

To: Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Rubio, Mapps, Hardesty and Ryan

Subject: Opposition to planned Draft South Park Blocks Master Plan.

I encourage you to vote no on the Draft South Park Blocks Master Plan prepared by the Portland Parks and Recreation Bureau (PP&R). There are a number of reasons why I do not support this plan.

- Basically if something is not broken don't try to fix it. PP&R talks about a green loop. If you look at those blocks with a drone or from a plane one can see the beautiful green loop that already exists. Please do not reduce it. The plan says it will put a wider central promenade down Blocks 7-12. To do this implies removal of the central row of trees. Please do not change the number of trees that exist. It is a shady haven.
- PP&R also talks about the trees only will be replaced as they die. Since 97 percent of the current trees are estimated to be healthy and with proper stewardship they could live up to 300 years. That is unless the construction of the proposed bicycle/pedestrian pathway damages the tree roots on the western side of the site. If any trees die they should be replaced with like trees. Deciduous trees are better than evergreens especially when measuring their carbon footprint.
- Cyclists can navigate the Park Blocks as they are. A designated bike lane is not needed.
- Then let's discuss the cost. If the city has 53,000,000 dollars for this project please consider using it differently. If you would like I can provide an example of projects around Portland that PP&R should be maintaining but have left neglected. It is time for a comprehensive plan to take care of what they should maintain city wide and use this money to fund it.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion. Please vote no on this Draft South Park Blocks Master Plan.

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