

# Laurie Causgrove

**#278760 | March 23, 2021**

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

As a lifelong Portland resident, I am writing to ask that the recommendation to use open spaces (which includes parks, natural areas, trails, golf courses, community centers) as temporary shelter spaces be removed from the proposed code. Resolving the complex issues associated with homelessness in parks requires time, understanding and collaboration. Allowing camping in open spaces may temporarily alleviate one problem, but it will create many more, and unintentionally prolong the shelter problems.. Please think more long-term about shelter and find solutions and locations that would allow residents to stay longer, rather than just moving them around parks properties. It is more respectful of houseless citizens to give options that allow a more long-term stay, I've heard at least one council member say that a few tents in a park isn't going to prevent other citizens from using the park, but from trying to use my own neighborhood park, I don't find this to be true. The children's play area is blocked by tents on the parking strip, sometimes up closer to the play area, and the ensuing garbage/needles/noise/fights keep families and many park users away. You don't have to look very far to see what other cities have experienced following the decision to allow camping in city parks and open spaces – look to Seattle and Minneapolis to see how quickly things spiral out of control. Thank you for your consideration and your work on this complicated issue. Laurie Causgrove

Testimony is presented without formatting.