



Campaign for Parks 2021 Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: District 4 City Councilor Andrea Campbell

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

The park I visit most often is Pope John Paul II Park Reservation in Dorchester, where my husband and I take our two boys. I'm also blessed to live right along the Neponset River Greenway, an incredible multimodal trail that connects Mattapan, Dorchester, and Milton.

2. Do you have a connection to a community garden? Which one?

I am a member of the Nightingale Community Garden in Dorchester.

3. What park-related goals would your administration set to support your vision of a healthy, resilient, and beautiful City?

My vision for a resilient and healthy city is centered on an equitable approach to city governance and ensuring every resident has the opportunity to enjoy our public parks. As Mayor, I will work tirelessly to identify additional funding to preserve and expand our green spaces, grow our tree canopies, especially in communities of color, and lead on climate justice to make the investments necessary to make our communities more resilient. One of my own climate goals for Boston is to ensure every resident lives within a 15 minute walk from a substantial public park or greenspace - the international gold standard to a sustainable and healthy city.

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

Public parks and green spaces are fundamental to recreation, air quality, and healthy communities. I am proud that my first piece of legislation on the City Council was the Community Preservation Act, which now generates millions of dollars every year for parks and open space. As Mayor, I will work with

community partners to identify underutilized parcels and vacant lots that the City could transform into parks, community gardens, and sites for urban farming. I will also maintain our treasured green spaces and prepare them for the next century of extreme heat, storms, and changes in climate with public-private investment and clear maintenance accountability at the City level.

5. Equity has important implications for every aspect of city life. How would you define equity with respect to the city's parks and greenspaces?

There are clear disparities in our city when it comes to who has access to the city's parks and green spaces that we know directly impacts the health of our communities of color - which has contributed to higher risks of COVID-19 and higher rates of asthma in children of color. As Mayor, I will push for an equitable approach to address these disparities by dismantling the systemic inequities that created them by leading with intentionality and building more public green space in communities that have historically suffered from a lack of funding and access and intentionally create programming in our parks that is culturally competent. I will also take an active role in standing against development projects that create disastrous environmental effects and health risks on a community. I will ensure every neighborhood is adequately engaged in neighborhood planning processes, especially involving removal of trees or changes to open space.

6. The current Boston Parks Dept operating budget is 0.75% of the city operating budget. Would you commit to raising it to 1%?

Yes, I commit to raising the Boston Parks Department operating budget to at least 1%.

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 pie so that a substantial increase in the park budget will not come at the expense of other vital city services?

We need to invest more in our public parks, not only maintaining the historic and renowned public parks, but also expanding the public programming we know helps the vitality of our communities. As Mayor, I will take a bold and innovative approach to our city budget and reallocate some funding from the bloated Boston Police Department to our social services such as youth programming and parks. I will also leverage the unprecedented federal funding the city is receiving to invest in our green infrastructure and lift up our city services.