

At-Large City Council Candidate Bill Green

Question 1

Philadelphia is blessed to be the child of William Penn's vision of a "Greene Countrie Towne." From the original squares of Center City to Fairmount Park, the world's largest inner-city park system, Philadelphia's 63 neighborhood parks serve to make the City a better place to live for all Philadelphians.

This is never more true than in the 21st Century, where the demands on people's time, the stress of the everyday world, and the speed at which we all live need some leavening. Whether for leisure or exercise -- or both -- parks create an oasis in which we can disconnect from ever-present technology (if we choose) and enjoy a quiet moment or play a game with friends.

It goes without saying that the city's Department of Parks and Recreation has an important role to play in helping to address obesity, a major public health concern in Philadelphia. With childhood obesity rates topping 50% in some neighborhoods, we need to integrate our parks and rec infrastructure and programming into a coordinated effort to address this issue.

Question 2

Funding for all City departments remains a serious issue in this time of ongoing economic challenges and scant resources. Throughout my time on City Council I have approached the budget with seriousness and purpose: my primary aim has been to use data-based decision-making to devote resources where they can be most effective and achieve desired results.

I would support additional funding for the Department of Parks and Recreation once we have provided adequate funding for life-safety related City services including, for example, critical improvements in police and fire facilities.