



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 by Friday, September 19th**

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

[I believe the park contributes to the quality of life of the citizens of San Francisco](#) in a multitude of ways; peace of mind, exercise and bringing people and families together and to many other reasons to list here.

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

[Golden Gate Park, I like everything about this park.](#)

My wife uses the Presidio, but this park is not in my district.

I also play softball at multiple parks in San Francisco.

I use multiple city pools for swimming.

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

[Most of the parks in my district have been recently remodeled.](#)

I would like to see the horse stables rebuilt and reinstated in Golden Gate Park.

I think it would be great if the children of San Francisco from all neighborhoods could have a chance to interact with horses.

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?

[We need money for maintenance personnel.](#)

We need to have signs (punch list) posted at neighborhood parts listing specific tasks that volunteers can do in their free time.

We need to find ways to reduce vandalism and graffiti, see my proposal below.

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?

[I would encourage the proposal for a public education program.](#)

But, much of your target audience is not going to care about this campaign.

I do believe in a mandatory minimum community service with a fine for graffiti infractions. The District Attorney's office is reluctant to prosecute these crimes. By instituting a mandatory minimum and fine (Maybe \$500 with \$250 going to the DA's office and \$250 to the police department), should be a better deterrent to graffiti.

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?

We need to find ways to find the funding to pay park maintenance personnel.

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?

This is a smart concept. The RPD needs to develop clear outlines and tasks that volunteers can assist with. We need to add the current work plans the specific tasks that volunteers can assist



with.

I think have signs at park locations listing tasks that volunteers can perform (punch lists) would help. This way volunteers can help when they have available time. Many people work at different times and have different obligations, but this would at least give more people the opportunity to participate.

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?

This is a good idea. Of course I would like to receive regular reports on the conditions of parks in my district.

It would be my job to pay attention to these details.

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.

I would be available to participate in a workday.



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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?

This study deduced that we do not have opportunities for hiking trails. This is highly inaccurate in my opinion. Did they get their information from the web or did anyone bother to go out and walk the city or the trails. We have many great hiking trails and I find this type of negative comment insulting to my city.

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?

Of course I would.

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,



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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?

I am not sure I am in favor of ripping out existing golf courses already in place. I have been playing softball for many years in the city and of course I would like these facilities to be better, but that may be a little selfish on my part.

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?

I would need to read in detail what your are proposing before commenting further.
