

Tim Bergler

#267702 | March 15, 2021

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

NO CAMPING IN CITY PARKS. I am vehemently opposed to sanctioned camping in Portland's city parks and green spaces as part of the Shelter to Housing Continuum program. Camps have overtaken some of our once beautiful green spaces such as the Springwater Trail, Laurelhurst Park and nearly every bridgehead in the city. These locations are dangerous, full of needles, trash, bio waste and unusable by the 99.9% of our community that deserves to have clean and safe parks. I do support sanctioned camping in specific city blocks throughout the city as part of a strategy to move people into shelters. This camping should be specifically contained to sanctioned areas that include running water, toilet facilities, garbage clean up and fenced boundaries. It also should be accompanied by enforcement of illegal camping outside of sanctioned zones. It is not humane, safe or sanitary to continue to allow campsites anywhere and everywhere in the city. We can no longer allow our greenspaces and environmentally fragile zones to be overrun by camps. The attached picture is a former greenspace. We can not allow our parks to look like this.

Testimony is presented without formatting.