

Katherine Drake

#278553 | March 17, 2021

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

I am asking that camping NOT be allowed in public parks. I've included 3 photos, taken 2 days ago of the camping happening at Sunnyside School Park. This is where elementary children attend. Usually there are more campers than this. There are needles found in the park regularly from users who are camping even though there are sharp containers provided. It's just not safe for children to allow campers. There need to be an alternative to safe housing for homeless, but not where children go to play. I would say let the the homeless camp in areas other than public parks and provide them with toilets, showers. Have a crew go in and collect trash on a regular basis. There is a ton of money from the COVID relief package and from reallocated PORTland Police funds that could be used for this. These funds should also go to offering them social and mental health services of course. Please do NOT change any laws to legally allow camping. It's not safe for our neighborhoods.

Testimony is presented without formatting.