



Somerville Dog Owners Group  
Questionnaire for Candidates  
2007 Municipal Elections

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Office for which you are seeking election: Ward 5 Alderman

1. Tell us about your experiences as a Somerville resident at our municipal parks. What parks do you visit, how often, what do you do there when you visit?

As a child growing up in Somerville, I used Trum Field and the playground on Franey Road on a daily basis. Baseball, the inter-playground track meets, summer recreation programs and ice skating in winter. The pool at Foss park was a hot summers day delight. Prospect Hill Tower on the night of the Boston fireworks was always the best seat in town. Schoolyards offered great places for pick-up games of stick ball etc.

Today, I walk my grandnieces and nephews to the Trum playground on Franey Road when they come for a visit. I frequent the Community Path and use the Path for transportation, casual walks and biking to Lexington and Bedford.

2. Somerville has just over two (2) acres of open space for every thousand residents. We are the most densely populated city in the Commonwealth. Compare that to Cambridge, the second most densely populated city in Massachusetts, where there are over eight (8) acres of open space for every thousand residents. What will you do in the upcoming term to increase the area of open space per capita in Somerville.

The current requirements for open space contribution by large scale developments should be increased. As Alderman, I will introduce a plan for community discussion, which would require large scale developers to contribute funds to a "land preservation trust". Mitigation funds would be used by the City to acquire land to be used for the residents/civic group recreational use.

3. Despite recent improvements, nonetheless families with dogs remain underserved by Somerville's open spaces, particularly in East Somerville, in West Somerville and in the Davis Square, Magoun Square and Winter Hill neighborhoods. What opportunities will you create to improve access for families with dogs to open space?

As stated above, the acquisition of new land by the city could be used by special civic improvement groups with, city approval.

**promoting responsible dog ownership, safe and legal options for off-leash recreation and the equitable distribution of open space in Somerville, MA.**

4. The Somerville Dog Owners Group has been delighted to see improvements in recent years in the City's Animal Control Department and in the enforcement of municipal ordinances pertaining to animals, including the leash law and the "pooper-scooper" law. What initiatives would you undertake to further improve Animal Control in Somerville?

As a frequent user of the Community Path, I would like to see the Animal Control Department increase the number of personnel and their presence on the Path as well as in all city parks for the protection and safety not only of dog owners but for all open space users.

5. Do you own a dog/dogs? I currently do not own a dog.

6. If you are a dog owner please tell us about your dog(s); if not, please share some of your experiences with dogs in the community.

My dogs who have passed were named Kelly(10 year old Cocker Spaniel), Lucas(2 year old Irish Setter) and Dave(a great mutt). Currently in the Lynch family, Sebastian(4 year Bull Mastiff)and Chili(6 year mix Pekineses) and Pebbles(hard to describe) are the objects of much love, affection and attention.

My best four legged friends in the neighborhood are Buddy the Wonder-dog and Buntie. Both are helping me with the 2007 campaign for Alderman from Ward 5.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your questions

Return to:  
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