



Neighborhood Parks Council
2010 Board of Supervisors Candidate Questionnaire

District 6- Glendon “Anna Conda” Hyde

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

They provide green space. Places for people to meet and be together. They promote mental and physical health.

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

I use Victoria Manalo Draves Park often because it is close to my house. This park gets many types of people from the community from homeless, condo owners, dog walkers and young people who live in the area. I love that this is a cross section of our community and that it is not a locked park and that the community shares so willingly. From basketball and baseball to a garden; there is something for everyone. Yerba Buena Park is also a huge favorite of mine because of the concert series! I never miss a concert if I can help it and its quite inspiring.

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

Boeddeker park! It is a shame that a park is locked in a place that could use this park the most. This park is right across the street from the police station and still it isn't left open for the public? Of all the neighborhoods the Tenderloin needs this space desperately and I find it a crime that these environs are not permitted to use this space.

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?

The first thing that the parks need is more staffing and infrastructure. More and more people are using the parks and often there isn't adequate facilities ie., clean operable bathrooms and trash cans. With so many people unemployed and using parks for gathering places the parks need more maintenance.

We can create opportunities for individuals to take care of the parks. Individuals, who qualify, could reside in assigned parks in trailers or small living accommodations. They would then be responsible for the security and the care of the park. This would give the individual pride, self-confidence and job training. The parks would benefit from having persons there keeping an eye open for vandals.

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 groups are great, but they need more support from the city in regards to funding and infrastructure. Groups can clean, plant, and protect a park, but without a supported working relationship with the city, only so much can happen. I can work to advocate for more financial support and maintenance. Also, community garden groups should all work together for the overall health of the entire parks system. I mean, that the parks from districts with deep pockets need to consider adopting parks in neighborhoods with less means.

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?

The Parks need adequate staffing. Too often maintenance persons are busy cleaning graffiti, at the sacrifice of equipment maintenance and safety. Each park needs an assigned paid staffperson. Simply clear signage promoting ParkScan.org could be created to educate the public about ParkScan.org. ParkScan.org could promote events in the parks that would get more people involved and aware of their existence.

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?

Creating and maintaining parks and greenspace takes money. The Parks Department is seriously underfunded. NPC needs to get creative. Can we create a city program to place people in job training programs working in the parks. Internships. Gardeners in residence.

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?

The parks could look into creating concessions in certain parks that could be rented or run by the city to generate some revenue. Around many of the parks restaurants, cafes, markets, and stores sell food and drinks to people who are going to spend the afternoon in the park. Concessions in the parks are another opportunity for job training.

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.