

# Linda Bickham

**#267749 | March 15, 2021**

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

I'm supportive of many aspects of the Shelter to Housing project. However, I'm concerned that camping and sheltering will be allowed in parks for 180 days. Portland Parks are spectacular spots that support wildlife and many recreational activities. I use them every day. The negative impact of groups of people living in the parks seems potentially great. Will there be supervision? Will people be asked to leave if they accumulate trash, set fires (like the people who this morning had an open fire going behind a building at Sellwood park), or disrupt others using the park or the wildlife? I strongly urge that the parks be used in last resort, preferably not at all. If the space is truly crucial, then I urge that the time used be limited to a shorter stay time, and that staff is allocated to monitor the impact on the parks, park users, and wildlife, with action taken to address issues quickly. I believe Portland can address the critical needs of people without housing thru the other approaches proposed rather than using the parks.

Testimony is presented without formatting.