

Phyllis Oster

#278709 | March 22, 2021

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

We are writing to thank you for the hard work being done to provide places for all our citizens to live. We know that these issues didn't develop overnight and are complicated and difficult to solve. But we strongly oppose allowing homeless shelters or camping in public parks, on public trails or at community centers. It is important that all Portland citizens have access to these very important spaces. We oppose the recommendation to use open spaces, which would include parks, natural areas, trails, golf courses, and parks-related parking lots and community centers, as temporary shelter spaces, except in the case of natural disasters and short term emergencies. The use of these spaces should not be allowed during a Shelter Shortage as defined in the proposed code. Portlanders love our parks. We are known for our parks. We have voted regularly to support our parks and houseless services. Parks are meant to provide opportunities to recreate and be in nature, not to provide residential areas. During covid our parks have been crucial to our well being and our ability to keep our up our morale. Please honor the intent of voters and keep parks open for all people to use for recreational purposes.

Testimony is presented without formatting.