



Neighborhood Parks Council
2010 Board of Supervisors Candidate Questionnaire

District 10- Steve Moss

1. In what ways do you feel parks contribute to San Franciscans' quality of life?

Parks are essential to San Francisco's quality of life. See for example <http://www.potreroview.net/feat10162.html>. Throughout my life as a Bay Area resident, and, for the past more than two decades, as a San Franciscan, I've relied on parks for recreation, tranquility, inspiration, and as a playground for my daughter, Sara, and dog, Lucky. During my teens, twenties, and thirties, I frequently visited Ocean Beach, Sutro Baths, the Marina Green, Golden Gate Park, and Dolores Park, among other open spaces, as well as the tennis courts contained within parks throughout the City. I bicycled, hiked, picnicked, played sports, listened to concerts, prayed, meditated, and was introduced to neighborhoods I'd never have know about if I wasn't drawn to them by a park. After my wife and I had our daughter I shifted my focus to the City's many playgrounds, particularly in and around Potrero Hill. Parks serve as San Francisco's front yard, backyard, playground, and retreat.

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

As a father, for the past decade my park visits have mostly focused on playgrounds. When Sara was less than five years-old we spent many an hour at McKinley Square, which has a sunny playground well-suited to smaller children. These days she prefers Jackson Park, which tends to attract older children, and has bigger-kid play equipment. Plus there's usually a taco truck parked nearby.

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

All of District 10's parks need help, but for its scope and scale McLaren Park needs it the most. An updated master plan should be developed for this park, with opportunities for a full community airing of the role disc golf, mountain biking, playgrounds, dog runs, and natural areas should plan in the open space. Sustainable methods to finance improvements should be identified, including fully evaluating potential collaborations with the San Francisco Public Utility Commission, among other agencies; as well as the potential for and desirability of creating an array of in-park financing mechanisms (e.g., energy generation; concessions).

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?

Money, money, and money. San Francisco's recreation and parks are starving for adequate funding and other support. A City-wide conversation about how to create sustainable funding sources should be engendered, leading to a financial master plan. Potential policies to consider include additional taxes and fees directed towards recreation and parks; the creation of special park districts; increased community control over parks; adopt-a-park programs, the development of suitable money-generating enterprises in parks; and the development of endowments.

In addition, given existing open space deficiencies, and plans for substantial increases in density, the City should work to secure state and federal funds to substantially invest in recreation and parks in District 10. If District 10 is going to be the region's solution to urban sprawl, the region needs to help solve the District's problems as well, include the need for substantially more open space.

5. What is your view of the role of volunteer community park groups? What commitment do you make to working with these groups to improve our public open spaces?

Volunteer community park groups are essential to improving our public open spaces. I'm fully committed to working with them.

6. ParkScan.org is a website that enables park users to report maintenance concerns to the Recreation and Park Department. If elected, how would you promote this tool?

Talk about it, constantly, to everyone, all of the time. In addition, information about ParkScan should be posted at every park, with ParkScan kiosks installed where suitable. The paper I published, the *Potrero View*, www.potreroview.net, has regularly used ParkScan information in park-related articles, including in our September issue.

7. NPC's Green Envy study identified many neighborhoods that lack playgrounds and neighborhood parks. How would you address these park and open space deficiencies?

As I mentioned in question four, a City-wide conversation about how to create sustainable funding sources should be engendered, leading to a financial master plan. Potential policies to consider include additional taxes and fees directed towards recreation and parks; the creation of special park districts; increased community control over parks; adopt-a-park programs, the development of suitable money-generating enterprises in parks; and the development of endowments. The City needs an "all hands on deck" approach to addressing playground and open space deficiencies. In District 10 in particular, substantial public investment from regional, state, and federal

sources should be secured to transform a former industrial zone into liveable communities. See for example www.potreroview.net/feat10179.html

8. Deferred maintenance of things like irrigation systems continue to plague the park system. With little funding available to fix these types of problems, what would you propose to improve park maintenance?

See question 4.

9. San Francisco currently has no citywide 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 citywide open space requirement for all new residential development so that every neighborhood can have green space for play, exercise, and respite from urban life?

Yes, but we need to go much, much further. New residential development alone can't support the kind of investment in open space needed in the eastern neighborhoods. See the *View* editorial indicated in question 7.