

**From:** [Dean P. Gisvold](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Master Plan for South Park Blocks  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 11:45:58 AM

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Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I am opposed to the proposed South Park Blocks Master Plan (Master Plan), dated May 2021 prepared by Portland Parks & Recreation Bureau.

My first objection comes under the category if it isn't broken, do not try to fix it. As a downtown office worker, I treasure my time in the Park. It is historic, and survives as one of Portland's defining gems, with its pedestrian scale, axial symmetry, and unique and majestic deciduous tree canopy that defined the north-south axis of downtown. The Master Plan, as proposed, is overkill.

Second, move the bicycle Green Loop from the Park to one or two of the narrow streets on either side of the Park, or enhance the existing bike lanes on SW Broadway. As a long time bike rider (almost fifty years) to and from my downtown office, and a user of the two esplanades on the banks of the Willamette from the Steel Bridge to the Hawthorne, I know first-hand of the pedestrian bike conflicts that occur daily on the esplanades. The Master Plan would drastically increase the bike ped conflict in the Park.

Third objection-the proposed Master Plan costs way too much. The millions could be better spent cleaning up downtown, and repairing O'Bryant and Ankeny Square.

The City Council should vote "no" on the Master Plan. Please enter this testimony in the official record.

Dean Gisvold, 2225 NE 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland