

# Sheila Strachan

**#278977 | March 24, 2021**

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

I am firmly opposed to opening parks and natural areas to sanctioned homeless camping or long term shelters. I voted in favor of Measure 26-213, the \$45 million annual property tax levy to maintain the city parks system, not to turn them into homeless shelters. Transitional housing should be located near services, not diffused among parks and natural areas. The current conditions of Laurelhurst Park, Oaks Bottom and the Springwater Corridor are all examples of the environmental impact of unhoused groups camping in green spaces. I voted in favor of the \$258.4 million Portland affordable housing bond, passed in November 2016, the \$653 million Metro affordable housing bond, passed in November 2018 and the May 2020 \$2.5 billion Metro tax measure for homeless solutions. I voted for these measures to fund actual solutions to the homeless crisis - not for temporary measures that will destroy the public spaces that provide for the health of all community members. What are the results? Where is the affordable housing? Where are the homeless solutions? Billions in taxes and no visible solutions. I do not support the proposed changes to allow for parks and open spaces to be used for homeless shelters or camps.

Testimony is presented without formatting.