



Neighborhood Parks Council
2010 Board of Supervisors Candidate Questionnaire

District 2- Barbara Ann Berwick

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

As a pagan, I look upon going to a park as a spiritual experience. Exercise is known to reduce stress. Staying in the moment can be an excellent response to psychological disorders such as PTSD, Anxiety attacks etc. Parks improve the psychological health of its citizens and are therefore very important. I play softball and use various parks for that.

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

I live in the southern most part of District 2, and tend to go to the panhandle and wander toward GG Park; strawberry hill in particular where I had gone with my children when they were small. Doing this brings me warm memories of the activities I had participated in with my children as they were growing up.

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

I'm sorry, but I have no answer for this. Maintenance is an ongoing process that I strive to leave to the people that do park maintenance. I trust their judgment as I am not a biologist and know little about the seasonal needs of the plants.

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, financing and more money. I have multiple proposals on my web site would enhance the City's budget. I further propose that compost and any unwanted soil be made available thru ParkScan.org for a fee.

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 work is key as most funding is directed to programs that save lives or provide essential services. We are entering a time of financial stress with 600 million in outstanding bond indebtedness a budget that is in dire need of balance. My office doors will always be open to my constituents. My intended service will be in budget and finance rather than land use and economic development.

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?

Have the general public redirect their complaints and/or concerns to this website when and inquiry is made.

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?

If the placement of parks and playgrounds were not in the initial plan, it becomes very difficult to place them there. One method of doing so would be to have volunteers circulate bequeath forms to residents in the areas where parks and playgrounds are needed.

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?

Have volunteer activities that are promoted thru high schools.

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 I would.