

At-Large Council Candidate Jim Kenney

*Question 1*

The Fairmount Park system provides numerous benefits to Philadelphia. It serves as a recreational retreat to our residents, houses numerous destinations for residents and visitors and adds significant environmental and visual value to the entire city. Our wonderful and vast park space must continue to be preserved and revitalized to attract residents and tourists to our great City. These efforts will also play a significant role in achieving Philadelphia's goal of becoming America's greenest city. Another important and unique part of our park system is that it houses numerous historic landmarks and buildings. These treasures play an important role in attracting visitors with various interests to our park system and our city.

All of these wonderful assets are part of the foundation of Philadelphia's future as a sustainable and vibrant city. I remain committed to supporting and exploring opportunities to build upon our parkland so that more residents and visitors may enjoy all that it offers.

*Question 2*

As a current Councilmember, I have been very supportive of the Department of Parks and Recreation and if reelected will continue this support. I understand that the City's financial resources are limited, especially by the recent economic downturn, so I think that now is the time for a creative and more collaborative approach to maintaining and expanding our programs and services. As the chair of the Committee on the Environment, I have investigated a number of sustainable technologies that would improve our park and recreational space to accommodate more use. I have urged the Administration to explore outside funding opportunities – including grants and private contributors – to make these improvements a reality. I also fully support private investments in our parkland, with the involvement and approval of community groups and the Conservancy, to beautify and reclaim parkland areas. One example that comes to mind is the revitalization of part of FDR Park with a restaurant on Meadow Lake. This private investment would include the cleaning of the lake and surrounding area and would attract more people to this wonderful landmark. Simple additions that compliment and support our parkland as green and public space should be welcomed and fully explored in addition to advocating for adequate city funding.