



2023 City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Bridget Nee- Walsh for Boston City Council At-Large

1. What Boston park or open space do you visit most often? Why?
Between soccer games, baseball games, track, birthday parties, and the playground, Moakley Park is the Boston park that I visit most often with my daughter and god-son.
2. Do you have a connection to a community garden or gardens? Which one(s)?
I do not but I wish I did!
3. What role do parks and open space have in your goals for climate adaptation and mitigation?
Parks, beaches, and other open spaces are vital tools when it comes to addressing climate adaptation and mitigation. Whether it is cooling urban heat deserts, minimizing flood damage or high tides, or reducing carbon pollution in the air, parks and open space are incredibly important.
4. How will you increase access to parks and open space in our residential neighborhoods?
I will increase access by investing in the funding for maintenance and care of parks, gardens, and open space across the city. This will ensure that although we live in an ever developing and growing city, all residents have access to local, clean, and enjoyable green space. I also commit to supporting funding for open space programming initiatives like the movie in the park nights, neighborhood concerts and art workshops, and other events that attract residents to utilize our beautiful parks and open spaces.
5. What are your equity goals for the City of Boston? How can Parks and Open Spaces advance those goals?
Living in South Boston, I am fortunate to have access to some of the best local beaches and parks. I want all residents to have easy and uninhibited

access to these spaces as well. Local parks and playgrounds are a melting pot in our diverse neighborhoods and provide a space to foster community. Investing in our neighborhoods means investing in our parks which has tremendously positive impacts on our quality of life.

6. The current Boston Parks Dept operating budget is approximately 0.75% of the city operating budget. Would you commit to raising it to 1%? If not, why not?

I am supportive of raising the Parks Dept budget to 1% of the city's operating budget.

7. On a per capita basis Boston spends between $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ of what Seattle and San Francisco spend on parks. How can Boston increase the park budget while not negatively impacting other vital city services?

When we invest in healthy environments, the return on investment is much greater. Investing in our park budget has the potential to decrease the need for reliance on other line items associated with health care and public safety, etc.

8. What do you think are some of the most challenging current questions about competing demands for parkland and other open space? How would you approach challenging decisions about parkland and open space use?

The demand for more housing and services that come along with housing, in addition to increased public safety concerns, provide a challenge for parkland and open space for competing funds. There is always the need to prioritize based on needs and funding availability but I would suggest that we acknowledge the investment in parks and open space as not only an immediate amenity but a preventative and mitigating tool for other issues.

Please return to: bostonparkadvocates@gmail.com by Thursday, September 21

We look forward to having you at our Parks & Open Space Candidate Meet and Greet on Thursday, September 28, 2023 from 5:30- 7:00 pm at Blackstone Square