

# Susan Parr

**#278524 | March 17, 2021**

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

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the Portland City Council, As a parks, natural areas, & trails supporter, I would like to advocate for an important change in the language of Shelter to Housing Continuum recommendations from the Planning and Sustainability Commission. I agree with those who recommend removing Open Space Zones from consideration for either temporary or permanent houseless shelters EXCEPT for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster. I am concerned about the recommendation that allows temporary shelters in public Open Space. I agree with those who recommend that Open Space, including developed parks, natural areas, and trails, be removed from consideration for siting of either permanent or temporary shelters. I share the concern that short-term and long-term impacts would be severe, and the resources and time required for restoration would be extraordinary. Portland can and must do better than surrendering its parks, natural areas, and trails to any use, temporary or permanent, that jeopardizes their primary purpose - now and into the future. I support the following: Proposed Amendments to the S2HC Recommendations 1. Amend language to remove the Open Space Zone from consideration as either temporary or permanent houseless shelters EXCEPT for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster such as an earthquake. 2. Amend language in the new provision to add an exception for the Open Space Zone.

Thank you, Susan Parr

Testimony is presented without formatting.