

Elizabeth deGlee

#277875 | March 16, 2021

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

While I agree that the homeless population needs some safe designated places to camp, it is unfair to take away space that is widely used by the general public for recreation or access. I have no problem designating legal camps in unused spaces, but taking public spaces away is unacceptable. While we can say it's temporary and contained, once an area is sanctioned by the city as a legal space it seems to always turn into a permanent space that the homeless consider their "home" and the spaces always attract more people outside the designated areas. The city needs to stop prioritizing the need of the homeless to be in the most desirable location for "services" and prioritize the residents who feel like their sidewalks and parks have been taken over by people who want to live "off grid". At best I don't feel comfortable walking through someone's "home" and at worst I feel unsafe. The city should use parking lots and vacant lots in industrial areas and provide busses to services rather than putting camps in publicly used spaces.

Testimony is presented without formatting.