

Susan Passmore

#278838 | March 24, 2021

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

I live in Island Cove Marina, a floating home community on Hayden Island. To access our 56 floating homes you have to pass through the small city park, Lotus Isle Park, which separates our community parking lot from the access gate to our homes. It's a beautiful little park with a small playground for our children, picnic spots, and it provides a lovely place to walk our pets. It plays a big part in our community. If it were allowed to be turned into a campground for "the homeless" it would devastate our way of life. We have small children and many single women, as well as elderly people in our community. No one living here would be safe. We already face daily break-ins, property damage and theft on Hayden Island and surrounding areas like Delta Park and along Marine Drive. As you must surely be aware, the homeless in our city are largely made up of drug and alcohol addicted and the mentally ill. While I have compassion for the homeless, disrupting the lives of other citizens is not the answer. There is no way to get from our cars to our homes without passing through this park. Please rethink this ludicrous idea of opening city parks to what has always been illegal camping. City parks need rules and regulations for the safety and pleasure of all of our citizens. We need to figure out more and better options for the homeless. We need to be supporting places like the Wapato facility, TPI and other homeless shelters instead of trying to shut them down. We need to build more Rehab Centers, Mental Illness hospitals and affordable housing. Don't further destroy what once was a beautiful city with safe and beautiful parks.

Testimony is presented without formatting.