



2023 City Council Candidate Questionnaire

1. What Boston park or open space do you visit most often? Why?

I visit Franklin Park nearly every week. Just a convenient walk from my house, I believe it's one of the best parks in our state with every amenity you might need from tennis and basketball courts to areas for cookouts. It hosts incredible programming including music festivals and cultural celebrations.

2. Do you have a connection to a community garden or gardens? Which one(s)?

While I don't have a personal connection to a specific community garden, I try to visit all the community gardens in our district and I am working to build a new Serendipity Garden in Dorchester.

3. What role do parks and open space have in your goals for climate adaptation and mitigation?

I believe our parks and open spaces have a huge role in our climate adaptation and mitigation, which is why I have prioritized resilient development projects that have allocations for green space and green roofs, worked to increase District 4's tree canopy, and secured a historic amount in our city budget for capital projects, including park improvements during my first term in office.

4. How will you increase access to parks and open space in our residential neighborhoods?

In my first term in office, I focused on increasing access to parks and open spaces by securing a historic level of capital funding for District 4 in the latest budget, which includes key park maintenance and repairs, and working with development projects in my district to have them add open space, green roofs, or tree cover into their plans. Moving forward, I will continue to do this work and look

for ways to create more access to our parks through programming and education.

5. What are your equity goals for the City of Boston? How can Parks and Open Spaces advance those goals?

I ran for office with the goal of delivering tangible results for the neighborhoods in our district, focusing on Black and Brown economic empowerment, tackling Boston's affordability crisis and providing pathways to home ownership, and demanding increased funding for District 4, especially Dorchester and Mattapan, which has experienced systemic underfunding from our City.

When we think about many of the inequities that exist in our City – from health inequities and access to mental health care to environmental justice and infrastructure, parks and open spaces are an important piece as we know the well-documented impact these green spaces have on our resiliency and heat map, mental and physical health, and the experience of residents every single day.

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 open to raising the budget to 1%, but I am mindful of not committing to that without having a sense of where we may need to cut to see that increase.

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?

In order to invest in the long-term resiliency of our parks and quality of our open spaces, we should explore creative revenue sources, including state and federal grants for one-time capital expenses.

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 urgent needs that our City has around housing is the most challenging question we are facing, and on individual projects, it can often be framed as a zero sum game. I think we need to think more holistically about our housing crisis with a lens on parks and open spaces in our communities to ensure our housing production plan accounts for the need for green spaces.

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