

## 2008 Board of Supervisors Candidate Questionnaire

Candidates, please complete each question to the best of your ability in order for NPC to assess your "Park Friendly" rating. All responses will be posted on our website for the public to view. Text boxes expand to accommodate longer responses. Thank You.

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District: 1

Return to Sunya Ojure electronically at  
[sojure@sfnpc.org](mailto:sojure@sfnpc.org) by Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

1. In what ways do you feel parks contribute to the quality of life of San Francisco residents?

Being an urban city the parks are great escapes and areas for children and adults to get exercise and gather with friends.

2. What park in your district do you use most and tell us what you like most about it.

Hmm this is kind of a no brainer in D1, Golden Gate park it is our back yard, the diversity and enormity of it. having it in our city is like have a treasure that we share with the world.

3. Which park in your district appears to need the most help and what do you propose to do about it?

Well I know Lincoln park is getting an upgrade we just painted and added new sand, thanks to Albert and your org. Rossi is one that needs a fix, I am against the artificial turf and lights. Being an ex baseball player, and soccer player the rug burns, and knee pain from that is not worth it.

URS NPC 8/29/08 3:00 PM

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4. From your observations, what are the 3 most important issues facing recreation and parks in San Francisco? How will you begin to address these Issues if you are elected?

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Money and finance, we need more gardeners to keep up the natural beauty, next is the homeless camps that is a quality of life and police issue the more we clean up the tourist areas the more they move to outer areas.

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5. NPC's ParkScan program indicates that the majority of problems reported by the public relate to misuse of parks by city residents. These conditions cost the City millions of dollars in staff time to address. Would you support NPC's proposal for the city to fund a public education campaign aimed at reducing misuse such as littering, graffiti and vandalism in our parks?

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Yes, but I am for educating people in litter and graffiti abatement. We have to make a culture change of everyone. Educating people on the community issues that litter and graffiti lead to.

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6. The Recreation and Parks Department estimates that we are 200 gardeners short to keep up our parks to a good standard. Also, many common complaints from park users have to do with deferred maintenance such as broken irrigation parts and hazardous trees, largely the result of too few maintenance personnel and far too little funding. The Controller's City Survey 2007 indicates many residents continue to be dissatisfied with park maintenance. What do you propose to improve park maintenance?

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Well one we find funding for the parks and reach out to local communities to help with Maintenance as well. What was done at Lincoln park was great way to keep maintenance up on the parks.

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7. RPD has just developed work plans for each park but the plans do not clearly outline the tasks that volunteers can assist with. At the same time, efforts to reduce staff overtime require volunteer work parties (which usually take place on Saturday) to involve 15 or more—effectively eliminating many possible hours of volunteer assistance. With our parks being understaffed, volunteers are a critical way to bridge the maintenance gap. Do you support adding to the current work plans the specific tasks that volunteers can assist with? Also, in an effort to reduce staff overtime, would you support the creation of a program that would certify community members to volunteer in the parks without direct staff oversight, similar to DPW's adopt a street program?

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[Yes, I agree fully](#)

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8. ParkScan.org is a public portal that enables park users to report maintenance concerns to the Recreation and Park Department (and even include a photo!). Please ParkScan a park near you and describe the maintenance issue that needed attention in your park. If elected, would you like to receive regular reports on the conditions of parks reported in your district?

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[Park scan is a good site I do have an interface idea, have a zip code search this way you can narrow your search. Some times people just know where they are vs. the name. I picked Cab park Wood has deteriorated to the point where one segment is just splinters. I like the idea, of the reports and yes, I would love regular reports. I also would be open to a monthly meeting with you guys to give me a report of what needs to be fixed in each park in my district.](#)

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9. More than two dozen San Francisco playgrounds received failing grades in NPC's bi-annual Playground Report Card this year. Would you be available to participate in a workday to raise the grade of a failed playground?  
**Note: To check which playgrounds in your district might be on the list, please check NPC's Playground Initiative Report Card at [www.parkscan.org](http://www.parkscan.org).**

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[Yes as I already have worked on one park project,](#)

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10. NPC's Green Envy study identified many neighborhoods that lack playgrounds and neighborhood parks. (see enclosed map). Another survey (put the link here to Leon's study) by a national consultant indicates that San Francisco is deficient in soccer fields and opportunities for hiking on trails or community gardening. Do you have ideas to address these deficiencies?

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We have to find open spaces to make a few soccer fields not at the cost of golf courses. Or make multi use fields such as baseball and soccer fields, or maybe that would be a great thing for us who have played both sports.

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11. The City provides start-up funds to establish Community Benefit Districts. Would you support additional funds in the city budget to establish Park Improvement Districts (PIDs) to supplement park maintenance and provide funds for some ongoing capital needs in our parks such as irrigation systems and repairing playgrounds?

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I would, depending if there was a budget surplus.

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12. Are you aware that over 700 acres of park land is dedicated to golf in San Francisco (6 public golf courses) even though it has been identified as a low priority recreation in the 2004 Recreation Assessment (see above) and that each golf course requires 250,000 gallons of water a day? The Rec and Park Department is proposing to lease out 4 of these courses for 30 years, despite the need for more than sixty new baseball, softball and soccer fields just to meet current demand in these sports. What is your position on retaining so much golf land at the expense of other recreation needs?

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I feel our golf courses are a vital to the area. I agree that there are needs for other sports but the golf courses are a great resource to the area.

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13. San Francisco currently has no city-wide open space requirement for new development. In areas such as the Eastern Neighborhoods, which are already deficient in open space and could see a tripling in residential density in the near future, this oversight could create unlivable communities severely deficient in parks. Would you support a city-wide open space requirement for all new residential development so that every neighborhood can have green space for play, exercise, and respite from urban life?

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[Yes, I would.](#)

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I would like to add if I do not win I still would be interested in working with you to help the parks.

Nick