

TESTIMONY ON THE SOUTH PARK BLOCKS MASTER PLAN TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONERS,
CITY OF PORTLAND.

Paul Agrimis is a member of the Parks Board, a member of the Parks Board Land Use and Infrastructure working group, a practicing landscape architect and civil engineer, and a Portland resident for 32 years. This testimony represents his own views.

South Park Blocks Master Plan:

The South Park Blocks master plan was shaped by a team: PP&R, consultants, an experienced technical advisory group, and a community advisory committee comprised of more than 20 stakeholders from the Indigenous community, adjacent cultural institutions, the Friends of the South Park Blocks, the Downtown Neighborhood Association, Portland State University, Portland Farmers Market, and at large members of the public. PP&R conducted wide public outreach to downtown residents, along with other communities of the city. The draft master plan was prepared with expert knowledge and input from many varied interests.

The treasured historic American elms that shape so much of the Park Blocks' tree canopy will inevitably age and die. The master plan offers a successional strategy for the how the treasured tree canopy can be maintained over the next 50-100 years with American elms and additional species more resilient to disease and Climate Change. The proposed succession strategy will improve growing conditions for new trees by widening the tree spacing in rows set aside for elms and elm-like trees, which will provide more solar exposure and growing space (in accordance with best management practices). The master plan is a well-researched and sober effort to deal with the facts of how a historic tree canopy can be preserved in an increasing dense urban setting, with a hotter, and drier climate.

Green Loop:

The Green Loop was conceived in the Central City 2035 Plan and adopted by City Council. The Green Loop will be a six-mile leisurely all-abilities connection to parks and neighborhoods throughout Central Portland. The Green Loop will use existing paved areas on Park Avenue West and will neither narrow the Park Blocks, nor result in the removal or endangering of any trees. Bike lanes on SW Broadway and SW Fifth will serve high-speed bicyclists travelling through the city.

Respectfully,



Paul Agrimis, PLA, PE
Principal Landscape Architect