

Andrew Galler

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

If it is the case that allowing people to stay overnight in public parks is being considered, I would ask that that NOT be allowed. The best use of Portland parks are for the use and enjoyment of the general population. While I would agree that the homeless and housing challenged NEED somewhere to be, the parks are NOT the place. Anytime under any circumstance. ESPECIALLY during the pandemic as there are SO FEW places to gather safely and for people to just, 'be'. As it is there is almost nowhere for children to play safely free from concerns regarding safety and sanitation. To be clear; sacrificing our parks for the benefit of the small percentage of the population who are homeless at the expense of the vast majority of the population who depend on the open, safe and beauty of our parks is a truly terrible idea. The parks must stay free and clear of people sleeping and staying. The 99.9 of tax paying citizens living in Portland need the parks free and clear of people staying overnight.

Testimony is presented without formatting.