

Submitter: Anna Lorton

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 Anna Lorton and I am a resident of St. Johns. I grew up here and am now raising my kids here. 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.

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.

I took my eldest kid to George Park for the first time when she was 2 year old toddler. There was a play structure that was labeled for 5-12 year olds so I helped her climb on the structure but that was all there was to do at this park. I've never taken any of my kids back to that park despite my eldest being ten, having two more kids and living within walking distance of this park. There's really nothing at George Park to make it worth visiting and there are much nicer parks a driving distance away, like Arbor Lodge or Peninsular (with vast arrays of different interactive and interesting play things for a range of ages.) Please invest in my neighborhood so that I don't have to get the kids in the car to go to a park in a different neighborhood. My family and my neighbors deserve nice parks within walking distance from our homes.

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,
Anna Lorton