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From: Charlotte Grant <ccgrant416@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 12:41 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Cc: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Designating homeless encampments in public parks is a bad idea.

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The plight of homeless persons and city leadership is mutually frustrating, but shifting encampments to other city parks can't solve the problem. Many support systems for troubled or displaced people are in or near downtown. Short of putting up chain link fencing to enclose permitted living space, there's no way to keep those who cannot find or afford housing from expanding their territory.

Weight Park ought to be off any proposed list of sites for an obvious reason: 90% of the shade is on the boulevard. And the one shady area has a little hill in it. I can't imagine the uproar from families that use the established playground as soon as the snow melts. And what about individuals and teams who play tennis, baseball, soccer, etc.?.

I am not familiar with most of the other parks in the city, but I suspect few -if any - would be suitable sites.

Would it be possible to allow some homeless to return to Houska Park, contingent on medical and mental health clearance and other requirements? Registration and strict limits on the number of persons allowed at that site, with regular "house calls" by social services, police, and local hospitals (e.g. Gundersen's Mobile Medicine program) could demonstrate that a supervised outdoor facility could meet this population's needs while progress is made on funding and/or construction of affordable group housing.