

Suzanne Page

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

I am greatly disturbed that we would consider our open, public places as in-city campgrounds for the homeless. It would negatively affect property values all across the City, as much as tents on the sidewalks do. City Parks should of course be excluded from consideration, but so should other unimproved open spaces. Our open spaces, parks, and lively restaurant scene are huge draws to our City. Whoever's fault it is doesn't matter, but all of the homeless camps we see all around the city are huge dump piles. Our parks and open spaces would just become even worse. What should be considered are large, unused parking lots in industrial areas. I understand that this is private property, but there are owners that are willing to allow these villages on their properties. Have porta potties set up, and drive the shower truck around twice a week, and this has got to be a much more viable and civilized way to live. If they can't adhere to the rules of a shelter (i.e. no drugs, no guns), they shouldn't just be allowed to camp and create an incredible liability to our city. Society and civilization has rules, and if you'd like to participate in civilization but can't take care of yourself, you're going to have to adhere to someone else's rules.

Testimony is presented without formatting.