



2023 City Council Candidate Questionnaire

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

Town Field Park in Fields Corner. It's a great open space with a fantastic playground, and plenty of recreational sports for my kids to enjoy. It's central, and it hosts a number of activities for kids and teens to enjoy. I host my annual Juneteenth celebration in this park. After the election I plan to work with local urban gardeners to apply for a CPC grant to install a pollinator garden on the top of the hill.

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

I do not have any connections to a particular garden yet, but my family and I enjoy seeing them on our walks, and I have a great appreciation for how they can bring neighbors together. Living in fields corner my neighbors have turned their back yards, front yards, and sidewalks ways into lush garden with beautiful flowers and high yielding vegetables and fruit plants.

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

Parks are an essential in combating climate change. We're seeing more and more rainfall, and having open, green space to take some of this burden is necessary.

We saw how record rainfall crippled New York last summer, and we cannot let the same happen to Boston. Efforts to expand our green spaces are a beautiful, verdant way to prevent some of the most immediate effects of a changing climate.

District 3 has a recorded problem of flooding, causing serious water damage to homes in the area. We need to use federal money to plant more trees, help homeowners create more green space in their yard with pollinator gardens, and prioritize green spaces in our cities new construction.

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

Our residential neighborhoods need more open green spaces, especially here in D3. The city needs to employ experts that can create more greenspaces and maximize our existing green spaces. My office would propose policy to hire urban green space & blue space experts to examine all parts of the city especially places outside of downtown and the normal tourist attractions. These experts would propose projects to the city council. I believe policy like this could change the landscape (pun intended) of Boston's neighborhoods, by improving health outcomes, lowering temperatures of neighborhoods, and improving air quality.

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

My equity goals are to improve the water table for D3, create more middle class housing, and build new schools. Open spaces and new parks are essential for all of these equity projects. There is a dearth of green space in communities of color, these areas being neighborhoods that would most benefit from their placement, by finding creative and pragmatic ways to introduce

greenery to everyday life. Whether it's utilizing the evergreen tree fund provided by the federal government to hiring dedicated arborists to maintain our existing trees, and to involve our youth in the creation and maintenance of

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?

To combat climate change and provide additional employment to teens and city residences the Boston Parks Dept operating budget should be 4 to 5% of the city 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?

Battling climate change, improving our air quality, and lowering the temperature of Boston are essential to the sustainability of our city and commonwealth. As a city we need to be creative with using our parks for job training and climate change combat. This will allow the city to access federal funds to pay for an increase in parks services.

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 best way to approach competing demands is to require new development to create or invest in new open spaces as well as parklands. My approach to the competing demands is to better utilize our current green spaces. We currently have green spaces that are suffering from a lack of maintenance and utilization. We need to activate these spaces, improve design and accessibility, and hire people to plan events and activities for the community.

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