

Securing Adequate Funding/Maintenance for Parks

- A. Yes
 - i. Yes
- B. Yes
 - i. Yes
- C. Yes
- D. Yes
 - i. Additional funds could be raised from the sale of city revenue bonds or private investors, with revenue from park concessions dedicated to bond repayment.
- E. To ensure that every park in every neighborhood has properly working facilities, I will advocate that 1% of the City Budget be allocated for parks. Although budgetary funds are obviously tight and there are many competing causes, the people being hurt by the lack of park funding are those in low-income neighborhoods whose parks aren't going to receive the private funding needed to make up for the lack of public funding. The Parks 2001 initiative to bring funding from .5% up to 1% was a vital one, and it is unfortunate that funding has remained around the level of .5%. Additional revenue for park operations could be obtained from federal stimulus funds as has been done for parks nationwide, including Yellowstone.
 - i. Yes
- F. Yes
 - i. I would apply federal stimulus money to parks maintenance staff. Our parks are an important part of our City, and they must be kept in good condition.
 - ii. Community boards should be given more funding and power to ensure their ability to respond quickly to issues of park appearance. The more we make people aware of and answerable to ignored issues such as fountain repairs, the more likely it is that something will be done.
 - iii. Again, federal stimulus money is an excellent resource for our parks.
- G. Yes
- H. Yes

Protecting Parkland

- A. Yes
 - i. Professional sports facilities are often built with public funds. If the organizations take the people's money, then they should be expected to give back to the community. They should be contractually obligated to provide support, especially for maintenance, to nearby parks.
- B. Yes
 - i. I will attempt to introduce legislation so that any effort to utilize parkland for purposes other than park functions should not only be subject to ULURP review, but should also be placed on the ballot as a referendum for all election districts within the community board's are. That vote should be definitive. I have on several occasions been outspoken on parkland alienation. I opposed the placement of luxury housing in Brooklyn Bridge Park in my campaign to unseat the State Senator who introduced the legislation proposing that. I have been supportive of

legal efforts to prevent the DSNY from utilizing parkland in Canarsie for DSNY composting facilities. Although composting may be a legitimate park activity, it becomes alienation if contracted by another city agency as part of its formal activities. Lastly, I strongly opposed the plans for a filtration system under Van Cortland Park in the Bronx.

C. Yes

- i. I will advocate for and introduce legislation requiring that potential alternate locations for parkland be identified before any parkland is repurposed.

D. Deals by private organizations or schools for the exclusive use of public property are unacceptable and a betrayal of the public's trust. I will work to ensure that public and amateur sports facilities remain public. Private entities are certainly welcome to contribute to public facilities, but they cannot be given special privileges in exchange for those funds.

E. Yes

F. Yes

Expanding Park Use

A. Yes

- i. I advocate as much green space as possible and the inclusion of sports fields to increase recreational opportunities. Additionally, I will work for parks that are "green" in more ways than one. I personally convinced Daimler-Chrysler to donate non-polluting electric vehicles to local parks, including Brooklyn Bridge Park and Prospect Park. My vision is that parks should be free of fossil fuel vehicles; have "distributed energy" systems; have park-related revenue sources such as boating, ice skating and "Chelsea Pier" revenue models; and not include revenue-neutral activities for the very few or for the rich such as luxury machines.
- ii. Parks should be part of a 197-a plan. The people determining the uses for the park should be those in the community for whom it is intended. They should have considerable input, and they should be working alongside the Parks Department and other entities to coordinate plans and determine needs. Although abandoned in the name of development, this method of developing a park was initially used successfully in creating plans for a Brooklyn Bridge Park that would've fully met the community's hopes and dreams for a local park.

B. Yes

C. I advocate a renewed focus on physical education in schools as well as a more aggressive campaign to enroll public school students in affordable, city-aided sports leagues. The best way to argue for better funding for sports programs is to demonstrate that they are currently being used to their full potential.

D. A high level of collaboration could be coordinated between the Parks Department and other city agencies under the purview of the Office of Long-Term Development and Sustainability. The goals of such projects would fall in line with the goals of that office, and its leadership would help to establish focus in these partnerships.

E. I have been an early critic of projects such as Atlantic Yards that do not give back to the community. I will not authorize developments that fail to provide park space or other

services that aid infrastructure. I will conduct thorough reviews to make sure this is adhered to.

- i. Yes

National and Regional Parks

- A. Primarily, I see each of these parks as part of a greater, unified and interconnected entity, with each as a critical component. The potential for a world-class system of waterfront parks is present. Our city is surrounded by water, and it's time we take advantage of that fact instead of forcing those in search of a waterfront experience to leave. I have fought on the front lines against plans to build luxury housing in Brooklyn Bridge Park in my district. I know what park services mean to New York City. Whenever density is added to a neighborhood, park space must be included, and I will fight any developments that do not provide adequate green space.
- B. Many citizens, sadly, do not know about the wonderful parks so close to their homes. I will make sure they are properly marketed and advertised, and I will make these parks more accessible by providing better transit options. We need new, intermodal connections to a greatly expanded waterway transportation system. We need to improve both how New Yorkers get to the parks and how they get around in the parks. Additionally, "pay to play" situations in these parks will be unacceptable.
- C. I will work with the federal government to make sure these parks are well promoted and well maintained, and I will lobby the mayor to be a strong advocate for our city's national parks.