



## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

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*A completed questionnaire must be received by Wednesday, January 25, to have answers distributed to our stakeholders before early voting starts. Please return to [rachelbr@fotp.org](mailto:rachelbr@fotp.org).*

### ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND AND PRIORITIES RELATED TO PARKS

A. Briefly describe any accomplishments or projects you have been involved with related to parks.

**I worked on the Boulevard Enhancement Project in North Kenwood. The goal was to reestablish the boulevards as vital connections to the parks that enhanced the quality of life. Unfortunately many residents of the Quad Communities (North Kenwood, Oakland, Douglas and Grand Boulevard) had come to associate the parks with crime. This project built community civic pride and championed how parks contribute to safe and healthy communities.**

B. Are you planning to introduce legislation or initiatives to address any environmental justice issues? Do you have particular environmental priorities, park programming priorities, or see connections with other priorities for your community? If so, please identify those here.

**I would support the use of alternative energy in the parks for example using solar power for increased lighting.**

C. Chicago's motto is Urbs in Horto (City in a Garden). In the most recent *We Will Chicago* planning process, park discussions were thinly and inadequately spread across all the pillars and not a central focus of planning. How will you prioritize parks or demonstrate that parks are critical to healthy, thriving communities and the entire city and its residents?

Response:

**I will emphasize the connection between having adequate access to parks and improved public health.**

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

*Below are 11 topics related to parks. Please share your thoughts and policies on each subject using the list of bulleted questions as a guide.*

#### 1) EQUITY PLAN FOR CHICAGO'S PARKS



## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Forty years ago, On May 13, 1983, the [Chicago Park District entered into a consent decree with the federal government](#), resulting from a three-year investigation and a 1982 federal lawsuit addressing racial discrimination in the allocation of resources within the park district. The decree sought to promote equal and non-discriminatory treatment of Black and Latino communities by establishing rigorous and detailed systems, procedures and schedules that could assure equity, responsiveness, and transparency for these neighborhoods and their parks. It was in effect for six years, and Friends of the Parks registered our displeasure when the court lifted the order even though the Chicago Park District was not in full compliance with the terms of the Consent Decree.

Many other large cities have a written equity plan or framework to guide work for their park district, but Chicago has no such plan or codified standards despite documented racial inequity in park access and resources per our 2018 State of the Parks report. Public parks on the South and West Sides of Chicago often have less access to building facilities, fewer programs, and less investment in parks.

- What policies do you support to address this inequity and improve the park-going experience in South and West Side neighborhood parks?

### RESPONSE EQUITY PLAN FOR CHICAGO'S PARKS:

**I have decades of experience in the south side parks. I am very aware that the parks do not function as resources the way they do in other communities. Safety concerns limit the full and effective use of the parks for recreation and healthy exercise. We have to make sure that every park is safe and welcoming.**

### 2) GREEN SPACE AND CREATING NEW PARKS

While more than [98% of Chicagoans](#) live within a 10-minute walk of green space or a playground, **Chicago lags behind most other high-density cities in park acreage per capita and total city acreage committed to public parkland (9%)**. Residents' access to recreational amenities and facilities they hope to find in their parks is not equitable across the city. The West Side of the city has the least parks or green space. While most parkland is on the city's South Side, these parks receive less capital investment and programmatic funding than North Side parks and much of it is undeveloped or underdeveloped brownfield sites that do not yet support much or any public use. These facts demonstrate that Chicago continues to experience systemic racial inequity when it comes to accessing or creating new green spaces.

- How will you prioritize the creation of new green spaces and parks in your ward? How will you include the community in the planning and development process?  
**Because my ward is so well provided with parkland we have to focus on extending similar opportunities to other residents. In turn our neighborhood will benefit from improved safety, health and recreation in neighborhoods that suffer violence that drains resources across the city.**



## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

- What metrics or factors will you use to determine which communities should receive new green space? **What equity considerations will you include in your assessment? An alderman plays a limited role in the allocation but I am happy to work with other aldermen to address equity issues.**
- The 10-minute Trust for Public Land “walk score” mentioned above includes Chicago Park District spaces (parks, playlots, and beaches) and any green space in the city, including Forest Preserves, spaces managed by NeighborSpace, the 19 boulevards managed by the Chicago Department of Transportation, and privately owned public spaces (POPs). With all these various groups stewarding green spaces, coordination and comprehensive planning can be difficult and complex. How will you sort through the different managers to coordinate increasing access to parkland and green spaces in your ward? **I will educate myself about parks and personnel in my ward. I will convene people responsible for different types of green space to identify common concerns.**
- The Illinois state standard is 10 acres of green space for every 1000 residents. As urban planning and development occur in your ward, how will you ensure there is adequate green space for the community to thrive? **As I said above I will convene all of the parties. I will not accept donations from any interested party.**
- Developers and the City have often tried to assert that publicly owned private spaces (POPs) will always be accessible to the public, just as if they belonged to the Chicago Park District. Historically POPs have not always been equally accessible to all residents as the private owner ultimately controls the space. What is your vision for ensuring true public access to new green spaces being created in mega-developments and other planned developments? **My strategy would be to work closely with the city and county staff as well as the community groups. We also engage active public interest coalitions**
- As the Chicago Park District plans construction of new facilities (pickleball courts, basketball courts, fieldhouses, etc.), how will you allocate resources to address the realities of racial inequity in Chicago and historic disinvestment and neglect of some communities? How will you include the community in determining what facilities and amenities are needed? **I will attend as many community meetings as possible. I will also assign staff to attend meetings at particular coalitions and organizations**
- Golf courses count as green space and as park acres for residents, but the use is restricted to those playing a particular sport and paying a fee for service. What initiative do you support to make such spaces dual purpose or to expand usage to more residents? Any new spaces created must be multi-purpose spaces, for example tennis courts must be available for use as paddle ball courts, second football, soccer, field hockey and all other field sports must be able to access newly created open space. Lastly, consideration must be given to special needs residents.



## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

- As Chicago deindustrialized and closed former industrial sites, like General Iron and Damen Silos, large swaths of land and former buildings can be re-imagined and re-developed. For example, with the recent closing of General Iron in Lincoln Park and the development of Lincoln Yards, neighborhood advocates have asked for the site to be used as part of a new North Branch Park and Preserve. The preserve could expand access to the river for the whole city and decrease the green space deficit the community currently experiences and will get worse with the added residential density proposed for Lincoln Yards. How do you think comprehensively about the opportunity these sites and the transition across the city offers? How will you coordinate a vision across the city using these spaces to increase green space for all communities? How will you prioritize which neighborhoods or communities should experience development of these new de-industrialized green spaces first?

**Lincoln Yards/redeveloping industrial sites. I think that re-development of former industrialized sites along the Chicago River is one of the great litmus tests of Chicago's priorities, compassion and long term vision for our city. Public Parks have always been the great "levelers" in American society and Chicago's great legacy of parks is being challenged on our watch. A perfect example of this is in the 2nd and 43rd Wards, where debate surrounding river access and parkland has been an arduous and bitter debate. This goes beyond opening the riverfront to current residents. This is about the kind of city we are planning for future generations of Chicagoans .**

**What do we require of developers who rely on public money to fund mega projects that are uniquely situated on public waterways. And how do we choose projects to equally serve the most Chicagoans who deserve parks to enhance their quality of life? The river, and lakefront are at the top of our list of precious assets. In the case of Lincoln Yards and the riverfront properties nearby, the debate is still on-going. We have a one-time opportunity to repurpose private industrial land. I believe a riverfront park on the old General Iron site makes sense, not just for the 2nd, 32nd and 43rd Wards, but for all of Chicago. The conversations with the developer of Lincoln Yards are far from over. Over time, the population of that project will need tremendous support that has not been thoroughly fleshed out or funded including a potential elementary school and public library, to name just two. The North Branch Park Preserve would fill an existing five mile gap in Chicago's public riverfront park network between downtown and Belmont Avenue. Lincoln Yards and the Old General Iron, is the natural link connecting our river-oriented city parks to create a true connector of public access and enjoyment for all Chicagoans . Our western waterfront will inevitably become as defining and important to Chicago as our beloved park system spanning the lakefront.**



## **2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE**

**When TIF money is used on waterfront projects in particular, we have a compelling reason to demand that developers share greater responsibility to serve the public good and the private agenda. These two goals should not be viewed equally...the public good must always come first when public dollars are used.**

**Further, waterfront development must be viewed as a unique priority because the heightened benefits we can reap from the choicest parcels can be funneled immediately to all Chicagoans- to maintain and augment existing landlocked parks as well as unlock the special treasure of the riverfront.**

**In my role as 43rd Ward Alderman I would pursue a Private Public partnership to develop a park along the North Branch of the Chicago River. Working with adjacent Alderman, the current landowner, the Park District, the Mayor and entities like Friends of the Parks, this can become a reality. But, only as a united front can we successfully work with developers of these former industrialized sites to be re-imagined. Fractured discussions will not produce a satisfactory outcome for current or future Chicagoans. In the most basic terms, we must initially exploit the opportunities on the most expensive, high profile projects in order to fund and enhance the entire Chicago Park District.**

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## **2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE**

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### **RESPONSE GREEN SPACE AND CREATING NEW PARKS:**

#### **3) LAKEFRONT**

Chicago's lakefront is a gem of the city and our city is unique in preserving the lake for all people. Currently, 26 of the 30 miles are publicly available for use and protected for the public, but two miles to the north and south remain cut off from public parks, beaches, and paths.



## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

- What policies do you support to ensure the lakefront remains free and clear for all Chicagoans to enjoy? Please consider both the preservation of space (such as the Lakefront Protection Ordinance and Public Trust Doctrine) and practices that affect use (such as facilities and policing). **There are two issues here: maintaining public ownership of the parks is first but second that all of the parks are sufficiently safe to welcome real public access. There is no point in owning something that you're afraid to use. I have direct experience of community assets that are under utilized.**
- What efforts do you support to increase access to the city's lakefront by pedestrians, transit riders, cyclists, and people using wheelchairs and other mobility supports? **To increase access to the lakefront and some of our public parks I would advocate for a park pass. That's a prepaid transit card to enable families of moderate means to travel inexpensively to our parks and lakefront.**

### RESPONSE LAKEFRONT:

#### 4) ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

In February 2020, Chicago declared a climate change emergency in response to severe storms and lakeshore erosion. Lakefront parks and beaches across the city suffer a battering of lake waves and the loss of sand and erosion at alarming rates. It is estimated that the storms of 2020 caused [\\$37 million in damages](#) to beaches and parks. Erosion, intense storms, and the failing of concrete revetments, metal girders and rock barriers installed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have caused [4 beaches in Roger Park](#) to be washed away and closed; revealed infill at Rainbow Beach as sand was lost; resulted lake water levels reached the top of the stairs at Calumet Park Beach House; and led to the permanent closing of a third of the [Northerly Island walking path](#)—merely a year after it was opened in 2015.

The threat is only going to continue. Concrete, metal and rock barriers push higher water to unprotected places. Lake levels have always fluctuated, but scientists believe lake levels will continue to trend higher. Regardless of lake level, the increased severity of storm surges due to climate change place our [shoreline communities at greater risk](#) of flooding and damage.

**Nature-based solutions are a resilient, long-term, cost-effective method to manage the impact of climate change along the lake and across the city.** This approach uses natural ecosystems to provide protection such as wetlands for flood mitigation; trees and prairie spaces to combat the heat island effect; and mangroves to reduce the impact of waves, storm surge, and coastal erosion. These ecosystems also soften climate impacts, such as extreme weather, and reduce climate pollution by capturing carbon dioxide from the air and sequestering it in plants and soils.

Parkland and beaches are already a nature-based solution. The sand, soil, and plantings provide buffering and absorption that helps manage the fluctuation in lake levels and more frequent and severe





## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

storms. These green spaces furnish lakefront with recreational or contemplative areas and habitats for humans and wildlife to enjoy.

- How will you support the preservation or expansion of parkland, native plants, and healthy, mature trees and new tree planting across the city to combat climate change impacts that affect the shoreline and inland communities? **It's important to remember that many of the beloved features of our lakefront are man made including the Point which I grew up enjoying which is not a natural creation. However, the parks offer us a unique opportunity to teach young people about native plants, the life cycles of healthy trees and how we can support nature in order to combat climate change.**

### RESPONSE ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:

#### 5) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARK ADVISORY COUNCILS

About 200 of Chicago's over 600 parks, beaches, playlots, and playgrounds have recognized Park Advisory Councils (PACs), resident groups of committed volunteers who support their parks through volunteerism, fundraising and other activities. Many PACs want influence over programs and maintenance and decisions about how parks will be used, but in reality, many feel left out of those decisions. At times, new permits are handed out for large events or art installations and PAC members or leadership don't find out until the event is underway or changes are being made to the park.

- Across the city there is no required or standard process around public notice and community input for park projects. How will you make sure that the public is informed and engaged in development, capital improvements, urban planning, large event or space rentals, and park planning decisions in your ward? **I will do 2 things first. I will make sure that all applications are shared on my website. In addition, I will require developers to present their plans to the community regardless if this is required by ordinance.**
- How will you engage with Park Advisory Councils in urban planning, budgeting, funding decisions, considering capital improvement, determining park programming, and deciding what events or installations are placed in parks in your ward? **In my experience many park advisory council members have a wealth of experience and information. They know which programs succeeded and which failed. Many have long term local knowledge which should be accessed to help us make good plans for the future. I would implement a 43rd ward park advisory council. I would request individuals and organizations to nominate residents with particular skills and experience.**
- How will you support the formation or the rebuilding of Park Advisory Councils in your ward? **See above**





## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

### RESPONSE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARK ADVISORY COUNCILS:

#### 6) PARK PRIVATIZATION AND REVENUE

The Park District generates most of its income from property taxes, and over the last decade, its share of those taxes has declined from 6.1% to 4.7%. The average property tax unit pays \$260 towards the Park District's budget.

To supplement income, the Chicago Park District has increased revenue generating activity – raising fees for harbor and golf courses; issuing permits and renting out parks for private festivals; contracting with more concessionaires or other vendors; adding billboard or advertising; renting space for Amazon lockers; increased renting out park buildings and facilities as special event spaces. Some of these activities close off parkland and public facilities for weeks during the summer and over popular weekends, damage park facilities, and create a distraction for park users who seek tranquility or a natural oasis. While some renters and permit holders repair park damage, it takes months for vegetation to regrow or capital improvements to be finished, impeding park use far beyond the closures.

Some of the most notable examples of these revenue generating activities have been new contracts with Lollapalooza, the NASCAR race planned for 2023, and mega-festivals in Douglass Park. Residents across the city cite a feeling that parks have been commercialized and are no longer public, community spaces for people.

- As park district spaces have refocused on revenue-generating outside events, many community partners and programs have been booted from park district buildings and grounds, or can no longer afford to use the space. What policies do you support to prioritize the use of park space for residents and community groups over revenue generating activities and improve community engagement by private groups seeking to operate for profit in public parks?  
**I would work to help improve the permit process. The larger issue is reducing the need for the parks to generate income. that would be accomplished by the cost savings the city can realize through improvements in public safety and public transportation our current wasteful habits puts stress on the city budget that inspires short term remedies such as raising permit fees**
- The income from these events does not go to a specific park, but rather to the Park District budget as a whole, leaving some residents to feel their park bears the brunt of the burden without reaping benefits. How do we ensure the impact and benefits of these rental events or fees are spread equitably? **As I have said I am concerned about reducing the need to charge so many fees the fee will be less controversial and burdensome as they are reduced.**
- In the need to find new funding sources or expand programming, the Park District often balances private or non-profit partners and community programming, users, or needs. At times the



## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

interests of these different park users can be at odds. One example is a private baseball program that would like to pay for and install new lights at [Welles Park](#), but some community members are opposed. How will you manage the competing interests of various stakeholders when money is involved? **It is really important that the search for additional funding not distort the underlying purpose for public parks.**

- When permits are issued for large music festivals or events, like the NASCAR race, the Park District does not have to consult alderpeople, but the event requires resources and time from multiple city departments, such as the police department to manage crowds, CDOT to reorganize traffic, and Streets and Sanitation to clean up. What policies do you support to increase coordination between city agencies, community members, and the Park District when determining what large events happen in parks?  
**To really ensure a public voice in these important discussions we have to find enough within the city b budget to maintain and support our parks**
- To what extent should the Park District's budget rely on private, revenue generating events, vendors and concession stands, fees for service, advertisements (i.e. billboards), and renting the parks to for-profit groups?

### RESPONSE PARK PRIVATIZATION AND REVENUE:

#### 7) BUDGET PROCESS AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

The Chicago Park District's annual budget process offers a public hearing, an online forum for input, and a vote at an open board meeting. It is questionable whether there is adequate space for resident input or sufficient power and influence ascribed to their input. Many park activists are unaware that the online forums exist or how they would have access them and they face barriers to attending the public meetings.

- The Chicago Park District should actively engage park stakeholders across the city in the budgeting process, particularly with the Capital Improvement Projects. Efforts should be made to understand and address any barriers to participation from historically disenfranchised populations. What will you do to help the Chicago Park District find ways to extend more budgetary control to the public and incorporate community participation into their annual budgets? **We should encourage public participation online as well as through meeting attendance. This is to ensure as broad and varied participation as is possible. In addition, online participation efforts should be made to meet directly with disenfranchised communities, for example on the south and west side churches would provide an attractive and efficient way of soliciting community involvement.**
- Each year, the Park District accepts submissions for capital improvement requests from a variety of sources. More than one in three requests from elected officials are approved, while only



## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

about one in five requests from the public are approved. As an Alderman, how would you use your influence to support capital improvement requests for parks in your ward and across the city? **I would support direct public input into the list of priorities that I submit to the park district on behalf of my ward.**

- Park Advisory Councils have advocated for Menu Money, Tax Increment Financing District Funding, Capital Improvement Programs, Open Space Impact Fees, and Special Service Area Program Funding as resources to supplement Park District funding. As Alderman you have access to and influence over a variety of city funding streams to support projects in your ward. How will you use your influence to support investment and improvement of parks in your ward and the city? What funding priorities would you promote? **My funding priorities are. public safety, education and recreation in that order.**

### RESPONSE BUDGET PROCESS AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION:

#### 8) PARK ACCESSIBILITY, FACILITIES, & AMENITIES

In the South and West sides of the city, larger park or natural areas are not easily accessible by public transportation. Many parks and natural areas typically lack accessibility for people with disabilities, or only a portion are accessible. While some heavily-trafficked areas like the Lakefront trail may tend to have open and clean bathrooms, many other parks have dirty, locked, or no bathroom facilities. Without access to a bathroom, the time residents can spend or activities they can engage in at a park are limited. Some parks lack lights, clear parking spaces, signs at the entrance, multilingual signage or signage throughout to identify elements of the park. In some cases, roads leading into parks are blocked with gates and barricades at all hours.

- What steps will you take to ensure our parks, playlots, beaches, and trails are welcoming and accessible places for everyone? **I will work with appropriate nonprofits to assess how accessible our parks and playgrounds really are.**
- Pet owners bring their dogs to parks, playlots, paths, and beaches across the city. Dogs can also be a barrier to other residents' enjoyment or a threat to wildlife. How will you engage with various points of views about dogs in parks? **Many dog owners meet a high standard of responsibility I would enlist their help in reaching out to pet owners who are less sensitive to community needs**
- As the Chicago Park District plans improvement and maintenance of fieldhouses, playgrounds, and other recreation facilities, how will you prioritize resources based on historic disinvestment faced by some parks and communities? How will you include the community in the decision-making process? How will a commitment to racial equity impact your actions?



## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

My many years of service on the south side of Chicago has both trained and sensitized me to these issues. A frank discussion is the first step. I find that people are much more cooperative and creative when the cards are on the table.

- Field houses across the city are often closed on weekends and evenings. These closures mean people lack access to bathrooms, staff assistance or programming. Similarly, park bathrooms outside field houses are often locked, or many parks have no bathroom. What will you do to make sure park field houses and the resources they provide can reach more residents? **We may have to access some funding designated for public health and cleanliness to address this issue.**
- Often, new construction developments are allowed to use developer-owned "publicly accessible" green spaces to satisfy open space requirements rather than Chicago Park District-controlled land. When private corporations dictate the development, management, and public access to green spaces, it seldom leads to park spaces desired by Chicago. These privately administered spaces are subject to different operating hours and rules than local parks. Additionally, when departments in the City government collaborate for new development or capital improvement to be "shared," the park users miss out on access or design of the space. An example is Whitney Young's Sports Complex, funded entirely with tax-increment financing. What is your vision to ensuring true public access to new green spaces, facilities, or amenities that are a funded with public dollars or promise public access during construction? How will you use your position to support that vision? **We can't control access if we are not using public money. If TIF funds are involved public access should be required. I would be extremely reluctant to support anything that did not meet that standard. When soliciting private funding we should emphasize the value of community access.**

### RESPONSE PARK ACCESSIBILITY, FACILITIES, & AMENITIES:

#### 9) PARK PROGRAMMING

Annually, more than 350,000 people participate through the Chicago Park District in thousands of sports, recreational, cultural, and environmental programs across the city. Yet the distribution of programs is often inequitable and mismatched, failing to meet the needs of local communities effectively. Even preliminary research indicates dramatic inequities across the city in the amount of programs and services offered. At times, programs feel dropped into a community without community input or research. In addition, the programs families are looking to for their health, cultural, and recreation may also be financially out of reach.

Where processes existed under the 1983 Consent Decree to ensure equitably distributed and responsive programming, many parks now lack the programs that are culturally relevant and affordable.



## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

- Parks can be essential resources for people of all ages in a community, especially because they offer classes, camps, pools, exercise equipment and facilities, and chances to socialize. What resources will you invest in parks to prioritize use by diverse populations – seniors, families and children, people with disabilities, and teenagers? How will you ensure park programming is culturally relevant to BIPOC communities that have experienced exclusion and disinvestment? **Assisting diverse populations requires sensitivity to cultural mandates.**
- What will you do to support residents and community groups to have access to park space and programming for no or low cost? **I would use part of my menu money to encourage others to support the broad availability of park activities.**
- Parks across Chicago do not have the same access to sufficient, culturally relevant, and affordable programs or have space maintained to meet the needs of the community. What will you do to ensure equity in park programming and resources (facilities, maintenance, etc.) for parks in your ward and across Chicago, keeping in mind the historic underinvestment in West and South Side parks? **I will work with concerned citizens and other aldermen to attract new sources of funding including foundations and other tax exempt organizations.**
- How will you include the community in program design and program offering in their parks to make sure it is sufficient, relevant, and affordable and to proactively account for external community problems related to public safety and violence? **I will rely on informed residents and local organizations to help me build the strongest case for increased investment in our ward. I will make sure that when we do get funding everyone involved is acknowledged and celebrated.**

### RESPONSE PARK PROGRAMMING:

#### 10) SAFETY

Feelings of safety and security greatly shape how park spaces are experienced. While some park users feel vulnerable when parks are too empty, others want quiet, wide-open, empty spaces. Some fear gun violence, and others fear oppressive police presence. Some are worried about playground conditions, and others are worried about vandalism. Some want more lights or call boxes. All of these are important considerations as we address safety concerns.

In the summer of 2022, as a response to the death of Chicago teenager, a curfew was enacted at Millennium Park to restrict event access to the park for young residents not accompanied by an adult or attending a ticketed event. In multiple Listening Tour sessions in different parts of Chicago, we heard similar statements that represent a specific loss of access to park amenities after violence occurred in their parks. If the response to select instances of violence in parks is to close, restrict, or remove certain



## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

amenities, this seems like the beginning of a very dangerous trend of the Chicago Park District punishing entire communities for the actions of a few.

- How will you approach safety in a way that does not unfairly punish entire communities for the behavior of the few? **I have devoted much of my professional life to promoting public safety solutions that do not stigmatize BIPOC. It is very important to go after actual offenders and to focus services and other interventions on people who are at risk of offending**
- How would you ensure residents of all ages can access public amenities while balancing concerns for public safety? **I would work to ensure and publicize ro access for everyone I believe that participation in sports and cultural activities can build better understanding and tolerance,**
- What steps will you take or policies will you support to increase the public safety of Chicago's parks, playlots, playgrounds, paths, and beaches beyond increasing police presence? I would bring back playgrounds games organizers to on the one hand encourage active play and provide additional adult supervision.

### RESPONSE SAFETY:

#### 11) PARK DISTRICT OVERSIGHT

- The Chicago Park District is not a department of the city government, but a separate governmental entity. However, the Chicago Park District's Board of Commissioners' members are nominated by the mayor and must be approved by the Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation. What policies do you support to make sure nominees have **demonstrated relevant experience, background and skills sets related to parks? At a minimum detailed resumes for all potential members should be provided to aldermen, In addition we should see if some of our trusted parks advocacy groups would be willing to nominate new members.**
- How will you use your role to provide oversight to the parks, playlots and beaches in your ward?

### RESPONSE PARK DISTRICT OVERSIGHT:

## WARD SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

### ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR **WARD 5, 7 AND 10**

- In 2022, a [community ballot referendum](#) in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Wards asked the city to stop cutting down trees in Jackson Park and the area surrounding the South Shore Cultural Center passed by 82%. The trees are at risk due to the construction of the Obama Presidential Center and the proposals to merge Jackson Park and the South Shore Cultural Center golf courses into a



## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

new PGA golf course. As Alderman, how will you work to support the community's preference to save the trees in Jackson Park, the South Shore Cultural Center, South Shore Nature Sanctuary, and the surrounding community areas?

### ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR **WARD 10**

A toxic dump occupies 50 acres of shoreline on one of the last critical pieces of land on the South Side to complete Daniel Burnham's vision of a park system spanning the entire Chicago lakefront. The [Chicago Area Confined Disposal Facility \(CDF\)](#) sits on Lake Michigan between the Calumet River and Calumet Park in the 10<sup>th</sup> ward. The land is owned by the Chicago Park District but leased to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to store dredge until full. In 2022, the CDF maxed out the storage space and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has asked to expand the facility 25 feet vertically to keep it open.

The site, built in the 1980s, is a legacy of previous industrial uses of the river, the only industrial or toxic site on Chicago's shoreline, and is leaking into the Calumet River and Lake Michigan--leaking that could worsen with rising water levels and storm surges fueled by climate change.

- Chicago residents have waited almost 40 years for the land to be returned and created into a public park. As Alderman, what next steps do you support related to the CDF?

### PARK PRIVATIZATION AND REVENUE ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR **WARD 24**

- What will you do increase community engagement about the decision to hold festivals in parks, how will you respond to stakeholder feedback, and what will you do to ensure the impact and benefits of these rental events or fees return to Douglass park?

### NEW BUILDINGS IN PARKS **WARD 26**

In 2022 an unpermitted, unapproved building project was undertaken in a non-democratic process with state funds by the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture in historic Humboldt Park next to the landmarked former stables building (and office of Jens Jensen).

- Please disclose any formal or informal leadership roles in the community that you have held or currently hold that relate to National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture and their plan to develop structures on public parkland.
- What did you know about or how were you involved with this project before construction was halted in September 2022?
- How will you offer leadership to remedy this situation?

### ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR **WARD 48 & 49**

- What will you do to support vulnerable shoreline communities from the threat of flooding, erosion, and the impact of climate change?





## 2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

### PARK ACCESSIBILITY, FACILITIES, & AMENITIES ADDITIONAL QUESTION **WARD 49**

- [Touhy Park](#) has seen an encampment in the park for almost 2 years. The Park District has moved some activities to neighboring parks. The Police Department and the City has a policy not to evict people staying on public land. What policies and actions do you support to address this encampment that will manage the needs of the various people involved?