

# Gretchen Rowell

**#279165 | March 27, 2021**

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

No Camping In Parks Or Green Spaces! We are submitting our written testimony urging the City Council to remove from the Shelter to Housing Continuum any recommendation to use open spaces as temporary shelter spaces. We further request that the governing documents expressly prohibit using open spaces including parks, natural areas, trails, golf courses, and parks-related parking lots and community centers, as temporary shelter spaces, except in the case of natural disasters and short-term emergencies. The recommendation to use open spaces, however well-intended now, represents the proverbial camel's nose under the tent. If adopted, this proposal carries the risk of much more serious consequences emerging. Specifically, we fear that tent cities, mountains of trash, crime, discarded drug paraphernalia, and the like, will permeate the City's open spaces, if this wrong-headed proposal gains traction. Ten years ago, or even five, we would have said such dire predictions were overblown, if not ridiculous. However, the problem now, is quite literally out of control.

Testimony is presented without formatting.