

Submitter: Shawn Willis

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital  
Construction

Measure: SB5701

My name is Shawn and I am a resident of the St Johns neighborhood in Portland, OR. I am urging you to pass the funding request to improve safety and access at George Park in Portland's St. Johns neighborhood.

I am urging you to pass SB 5701, which includes \$750,000 in funding to improve safety and access at George Park in Portland's St. Johns' neighborhood.

George Park is within walking distance of 4 schools in the neighborhood, but despite it being centrally located in an area with a lot of youth and families, this 2-acre green space severely lacks infrastructure that would promote more positive usage of the space. Students at Roosevelt High School and George Middle School pass this park every day on the way to-and-from school and it has been deemed a priority route through Portland Bureau of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program.

My family and I see or use George Park daily, but even a first time visitor can quickly notice the neglect this park has been subjected to. I urge you to listen to our community members and our leaders to ensure the park better represents the people of the neighborhood and provides more useful areas for all people.

St Johns is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Oregon. For 5 years our community has been submitting input on building a new future for this forgotten park. It has often been one of the most overlooked areas in the state. These investments will bring more life into St. Johns, and set a foundation for a more joyful and more connected North Portland for decades to come.

Thank you,  
Shawn Willis