

New Yorkers for Parks 2009 CANDIDATE SURVEY

ERIC GIOIA, Candidate for Public Advocate

What do you believe are the top priority park issues that need to be addressed in your district and citywide?

Ensuring that there is enough parkland for generations of New Yorkers is a key priority. With the population expected to grow by approximately one million within the next two decades, sufficient parkland and recreation space is vital to ensure that New York City's neighborhoods continue to attract and retain the middle-class families on which our economy depends. Moreover, parks are critical to ensuring a healthy city. With rates of obesity rising among children and adults, we must ensure New York City's physical environment is conducive to physical activity and play.

Another key priority is ensuring parks are safe, both in reality and in perception. Including parks crimes in Compstat analyses will enable the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to address problem areas, but vigorous police activity will deter potential crimes from being committed. Perception of safety is equally important; parks and playgrounds are underutilized when community members perceive them to be unsafe for themselves or their children. The NYPD and Parks Department staff should, together, employ the "broken windows" approach: anything that signals neglect or inattention – whether litter, graffiti or public urination – should be addressed and resolved promptly and diligently.

Securing Adequate Funding / Maintenance for Parks

a. Will you work towards securing long term funding for Parks?

Yes

i. If so, would you consider exploring creative financial models such as Parks Improvement Districts (based on the BID model), tax increment financing (TIF), zoning benefits and public private partnerships to supplement maintenance and operating costs?

Yes

b. Would you support dedicating revenue earned through park concessions to parks maintenance and operations?

Yes

i. If so, would you also support revising the Major Concessions Rules to include all significant private uses on public property (including parks) to community/borough review?

Yes