

# Kathleen Hanson

**#267327 | March 14, 2021**

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

I wanted to give my testimony in opposition of allowing homeless camps in public parks. One of Portland's best features are its beautiful parks and as a family with young children it is a primary reason we choose to live in Multnomah county. As a social worker for over 20 years I have seen first hand the incredible challenges created by the growing number of homeless in Portland. Prioritizing the creation of housing for the homeless and a stronger safety net should be the priorities of our city leaders and not sacrificing our parks, which are supposed to be safe areas that everyone can enjoy. By not protecting these areas, it is going to drive out the very people that make them possible and who often volunteer a tremendous amount of their own time for maintenance and beautification projects. If families don't feel safe there and don't feel safe sending their kids there, they will eventually leave. I sincerely hope other solutions are explored and that our parks are protected and remain accessible for all of us. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.