

Eric Weeks

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

Please do not expand camping to be allowed in city parks. This is a terrible idea and would only serve to further expand the footprint of indiscriminate squatting into the crown jewel of our Portland, our parks. The ailments that frequently follow indiscriminate squatting, including drug use, burglary, prostitution, graffiti and mounds of garbage will rightly scare off all people - men, women, children and families - from using these safe places that have been one of our few solaces during the time of COVID. While the people living on the streets all certainly deserve dignity as fellow humans, they do not have the right - or need - to camp wherever they want, whenever they want. We should keep our treasured parks as a shared resource for all to enjoy - safely.

Testimony is presented without formatting.