

Jill Mitchell

#267581 | March 15, 2021

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

I am against changes that would permit tent and RV camping in public parks. Our city parks are designed for day recreational use by ALL citizens and visitors. We have invested a lot of tax money to maintain our parks for this use, and the citizens recently passed a new bond to support these recreational spaces and services. Allowing houseless people to live in the parks would make it unsafe for other citizens to use the parks as they are intended. I want to feel safe taking a walk in the park or allowing my children to walk on their own to the playground with their friends. They are intended for recreation not living. I am also concerned about the damage to park infrastructure, and the trash and sanitation issues this will create. Look at the medians where houseless have established camp sites. Do we want our parks to be destroyed like this? The houseless problem needs to be addressed, but this solution to allow camping in our public parks is a temporary measure that will have a lasting impact on our city. PLEASE come up with a better solution that allows ALL citizens of ALL ages to continue to use our public parks. Thank you for your continued work on this pressing issue. Jill Mitchell

Testimony is presented without formatting.