

# chris lyons

**#267148 | March 9, 2021**

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

Allowing 180 days worth of temporary city shelters in city parks and city owned open spaces is a really bad idea. particularly once the city code is revised. Based on the acreage in the tables, once the code is revised, there will be a very large amount of land available for shelters for the homeless population. Your staff should focus on other acreage! I did see this discussed in your FAQ section... "Will shelters be allowed in parks and open space zones? Why or why not? The current proposal does not allow for shelters to be permanently located in open space zones. This is because: Open space (OS) zones often include environmental resources that should not be disturbed. Parks and open space have often been purchased with bond money limited to specific purposes or were given to the City with deed restrictions, often stipulating they must be used for parks, recreation or open space purposes, which doesn't include housing, shelters or other types of development. The proposal would, however, allow the temporary siting of shelters in parks and open space for no more than 180 day." Clearly the 180 limit could be waived by the city by declaring an emergency based on homelessness. Your rationale from not allowing permanent shelters should also apply to temporary shelters. Our parks and open spaces should be off limits and shouldn't even be on the list of options, except in the case of a natural disaster.

Testimony is presented without formatting.