

Robyn Barthelmess

#277772 | March 16, 2021

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

I would like to express my deep concern over this proposal. The parks play an important role in the well being and health of a city by providing the following: environment by improving water quality and air quality, as well as a habitat for birds and other wild life. They also provide a vegetative buffer to development. Community- parks provide enjoyable places for all ages, that significantly improve both physical and mental health as a place to relax, exercise, and participate in recreational activities. All of which are even more necessary during this time of Covid 19 and the isolation due to lockdown restrictions. Setting up homeless camps in these areas would not only negatively impact these important benefits for the community, with concerns for safety and sanitation. This proposal does not provide a safe, hazard free, permanent or sustainable solution for those experiencing homelessness. It just sounds more like a containment proposal, rather than providing a solution for those in need.

Testimony is presented without formatting.