

# Erin Fikentscher

**#278425 | March 17, 2021**

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

Portland public parks should be a space where the community can gather, and enjoy the space outdoors. By allowing encampments to exist legally in those spaces, you'll be taking away a vital piece of what makes this city's heart beat. While homelessness is an unfortunate circumstance, taxpayer dollars are spent to ensure that ALL residents have access to clean and safe parks. Encampments are notoriously full of trash, human excrement, and many of the residents are in need of counselling. By allowing this to exist in public parks, it will endanger the environment and natural beauty of the parks as well as those who use the parks on a daily basis.

Testimony is presented without formatting.