

My name is Amenta Abioto and I am a resident of St. Johns neighborhood in Portland, OR. I have lived in the neighborhood for 2 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.

This park is such a special part of the community. Safe and updated parks are so important to people of all ages, promoting individual and community wellness and progress. Investing in this park I believe will transform this neighborhood for the better and encourage people to engage with nature in a positive way.

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,
Amenta Abioto