

From: [Dick Kaiser](#)
To: [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#)
Cc: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Park Blocks - Require plan to maintain trees, redesign bike path
Date: Sunday, June 27, 2021 7:13:06 PM

Dear Commissioners Rubio, Hardesty, Ryan, Mapps and Mayor Wheeler:

When I wrote you earlier, several of you sent a reply that said something similar to:

"The South Park Blocks Master Plan does not propose that any trees on the Blocks be removed at this time, and the Green Loop concepts do not require any proactive tree removal."

I'm concerned that we are not working from the same source of information. I've been talking with architects who have studied the plan and also have read the article in the Oregonian "[City's South Park Blocks plan a threat to its unique character](#)" which states:

"However, the future of these trees and the very nature of the park itself is in danger. A [draft master plan for the South Park Blocks](#) has just been released by the same Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation – a plan that would threaten the trees, dramatically shrink the area that we have long treated as park space and “activate” the open space, shattering the serenity that Portlanders cherish about the 12-block park. These major changes are already [raising alarms for residents who value and regularly use this historic people's park.](#)"

I'm concerned that you have been given poor information on the proposed plan. I would appreciate it if you would confirm your information.

Please work to maintain the character of the park.

- Require a plan that includes maintenance for the trees.
- Require a plan that keeps the double walkway
- Require a plan that does not remove trees to “activate” an open space
- Require a plan that does not remove trees for a bike path that provides little benefit. As a cyclist I see little benefit to the changes, just a loss of trees. Traffic is very light on the park streets currently and not an issue. A dedicated path like the Springwater is wonderful when you can ride for a distance without looking for cars. Since many of the cross street do not have stop sign or lights for the traffic crossing the park streets, it is start and stop riding. A bike path will not change this. I do not see value. Bike chevrons in the street would be sufficient. Since I also walk the park, the current design with central plantings and two paths is very meditative.

Thank you for engaging on this important issue.

- Dick Kaiser
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