

# Dave Hillman

**#278706 | March 22, 2021**

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

I live just one block from the east side of Mt Tabor Park, and was one of the founders and first chairperson for the Friends of Mt Tabor Park. Over the past 20 plus years, I have been an extremely active supporter of Mt Tabor Park as well as the overall Parks Bureau. Some city parks are very well suited for supporting some unofficial camping; Mt Tabor Park is NOT one of them. You need a park that is somewhat small and open, easily accessible for clean-up, easily visible for any vandalism and/or problems that might and do arise, e.g., requiring a police response, ease of providing portable rest rooms, etc. Mt Tabor Park does not provide any of these situations. It is a 200 acre forest, providing far too many "tidy holes", very hard to clean up (just ask any of our foot patrol members or park staff); and has been the site for several fires (as the past chairperson and foot patrol coordinator I have personally responded to four of them), The Mt Tabor Park eco-system is somewhat fragile, and has been the location for years of restoration by, Park Bureau, BES and our own Weed Warriors". What I have personally witnessed with our "city wide campers" is total devastation of the turf, plants, vegetation, etc, and we do not need this in Mt Tabor Park after years of dedicated work by many volunteers to make it the beautiful and prized park that we now have in Portland. The city has many other far more suitable locations currently underutilized for the proposed camping solution.

Testimony is presented without formatting.