

Kathleen Worley

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

I must admit that I haven't read the draft, having learned just a few minutes ago through a neighborhood newsfeed that such a thing existed. So my first request would be that community members be notified in a timely manner about proposals that may affect their experience of parks and open spaces. While I can understand the logic of locating temporary tent facilities in parks, where access to water and toilet facilities may already exist, I have some concern about areas that have been shared spaces for walking and recreation may become spaces of concentrated population, which will doubtless affect both the environment of the parks themselves and the communities around them. Given the city's record of finding shelters for house less people, I am also concerned about the proposed 180 day limit for occupancy, which I suspect may lead to extensions or to moving people from place to place every 180 days. Some parks are already heavily used in multiple ways (Gabriel Park, for example, has a community center, walking paths, dog park, tennis courts, playing fields, an adjacent community garden) and may really suffer from this additional usage.

Testimony is presented without formatting.