

MaryAnn Amann

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

I am writing to oppose allowing homeless people to camp in our parks and golf courses. Our parks should be kept as clean open spaces to be enjoyed by all who visit. Visit is the key word, parks should not be used as homeless camps. Keeping parks clear of homeless camps allows everyone to continue to enjoy the open space without fear of stepping in human poop. I have not seen a single homeless camp that is kept clean. Most are surrounded by trash, needles and human waste. Please do not let this happen to Portland's beloved parks. I understand that homelessness is epidemic and in Portland it is totally out of control. That doesn't mean we should use parks for homeless camps. That would affect every single Portland park user. We pay taxes to support our parks. And taxes are even higher near parks. Would the tax rate be lowered? Because homeless camps decrease the quality of life for folks who live near one for reasons stated above. Why should homeless be allowed to set up in some of our most beautiful places in the city? This would certainly impinge on other users freedom and enjoyment to use the parks. I was upset when visiting San Diego that homeless were camping in Balboa Park (due to the hepatitis outbreak). so that I could not walk around without going through their camps. It pains me to see the camps all over this city-why they are allowed to camp right on sidewalks, bikepaths and other public ROWs. Portland has a huge homeless population which must be addressed. This is why most folks supported proposals that increase our taxes to house them in unused facilities. What's happening with that? The city needs to create camps in unused industrial areas, or other open areas, NOT our existing parks! Please vote NO on this proposal!

Testimony is presented without formatting.