

Rhonda Adams

#278975 | March 24, 2021

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

I am writing regarding the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project. As a resident of Southeast Portland, I am very concerned about the increase in houselessness in our city, and I am glad that the city is looking to proposals that could provide safety for these vulnerable citizens. However, I am quite concerned that this proposal will allow sanctioned campsites in City Parks. The Parks are an important resource for all citizens, and are especially important to children and families. When my daughter was young, we did not have a yard or outside play area with our home. I relied on neighborhood parks for her outdoor activity. When she was old enough, she would go to the park with friends to hang out, or throw around a softball. Right now we live near Sunnyside Park. Fortunately, my daughter is an adult, because I couldn't allow a child to play in the park without extensive adult supervision due to the presence of drugs, garbage, needles and human feces. Allowing camping in parks is not fair to children and families, and especially not to low-income families and children. The time limit of 180 days is way too long for children to be without outdoor play opportunities. There are other options for shelters or sanctioned campgrounds without including the use of parks.

Testimony is presented without formatting.