

Kathryn Rady

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

I want to voice my strong objection to the idea that public parks should be turned into homeless camps. These are recreation & gathering spaces for ALL families in the city. To allow them to become homeless camps will completely undermine that use. No one can enjoy a park when it is full of garbage, needles, people who are high or need mental illness support, and human excrement. Especially during this difficult time of quarantining in our homes, with no public spaces available for casual meetings, our public parks have become even more critical to ALL people in Portland. To suggest that the rest of us don't need access to our parks shows little regard for the value of our public parks and the value these spaces play in all of our lives. Opening them up to anyone for camping will only make the blight of homelessness worse for Portland and run taxpayers out of your already declining downtown. Please PROTECT the parks from becoming homeless camps!

Testimony is presented without formatting.