

# megan murphy

**#278460 | March 17, 2021**

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

I am writing in opposition to the inclusion of Open Space Zones as an option for either temporary or permanent houseless shelters except for a city council declared natural disaster emergency. Parks were important long-berfore COVID, and they are even so much more so now. Taxpayers have regularly and consistently supported investment in and access to our parks for all. As portland densifies we must have safe, clean accessible greenspace for our residents. As the city planner concluded, there is land for affordable housing, we do not need to take over our parks. The homeless crisis is real and extrememly complicated. Taking over parks for shelter just continues to kick the can down the road and avoid doing the hard and upopular work of reform and problem-solving. Please stay focused on solutions.

Testimony is presented without formatting.