



2023 City Council Candidate Questionnaire

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

I like to go for walks with my wife and dogs Brandy and Gotham at Franklin park and Millenium Park. I enjoy being outside watching the wildlife and enjoying nature in its natural state.

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

Community gardens are an essential part of our city. Especially in our black and brown communities, where many don't often have access to fresh fruits and vegetables, due to high price points are supermarkets or lack of land at home.

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

They will play a significant role. By preserving and expanding these green spaces, we can create urban ecosystems that contribute to carbon sequestration, improve air quality, and reduce the urban heat island effect.

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

Revitalizing Neglected Spaces: There are often neglected or underutilized areas within our neighborhoods that have great potential for transformation into vibrant community hubs. Through partnerships between local businesses, non-profit organizations, and residents, we can revitalize these spaces and turn them into thriving parks or urban gardens.

Collaborating with Developers: When new residential developments are proposed, I will advocate for the inclusion of public parkland as part of their plans. By working collaboratively with developers, we can ensure that every new neighborhood comes equipped with open spaces designed for everyone's enjoyment

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

My equity goals for the City of Boston are rooted in creating a more inclusive and accessible community for all residents. I firmly believe that everyone should have equal opportunities to thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances. To achieve this, we need to prioritize equity in every aspect of city life.

That's where Parks and Open Spaces come into play! These natural gems have the potential to be powerful catalysts for change. By ensuring that our parks are well-maintained, safe, and accessible, we can create spaces that bring people together from all walks of life. It's about fostering social cohesion, promoting physical and mental well-being, and providing opportunities for recreation.

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?

Yes, I would support this increase. I believe that investing in our parks is investing in our future. By allocating more resources, we can create even more beautiful and well-maintained parks, with improved facilities and enhanced amenities for everyone to enjoy.

A vibrant and well-funded Parks Department will enable us to preserve and expand existing green spaces, develop new recreational areas, and ensure that all residents have access to safe, clean, and inviting outdoor environments. This commitment aligns with my vision for a greener and healthier Boston, where families can gather, children can play freely, and communities can come together.

7. On a per capita basis Boston spends between 1/3 and 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?

Grant Opportunities: We can explore various grants available at the state and

federal levels specifically allocated for park development. By leveraging these external resources, we can boost our budget without sacrificing essential services that our residents rely on.

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?

One of the most challenging questions we face is how to prioritize different uses for parkland. With a diverse population and varying interests, it can be a complex puzzle to solve. However, I firmly believe that collaboration is key.

To approach these challenging decisions, I would advocate for an inclusive approach that involves public input through town hall meetings, surveys, and open forums. This way, every voice can be heard before any major decision is made. Additionally, I would work closely with urban planners, landscape architects, and environmental experts to develop sustainable strategies that maximize the benefits of our existing green spaces while identifying opportunities to create new ones.

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