

Don Carlson

#278842 | March 24, 2021

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

PLEASE DO NOT USE OUR PARKS, GOLF COURSES, AND NATURAL AREAS AS HOUSELESS CAMPS! My name is Don Carlson. I live in inner SE Portland and am an avid golfer and park user. I have voted for every park bond measure and levy. I believe this precious resource should be protected for ALL to enjoy, today and into the future. As a grandparent, I spent many hours in parks with my grandchildren – using the play equipment, having a picnic, hiking around, rolling in the grass. I also have spent many hours in the past 55 years on our beautiful city public golf courses. They have given me pleasure, respite, exercise opportunities, and the opportunity to meet new people from all walks of Portland life. Without public golf courses, I would not have been able to afford to play golf, and that is true for so many others as well. During Covid, golf courses and parks have been filled with people who needed opportunities for exercise and relief in safe space. Use of our parks, open spaces, and natural areas as housing is a terrible, short-sighted idea. These areas should be available to all who want to use them, not turned into camps for the houseless at the expense of the other 660,000 people who live in Portland. Allowing them to be used as housing subverts their intended purpose. They are community space. There is adequate land outside of the Open Space zone for the city to lease or buy for siting camps, setting up tiny house villages, and parking for RV's. I support many of the code changes to help ease the pain and suffering of the houseless and give them better access to services that they desperately need. Just don't build your program around using our parks, natural areas and golf courses. It's a terrible idea and will not be well accepted by the community at large. Protect these spaces for future generations. Don Carlson
2722 SE 21st Avenue Portland, OR 97202

Testimony is presented without formatting.