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

The allowance of “temporary” housing in our public parks is 100% wrong. This would take away precious resources from families and individuals who rely on these parks for recreation, wellness and community connection. The damage and destruction to our parks from homeless camps will cost hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars to restore. If the tent camps are truly temporary that is. That is also the flaw of this design, nothing is truly temporal as this can be “re-upped”. Very important- parks are also located near schools. For instance, Gabriel Park in SW Portland is directly across the street from St John Fisher School. The rampant drug use in these tent camps needs to be recognized!! What you’re proposing would endanger school age children coming and going from schools across the city. This idea is absolutely ludicrous and reflects the poor leadership and thinking of Portland. Stop taking from tax paying, responsible citizens to enable the population who is destroying a once beautiful city! STOP PAYING FOR NEEDLES AND OUT THAT MONEY TOWARDS ACTUAL HOMELESS HOUSING AND MENTAL HEALTH! Our parks are not yours to take from us. No, they can’t be “cohabited” by homeless tents and the communities. You’re lying to yourselves and your citizens when you say this.

Testimony is presented without formatting.