

June 24, 2021

Council Clerk
Room 130 City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Re: South Park Blocks Plan
for permanent record

Dear Council Clerk

I was dismayed to learn that the future of our beloved, historic South Park Blocks is not secure. The plan before you looks more like it came from the Bureau of Transportation than the Parks Bureau. It proposes to remove 5-block row of trees to provide for new bike lanes as part of the proposed Green Loop.

I am not against the Green Loop or more bike lanes but I strongly object to placing them by narrowing the park blocks and eliminating 26% of its trees. I live downtown and since many of us live in apartment or Condo buildings, the park blocks are our front yard.

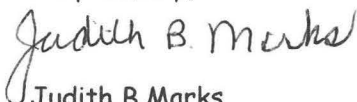
Adding bike lanes here will not only add congestion to an already crowded area but make the park more difficult to access. Since I am forced to sometimes use a walker or a cane crossing a street that contains 2-way bike lanes seems exceedingly dangerous. There is no reason to make the Park Blocks part of a busy biking corridor. There are less crowded parts of the city that make more sense for this amenity for both traffic and pedestrian use.

Another problem I foresee is adding conifers to replace deciduous trees. In our neighborhood we constantly struggle to keep the park free of drug deals and other crimes. Bushy conifers would provide places to conceal certain unsavory and criminal activities.

Arborists say that large deciduous trees can live many years if properly maintained. Rather than spending millions on an unnecessary park renovation why not take that money to devise a maintenance budget that will ensure our existing trees have long and healthy lives?

I hope you will send this ill-conceived plan back to the drawing board and require separate plans for the Park Blocks and the Green Loop.

Respectfully,



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PS On top of my other objections during this time of severe environmental crisis it seems an insane plan to be cutting down any trees let alone potentially 86 of them.