

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

I visit the Emerald Necklace nearly every day to walk, run, take my kids for bike rides, and walk my dogs.

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

I had a plot at 60 Paul Gore Street in Jamaica Plain for about four years, but had to give it up during my previous job as an associate at Lichten and Liss-Riordan.

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

I believe that having abundant green space and trees is critical to improve air quality. Additionally, recreation space allows our kids to have more space to play and grow up healthy.

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

I will advocate for increased park space. Additionally, our district has a specific example. In the Arborway Yard project we were promised eight acres of community space, but there was an attempt to reduce that amount. I publicly came out against it and will continue to advocate for the full eight acres for the community.

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

Too often green space is concentrated in wealthier parts of the city. As a result, heat deserts are far more common in communities of color, and I will strongly advocate to expand the tree canopy in the places that have the least.

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 would commit to it. Natural space and clean air are cornerstones of a healthy community, and our budget should reflect that.

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 any City Budget there are excesses and areas that we do not spend enough. Through the budgeting process, I would always look for places to trim the fat and ensure we are not wasting precious tax dollars, and I would advocate to have that money put into parks.

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?

I believe one example of a difficult question is with the Shattuck. We have a drastic need for more supportive housing, as well as housing in general, and we need to build places where people can get treatment and rebuild their lives.

At the same time, there has been a ton of investment to make Franklin Park a great place for families. I would never want to set back that work by having increased litter, illicit drug use, or other issues and I would fight to preserve our parks as a valuable resource for our residents.

I have lived in Boston, New York City, Iowa City, and Nashville. I believe that what sets apart cities like New York and Boston from the rest is their commitment to having flourishing green spaces in areas accessible to all city residents.

Additionally, I would add that the fights between park space and housing are real ones that require balancing. Boston is increasingly becoming a city where only wealthy people can afford to live, and we need to build more housing to bring down the cost. At the same time, we must also ensure that we are taking opportunities to create more green space, not less. That means we must have a balanced approach when redevelopment opportunities present themselves.

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