

Submitter: LaQuisha Minnieweather

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: SB5701

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is LaQuisha Minnieweather and I am a resident of St. Johns. I have lived in the neighborhood for over 20 years. I am urging you to pass the funding request for \$750,000 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.

I grew up in this neighborhood, I went to George Middle School and graduated Roosevelt High School. Even at a young age, this park has never felt like a space meant for us to hangout and play together. As a mother of 3, this park has echoed those same feelings for my children. This space has always felt as if it were an after-thought, a band aid for the lack of effort this community deserves. Parks should feel inviting, they should encourage play, and should foster peer relationships.

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,  
LaQuisha Minnieweather