

Submitter: Mathew Randol

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 Mathew Randol and I am a resident and native of the St. Johns neighborhood located in North Portland. I have lived in the neighborhood for the better part of 30 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.

Growing up directly across the street from George Park showed me at an early age how to cultivate friendships and community with my neighbors whom I still share bonds with until this day. I personally always felt that George Park was underserved and deserved at the very least a new playground, a Basketball court, more seating, lighting and trash cans. I strongly believe if improvements are made in the park, more families would congregate and forge those neighborly relationships that simple don't exist anymore with so many people choosing to stay to themselves indoors. The Kidz Outside was created by my partners and I to urge people to venture back outdoors and build strong community bonds between family like the days of old.

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,
Mathew Randol