

Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave
Room 130
Portland, OR 97204
June 19, 2021

ATTN: Council Clerk (this letter sent separately to all 5 City Council members). For the record.

The South Park Blocks has been a wonderful refuge for me and my family for many years. It is one of those places that has been nice and consistent and a touchstone when things need centering for me personally and for my city in general.

When the City core was recently assaulted and defaced, the Park itself was only minimally attacked while maintaining its grandeur. All those big mature trees seemed to embrace those 'difficulties' and still guard our core City value of being beautiful and green.

Those 5 big rows of trees and two parallel walkways are welcome avenues for a broad array of family-centric community-based activities.

I am distressed to hear/read that a proposed Master Plan effort would significantly change/alter the Park experience for most all. Cutting down the entire middle row of trees, combining the two separate walkways into one central corridor, replacing some mature trees with mere saplings, adding intrusive and overpowering evergreens, and adding hardscape; are tremendously subtractive.

The additive financial burden to the City also looks like money poorly invested when we're surrounded by far more important challenges.

Right now, especially during all this societal turbulence, we all need a few things to remain constant, predictable, and peaceful. Let's not change the Park, but do commit to nurturing and protecting what we already have. It is our City treasure and needs to be treated as such. It simply doesn't need 'fixing'.

Thank you for your service and dedication,

Carolyn Gelpke

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