

Allen Field

#278758 | March 23, 2021

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

I strongly oppose using 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. Shelters should be sited so that they can remain in place if they are successful. Open spaces are not an appropriate place for permanent shelters. Remove consideration of community centers and their parking lots from consideration for use as temporary shelters related to the Shelter Shortage. Once the pandemic is over, all community centers should return to their primary purpose. The City should investigate the experiences of other cities that have sited homeless shelters in parks. Intent does not make law. If you have no intent to site shelters on parks or in natural areas, the code needs to reflect that intent.”

Testimony is presented without formatting.