



Neighborhood Parks Council
2010 Board of Supervisors Candidate Questionnaire

District 2- Kat Anderson

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

Parks are an integral element of the city. They provide a refuge and a place of community for city residents, a way to protect the environment, a playground and development opportunities for children, and an attraction for tourists (bringing an economic benefit to the city to support the community as a whole). Parks and open space also contribute to property values and, of course, the beauty of the city.

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

I visited the George R Moscone Recreation Center most frequently with my children. We loved the playground (which we contributed to and painted a tile that became part of the wall decor within the playground), the Rec Center and its activities and we frequented the library. I still enjoy going there to use the putting green, to walk my dog and to observe the occasional softball game. And, I go to the library. Moscone is a great draw.

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

The Moscone Recreation Center due to the heavy use of the facility. Renovation of the eastern corner of Moscone and maintenance of the sports complex would be my top priority. I would address this need by speaking with Park and Rec about possible funding, to find out the best way to set up a public-private partnership to raise funds to address these needs and then begin to approach neighbors, businesses and charitable organizations about pitching in to help make Moscone even better. Of course, I'd consult with NPC about all of this, too!

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?

Security, cleanliness, and maintenance. San Francisco is challenged by social issues, including homelessness and crime. We must insure that our parks are safe to be used by residents. Established programs to serve the homeless must be leveraged, and police patrols used to insure that drug dealing, trash and sanitation do not pose threats to the use of parks by residents. Parks are also an easy target for budget cuts. Yet failure to maintain our parks makes San Francisco a less appealing place to live. Creating an environment where residents prefer to live elsewhere, and visitors don't

wish to use our parks, decreases the city's financial health and tax revenues over the long-term, outweighing any apparent near-term financial benefit by cutting the Rec & Park budget. Therefore, with consultation from the Rec and Park board, I would fight to retain funding and explore other funding sources.

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 vital. These organizations are most familiar with the issues and needs facing parks in their neighborhoods. Thus, they serve as an important forum and resource for city officials to address the needs of our parks, neighborhoods and residents. My commitment is 100% in terms of bringing volunteer groups like this into discussions about public open spaces. Personally, I support the NPC, having recently donated, and I am a Friends of the Urban Forest supporter/member. I planted 5 trees on my property and dozens around my neighborhood with the tremendous help of FUF.

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?

I would publicize the availability of this tool to local residents through community events, neighborhood forums, and online media, including the website for my office. I would also insure that reports are actively investigated and resolved so residents are encouraged to use the tool.

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?

I would make sure that parks were not easy targets for budget cuts, and enlist local residents and organizations to help improve and maintain parks and open spaces through self-directed initiatives. Over the longer-term, I would seek to invest funds where possible to make capital improvements and build new parks, playgrounds, and open space. These steps will provide a magnet to attract and maintain local residents.

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?

Volunteer community involvement wherever possible to help maintain the parks. Utilization of local-and-drought-resistant foliage and vegetation that requires less use of traditional lawn maintenance, grass cutting, tree trimming and watering. I would analyze the allocation of Rec and Park's resources as well, to see what might be "loosened" up and reallocated for maintenance. It could be that too much money is

being spent on a Policy Director, and not enough on keeping the grass green.

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?

Open space is a vital element in creating livable communities. I would support initiatives to incorporate open space into residential development standards.