

**From:** [Lisa Stevens](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** Save our Park Blocks: VOTE NO ON SPB MASTER PLAN  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 5:07:45 PM

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Dear Council Clerk:

Please place my correspondence in the permanent record.

Dear Mayor Wheeler & City Commissioners:

I was stunned to learn of the Portland Park Bureau's plan to remove the 50-150 year old Elms that line our South Park blocks. For much longer than my twenty years of working on the Portland State campus, these trees have provided beauty, serenity, and shade to the campus community that walks the park frequently and to visitors and residents.

Not only is the plan short-sighted, it is proposing a future that ignores a fundamental reality of that future: global warming. See what scientists say about the power of tree canopies to mitigate the effects of heat:

<https://www.pnas.org/content/116/15/7575>

That hardscaping proposed in this plan is the exact opposite of a tree canopy.

As a frequent downtown pedestrian, the adjustment to the presence of scooters has not been a smooth one and has not resulted in a peaceful coexistence. Adding bicycles to the mix won't improve the situation.

Please ask PPB to come up with a plan that does not sacrifice these majestic trees. Better yet, find an underserved community in Portland that is deserving and in need of improvements to existing parks.

I urge you to vote no on the SPB Master Plan. In a time of accelerated climate change, we need to do our part in protecting the trees which are doing their part to protect us!

Sincerely,

Lisa Stevens  
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