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

I understand the need for housing for people without shelter and to locate new sites for homeless encampments. But parks are an interesting choice and not one I agree with. Parks are for everyone, including the homeless population, to enjoy green space, but that doesn't mean we all get to live there and/or stay overnight. Especially in the densely populated areas like downtown and the Pearl, the parks are the only green space we have and now those are potentially being taken away. Please find land that isn't in use, and in some cases, homeless encampments are already in some of those spaces. So improve those. Make those into more of a park-like setting for them with city services like trash pick up. Also, before you take actions like building a homeless encampment on a city park, please talk to other cities like Austin, TX (and their efforts with Mobile Loaves and Fishes/Community First Village), about what they're doing so that Portland isn't trying to tackle this in a silo. It's a complex issue but one that is being worked on in so many places. Maybe another city will have some good ideas we can apply here, but removing parks for everyone isn't a good idea. Thank you for listening.

Testimony is presented without formatting.