

Candy Puterbaugh

#267262 | March 13, 2021

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

I am opposed to this part of the draft: "The proposal would, however, allow the temporary siting of shelters in parks and open space for no more than 180 days." Yes, Portland parks are for everybody but not for setting up shelters and sleeping. If tents, etc., are sprinkled throughout a park, then those tent areas are closed off and not usable by "everybody". The parks are known for their beauty and accessibility for day-use, to get away from the hustle and bustle of life and feel safe. Allowing shelters, even so-called temporary, would be unsafe, unhealthy and take away from the natural beauty of each park. And once people set up a "home" in a park, I can't imagine being ousted easily after 180 days. People making use of the park will be at risk, especially children and seniors. One park is just embarking on a huge playground renovation, which sounds outstanding and needed, and it will be situated near the bathrooms. I would guess setting up homeless shelters there would be attractive to be near those bathroom facilities where children would be playing nearby. I take my three grand children to the park often and would not feel safe walking and playing near shelters. I feel for the homeless and know a solution is needed, but I don't feel that turning our parks into a homeless shelter is a solution.

Testimony is presented without formatting.