

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

The top priority park issues that need to be addressed in the 26th Council District are ensuring the proper maintenance of parks and the inclusion of parks and publically accessible open spaces and parks in new areas of development. I believe these issues are also important citywide, where my top priorities are the expansion of existing parks and the acquisition of new parkland. I believe it is of critical importance to improve the quality of our parks to make them safe and enjoyable for New Yorkers of all ages and to create new parks and open spaces that are accessible to all in the community.

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 funding (TIF), zoning benefits and public private partnerships to supplement maintenance and operating costs?

Yes. I believe that securing long term financing through a dedicated stream of income or sponsorship is important to ensure adequate funding in the long term for our parks. However, in areas in desperate need for parks and economically depressed areas, the burden should not fall on those who most need access to local parks.

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

c. Will you support establishing the tracking of spending and staffing on a park by park basis?

Yes

d. When a capital project is not fully funded will you support diversifying funding sources to ensure their completion? What would those sources be?

Yes. I would encourage the use of capital funds from public-private partnerships or, if appropriate, from developers of adjacent projects, as well as advocating for capital funds through my position on the position in the City Council.

e. What specific actions would you take to ensure that every park in every neighborhood has properly working facilities such as ball-fields, educational facilities, restrooms, etc?

Ensuring that parks' facilities are in a good state of repair and that adequate and appropriate facilities are made available for use would be a priority of mine. I would seek to accomplish this by funding projects in parks and encouraging public disclosure of non-functioning facilities and those in need of repair.

i. Will you support a "fix it first" policy for funding capital projects, so that resources are allocated to existing projects in need of repair?

Yes. I believe funding should be prioritized so all parks are in a state of good repair before new projects are started.

f. Will you support adequate staffing and funding to ensure that new and existing parks stay in a "state of good repair"?

Yes

i. What funding/programs would you use to increase the full-time parks maintenance staff?

I would use City Council funding to allow the Parks Department to hire more full-time maintenance staff and encourage the department to transition employees from temporary status to full-time to ensure they are not cut during tough economic times like those we are in now.

ii. What can be done to improve the baseline services, or maintenance of effort, in our parks to ensure that partnerships don't need to replace poor, existing services or neglected services such as a bench and fountain repairs?

I would use City Council capital allocations to ensure parks in the 26th Council District are in a state of good repair and encourage the Parks Department to improve existing parks first.

iii. How would you fund the unique maintenance costs of waterfront parks (e.g. access, bulkheads, and piers)?

As a candidate for a Council District with great waterfront resources, I would work to make waterfront parks a priority in the City's Ten Year Capital Plan

and work with colleagues in State and Federal government to secure funding for the maintenance of these valuable waterfront parks.

g. Will you support park ratings by borough and community board in addition to the citywide level in the Mayor's Management Report?

Yes

h. Will you support making the official Parks Department "property list" – that specifically delineates all 1,700 properties – available online?

Yes

Protecting Parkland

a. Will you support more laws that require public notification and input when a park will be used for non-park purposes, to afford parks the protection they need from development or use by other agencies?

Yes

i. How would you require that professional sport organizations assist in maintaining and operating public parks near their facilities?

I would require professional sports organizations to pay fees to the city to maintain public parks, especially those created due to displaced parkland from stadia construction.

b. Will you work to strengthen parkland alienation regulation by requiring Environmental Impact Statements before parkland alienation bill is filed by municipality?

Yes

i. How will you do this?

I would support a resolution in the City Council calling on state legislative action to increase regulation of parkland alienation.

c. Will you support mitigation for taking of parkland and ensure replacement of lost parkland for the community?

Yes

i. How will you do this?

I would use the City's land use process to ensure replacement parkland is included in any rezoning efforts associated with the development taking parkland in light of the recent problems with the Yankee Stadium community benefit agreement to ensure no net loss in the amount of parkland in the community.

d. How would you prevent "pay to play" situations from arising at public and amateur sports facilities?

I would support legislation prohibiting the type of agreement that allows institutions exclusive access to public and amateur sports facilities at the expense of neighboring communities like that seen on Randall's Island. I would encourage the use of a lottery system to grant access to these facilities.

e. Will you support legislation that requires regular NYPD reports to the City Council on crime in parks (i.e. Intro. 470)

Yes

f. Will you work towards making parkland part of the city's CompStat system?

Yes

Expanding Park Use

a. Will you work toward creating, with significant community involvement, a comprehensive citywide master plan for parks and open spaces that will guide the overall acquisition, restoration, improvement, and maintenance of parks, natural areas, playgrounds and athletic facilities in the five boroughs?

Yes

i. What is your vision for some of the new parks?

I would like to see new and expanded parks on the waterfront in the 26th Council District that are open and accessible to everyone in the local communities, especially in areas such as Hunters Point South that will be experiencing significant redevelopment.

ii. How would you develop it?

I would work with the City's Economic Development Corporation and private developers to ensure the parks are developed with the best interests of the community in mind and that open spaces are open and available for everyone in the community.

b. Will you support extending Resolution No. 1033 which calls for the continued protection of community gardens and the rights of the community and gardeners?

Yes

c. What specific actions would you take to revitalize the recreational and amateur sports programs that have been decreased by this year's budget cuts?

As a former girls basketball coach who understands the importance of programs like these, I would use my position in the City Council to ensure funding for amateur sports programs in the 26th Council District and encourage my colleagues to support these programs citywide.

d. What specific actions would you take to enable a much higher level of collaboration among the Parks Dept. and other city agencies on issues such as stormwater management, greenways, and economic development project.

I would encourage the administration to create a citywide plan, similar to PlaNYC, that creates an interagency comprehensive plan to limit the environmental impact of the City's infrastructure and development strategy.

e. How will you ensure that public spaces created as amenities/mitigation for large scale economic development projects such as Atlantic Yards, Penn Yards, and Manhattanville are truly open to the public?

I would require that open spaces be designed so that they cannot be exclusive to those in the development only and that they are open to the surrounding communities through zoning changes that include such requirements.

National and Regional Parks

a. How will you support the creation of planned new regional waterfront parks like Fresh Kills, Hudson River Park, Governors Island and Brooklyn Bridge Park?

I would work with colleagues in State and Federal government and assist them in communicating with residents of the 26th Council District and navigating the City's land use process.

b. What are your plans to ensure that citizens have equal access to these regional facilities?

I would again work with colleagues in government to ensure equal access as well as the MTA to ensure public transportation that is affordable to all New Yorkers is available to these regional facilities.

c. What steps would you take to promote the use of and access to our city's national parks at Gateway National Recreation Area and the other National Parks of NY Harbor?

I would assist Federal parks officials to communicate with the constituents of the 26th Council District and encourage residents to utilize the parks as inexpensive recreation options within the City.