

# Bonnie Bennett

**#279297 | March 30, 2021**

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

I am writing to reiterate my opposition to allow parks and open public space to be considered for temporary homeless shelter use in Portland. There is certainly no shortage of existing, vacant infrastructure in this city: empty buildings, vacant parking lots. Put them to use! I understand and support providing both temporary and permanent housing solutions, but this is not viable for the city as a whole, and will have absolutely catastrophic consequences. Look around you: Portland is already in the throes of a humanitarian and environmental crisis. As citizens, we are begging for reprieve. COVID cases are down and vaccinations are up: you can no longer use the pandemic as an excuse. Do your job: align your agencies, increase staffing, and make cleaning up this garbage-infested city a priority as you work to house the homeless. It's possible to do two things at once.

Testimony is presented without formatting.