

Dorothy Merryman

#278811 | March 23, 2021

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

I am horrified at the proposal that parks may be used as temporary homeless shelters. As a woman who has suffered sexual assault and a mother of small children, if this passes I will be much less likely to go to our city's beautiful parks. I understand the sentiment, but real life is messy and having a concentrated group of at-risk people in a place meant as a safe refuge for children to play on playground and enjoy the outdoors and people to catch a breath and enjoy their city, to which we pay an astounding amount of taxes, is just wrong. Also, can we really do no better by the homeless? Please take allowing shelters in parks off of this proposal. The homeless matter. But so do other people who have other trauma aside from houselessness. Please be equitable in handling this delicate situation.

Testimony is presented without formatting.