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#267701 | March 15, 2021

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

Parks are not camp grounds. We pay to keep our parks clean and safe. Allowing the homeless to camp in city parks will not alleviate or even help our homeless population, it will only worsen the preexisting issue we are facing. Tax payers pay for these parks for community use, children frequent these parks, dogs, and families will be hugely impacted by the same spike in crime that we have seen across the city. We should NOT be welcoming drug usage, garbage and fecal matter into our community parks. The fact that this is even open for discussion is mortifying, you'd might as well flush our city down the toilet at this point and tell our homeless population that they don't matter enough to you to find a sustainable rehabilitation and housing solution. The city of Portland has taken a huge hit throughout this pandemic, I see it first hand in my own neighborhood where homeless camps line the streets, people have broken into my home and I have received threats of violence from drug users while simply walking my dogs. Our parks are a safe space, let's please keep it that way. And for the love of god let's please find a solution to HELP get these people off of the streets and back onto their feet.

Testimony is presented without formatting.