

Ginger Edwards

#267127 | March 9, 2021

Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft**

I live near a developed park in the City of Portland. Yesterday I went out to see who was there. About 2pm I counted 32 children playing in the Fully Accessible playground, with at least that many parents and grandparents interacting with these children. Another group of children played soccer, and about 10-12 people supervised their dogs in the off-leash area. If a 180 day temporary shelter is allowed in this park, I believe you will be taking the park away from the above listed people. It will become only a temporary houseless camp, not available to neighborhood children, soccer teams, baseball teams, dog walkers, and all the rest of us who simply take a walk around the park. All Portlanders need a place to recreate, play, rest, and relax, even houseless folks. Please restrict "open spaces temporary shelters" to undeveloped parks. I understand it will cost a little more to provide portable toilets, hand washing stations, and garbage pick up, but it will allow all to be served. I believe plans to allow camping in parks could turn more of the general public against services to houseless folks by denying them what they consider to be safe access to their local parks.

Testimony is presented without formatting.