

# Anne Anderson

**#279100 | March 25, 2021**

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

While the issue of homeless camping is difficult to address, the section of the proposal to open up our city parks to homeless camping is untenable. We use our parks even more during the social distancing and isolation imposed by Covid, and losing that public space to homeless camps is even more disheartening. The human waste generated, including feces and needles used for illegal drugs will make our parks too dangerous to enjoy. Streams, such as Fanno Creek, will become polluted. Trash will build up to unbearable levels. Green spaces will become trampled and plantings destroyed. Turning over our public parks is not the solution for this heart-wrenching problem. One possible solution, however, for our area of Southwest Portland, would be to open the large parking lot at the old unused Sears Armory on Multnomah Boulevard for camping. Some neighbors complained before when it was used for temporary housing, but they were in a minority and the way it was handled before was excellent. While the inside buildings would remain closed (except perhaps for public facilities) the area around there could be used for a number of campers. I hope you'll consider this.

Testimony is presented without formatting.