



**PARKS 2009 CAMPAIGN**

*Friends of Hudson River Park  
Governor's Island Alliance  
New York Restoration Project  
Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance  
Mosholu Preservation Corporation  
Prospect Park Alliance  
Queens Civic Congress*

Dear Candidate,

On behalf of New Yorkers for Parks and the Parks 2009 Advisory Committee, we are launching a campaign to support parks and the quality of life of all New Yorkers. In this economic recession, New Yorkers will be relying on the city's features that benefit the most such as parks and open spaces.

Enclosed is a candidate survey that addresses key parks issues, through which we'll learn more about your vision for our city's parks, playgrounds and open spaces. **Please take the time to thoroughly respond to the issues on the attached questionnaire.**

This candidate survey will help to inform the public about parks related issues and policies. Questions are both direct and open ended, so please circle "yes" or "no" when asked and take the time to answer the question as completely as possible in the space provided. If more room is needed to adequately address these issues, please feel free to attach additional pages when resubmitting the survey.

Answers to this survey will be featured in the **Parks Voter Guide** to be distributed by Parks 2009 prior to the primary election; in some cases we may use excerpts or summaries from your answers. They will be made available on our website, [www.ny4p.org](http://www.ny4p.org), and upon request to the public and the press.

**To ensure that your views are included, please return the questionnaire to:**

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If you have further questions, do not hesitate to call us at 212.838.9410.

*(For non-Mayoral candidates: if any question below specifically relates to Mayoral authority, please indicate if you would support and/or call upon the Mayor to take such action)*

## 2009 CANDIDATE SURVEY

What do you believe are the top priority park issues that need to be addressed in your district and citywide? We need to have more neighborhood parks with community gardens. We would like all residents to have access to green gardens and recreational fields. Flushing Meadows Parks due to its heavy use by the community needs to have more regular clean up. The private vendors that use our public parks must clearly demonstrate how the neighborhood is benefiting for their private enterprise. Recreational Center admission requirement should be the same as that of our public libraries.

### **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 all of the above.. Parks and Public Schools and Libraries are sacred to a democratic society. There should be a minimal funding stream form the government. Yes use the BID model to gain more income for park budget. For example the bigger the space a private corporation takes up in the parks the more % of fees they should pay the Park Department for usage.*

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 There should be a priority list that Park Department should put out and all can see a ranking system of capital project that needs to be done. So we don't have certain parks getting all the priority.

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?

A healthy park leads to a healthy community. 311 has been such a success that citizens should be able to report damaged facility gets to be fixed.

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

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?*

*WE need to have more Parks department workers to maintain the parks. We can not keep using WEP workers to clean the park. We need to employ them. Use the economic stimulus fund, use the money from the WAR in Iraq, dismantle I fighter jet and use it to employ people in the parks.*

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 bench and fountain repairs? We can start to look at cost of all repair project to ensure that we are not being over charged for any outsourced contracts. This is a way to save money. This is a way to have a streamlined Parks Department. Use the internet for the public to see what need to be fixed, how long it took to be fixed and how much it cost the Parks Department to fix it. Open the books and we will see savings and new ideas to fix old problems.*

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

*parks have multiple concession. Those that make money off the waterfront must pay a higher price for the use of the waterfront. The cleaner the waterfront; the more that residents and tourist will want to use the waterfront. Thus need to spend on the concessions stands at the waterfront.*

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 sports organizations assist in maintaining and operating public parks near their facilities? Professional sports organization make a profit off our Park lands. They must pay into a fund to ensure that our parks are maintained. This payment is proportional to the size of the professional sports organization. We can no longer afford to let the sports organization make so much profit while the parks suffer from lack of operating funds for basic maintenance.*

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?*

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

Yes

No

*i. How will you do so? With any new organization that want to use park land for private for profit purposes, we must sit down first and plan in detail how the parkland will be used, how the community will benefit and how will precious parkland be replaced for the community. This way from the beginning there is input from the community.*

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

We will create a system of on-line sign up with preferences given to local resident. This is the same reservation system that camping site use. To ensure fairness we will have additional preferences for 1<sup>st</sup> time users to ensure fairness.

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? The new parks should have exercise stations that will help all ages to try new exercises to improve health and increase heart rate and muscle tone. New parks should have a garden where children and senior citizens can plant flowers in the spring. New parks should be park of the Green*

movement where rain water is collected and compost is made to put into the park soil.

*ii. How would you develop it?*

Successful model of Green parks would be offered to the community. Local Community Board and local Civic Organization would be given input on a plan to develop the new Green Park.

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?

Use the website to inform local citizens where certain recreational and amateur sports program exist that did not get cut. Ask for volunteers to organize local teams to continue certain sports program.

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 projects?

This is part of a master plan that must be given priority.

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

Have readily available maps for handing out and for download and easy printing. Tell the public about the fun and the activities that are offered at each open space and they will come.

*i. Do you support mapping such public spaces as parkland?*

Yes

### **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?

Create a linked bicycle path for the new regional parks. Have special bicycle racks for bicycles on subways and buses. Create a separate walker/ hiker/jogger path next to bicycle path to encourage biking, hiking, jogging and walking from one regional waterfront park to another. Offer low cost bicycle rental, offer roller skate rental at the waterfront parks.

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

Special transit passes will be offered free to citizens and groups that apply on-line. This will ensure that traveling to these regional facilities will not be a problem and no need to drive and find expensive parking lots.

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? Offer free Metro Cards so that all NYC can get to these recreation areas. Offer free Boat rides to these recreational areas to promote use.