

**From:** Richard DeMerchant [<mailto:demerchant.richard@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 02, 2014 2:57 PM  
**To:** PDX Comp Plan  
**Subject:** Input on 2035 Comprehensive plan

To whom it may concern,

I support the reduction of density in East Portland that the Comprehensive Plan suggests. However, I urge you to make additional zoning changes to reduce density even further. I live the David Douglas School District and have witnessed the impact of school overcrowding on our students and community. We lack the infrastructure (sidewalks, parks, community centers, connecting streets, crosswalks, etc) to support the density we currently have. We need to greatly slow this growth until the city can make improvements to infrastructure.

My street, 118th between Division and Powell, is currently zoned R2.5a, even though neighboring streets are zoned R5. Our street has many historical houses on large lots and grand old-growth doug fir trees, which are threatened every time our neighbor's properties get in the hands of people who want to subdivide and develop. It threatens the character of the neighborhood and the value of our homes. I am unclear why our street is zoned differently from the streets to the east and west of us. Please consider rezoning our street as well. This Section of 118th has unique character that has drawn major film studios to the area and has created much needed revenue for the city. As an example the TV show Grim has filmed here twice in the last year due taking over the street for weeks at a time to film. Their reason for filming here are the towering old growth firs and the classic 1930s portland homes on the street.

As for Kelly Butte. It seems like an untapped resource in East Portland. I would love to see better maintenance and development of infrastructure (natural play, hiking trails, disc golf?) in this park. Also, in general, we need more access to parks that are not attached to local schools. Many of the parks that are close to my house are part of David Douglas schools and are closed during the day due to school use. I need a place to take my preschool aged kids to play that is open during the day and has equipment geared towards little users. Something like Piccolo Park in inner SE or the new natural play area in Westmoreland. Also, it would be great to add a community center on the south side of East Portland (near Holgate? Powell?). Many of outer SE residents do not have access to cars and it would be great for our kids and adults to have easier access to a community center.

Sincerely,

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