

David Merryman

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

Opening public parks to homeless shelter development is a bad idea. The housing crisis is already putting a severe strain on our public spaces. Our parks, at the very least, should be maintained as clean, safe, pleasant spaces to visit. Portland's taxpayers have not assumed our nation-leading park system tax burden so that the city can turn that land into housing. BPS's own maps show that there are large swathes of neighborhoods with significant vacancies that would be a better choice for housing the homeless.

Testimony is presented without formatting.