

Al Bartell

Mayoral Forum on Greenspace Responses

1. What do you believe is the single most pressing issue impacting Atlanta's urban forest and greenspace, and how would you solve that issue?

Stormwater management is the single most pressing issue impacting Atlanta's urban forest and greenspace. I would solve the issue of stormwater management by creating a stormwater utility as a division of a citywide Department of the Environment.

2. The community is frustrated with widespread tree destruction and removal on teardown/infill sites. Would you support tree ordinance changes that limit impervious surface and total clear-cutting?

Yes.

3. How would you get the development community on board with growing and building our city while protecting our greenspace?

I would get the development community on board with growing and building our city while protecting our greenspace by having neighborhood, community, faith, and small business leaders get involved and be included in communicating data, collecting data, and distributing data -- through the establishment of the City of Atlanta Department of Environment.

4. As Mayor, what would you do to evaluate the current state of maintenance of our park system?

I would re-institute the Task Force for Park and Greenspace.

5. How would you make the case for increased funding for park maintenance? Are there specific funding sources you would consider for park funding aside from general funds?

I would make the case for increased funding in the area of park maintenance by shifting the budget priorities from resource management to greenspace management. The funding sources I would consider are the impact fees of large development projects and light industry initiatives.

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6. Do you believe we need more parks and protected greenspace? Are you in favor of convening a new Parks and Greenspace Task Force?

Yes and yes.

7. Providing specific details, how would you develop a plan for our city that includes both future growth and our urban forest?

I would develop a plan for our city that includes both future growth and our urban forest by including data from Atlanta's 240 neighborhood associations and 25 Neighborhood Planning Units through the establishing of a City of Atlanta Department of Environment.

8. How do you see the City's role changing as maintenance of the Atlanta BeltLine becomes a more prominent issue?

I see the City's role changing by giving back to the communities of Atlanta ownership and development of Atlanta Beltline maintenance through engagement strategies.

9. What is the likelihood that the City will increase its commitment to maintenance of the BeltLine as this is critical to securing philanthropic support to make the Atlanta BeltLine a reality?

It is very likely the City will increase its commitment to maintenance of the Beltline, if the City shifts from a corporate model of government to an urban model of government.

10. What would you do in your first 100 days as Mayor to preserve and maintain the City's parks and greenspaces?

I would initiate a working group to establish the City of Atlanta Department of Environment.

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11. The city of Atlanta relies on Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River for high quality drinking water. And, when completed, the Bellwood Quarry will provide 30-days of emergency water supply for the city. What can the city do to cultivate a “culture of conservation” to ensure the city’s water supply, wastewater, and storm water management are resilient?

What the city can do to cultivate a “culture of conservation” is to redesign its communication strategies to the public.

12. The city of Atlanta holds the permit to the largest wastewater treatment facilities in the southeast, but does not treat its effluent to the highest quality for return into the Chattahoochee River. Will your administration invest in the health of our river and upgrade its wastewater treatment capabilities to current technological standards?

Yes, my administration will invest in the health of the Chattahoochee River and upgrade its wastewater treatment capabilities to current technological standards by implementing a system based on current environmental data rather than failed political marketing strategies.