

Alan Jewett

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

I cannot support the proposal to house currently homeless people in Portland Parks. If you consider this proposal a short-term solution you are incorrect. Homelessness, our houselessness, is a complex problem combining mental health, substance abuse, and economic factors. It is not a short-term problem and you are naive to think that you will be able to remove the homeless from our city parks once you allow them to live there. I have struggled with substance abuse for most of my adult life and I can tell you the only way forward for anyone struggling is to take responsibility for and control of their life, not to enable self-destructive behavior by opening up parts of the City most of us enjoy. While I am fortunate to not suffer from mental illness, I can say that providing shelter in our parks to those who do will not address their underlying issue. So, if you believe opening up Portland Parks to allow the homeless/houseless population is the solution you will not be addressing the root cause of the problem. You will only be moving this chronic problem into one of the most beautiful resources available to all Portlanders for at least a generation. Please vote no.

Testimony is presented without formatting.