

# Debi Houghton

**#278752 | March 23, 2021**

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

Thank you for working on this challenging issue. I am writing to ask that you not include our city's park facilities as a location for shelters for up to 180 days. Residents of Portland love and regularly use their parks, community centers, and golf courses all year long. My local park has been a place where countless people have gone to find a safe place to recreate during the pandemic. As a daily user of more than one park, I have not felt safe when I have encountered encampments in or near the parks. In 2020 we passed a bond measure to provide parks and recreational services to diverse communities and enhance park maintenance. Placing shelter locations in the parks and/or golf courses does not support that goal. Please honor the voters' decision by assuring the City's commitment to restore our parks and enhance their services for diverse communities. Focus shelter locations elsewhere. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.