

Suggestions for Public Parks

Lisa Jeanne Graf, written in Sept 23, 2019, and edited in Dec. 2020

The Boston Parks department will be spending \$28 million dollars on the Boston Common. In 2019 the parks department was looking for community feedback on how to spend those funds. My ideas below were inspired thinking of the Common specifically but could also be used in other locations. Here is a [link](#) to a youtube interview about this.

Suggestions:

1. To have as much as possible lighting and electricity generated from solar and wind power. There could be an international competition to accomplish this that would give status to Boston and push for innovation in this area. If this could be accomplished, it would be impressive.
2. Public art could generate solar and wind power
3. Increase the number of trees, to increase the city canopy
4. There could be solar benches for internet access and wi fi in parks.
5. Surveillance cameras could be taken away to save money and respect privacy
6. There could be spots in the park to access things like hand warmers, blankets.
7. There could be heated benches in the winter
8. Pay residents without homes to be park ambassadors (including sharing information about what city services are available) and have a pipeline to be park staff. Youth/seniors could also be hired for these positions.

Question: What other government programs could help provide employment to people without homes?

- a. One possibility would be to add more staff to the mayor's mural crew and offer employment opportunities to artists who are not housed.

Note: I shared most of these ideas with the parks department on Sept 23

Addressing Climate Change:

- Supporting Widett Circle being set aside as a marshland.
- Building canals in the city.
- Removing asphalt in alley ways to have more land that can absorb rainwater
- Adding edible fruit trees along sidewalks and in newly created pocket parks.
- Focusing the most funds on neighborhoods with the least green space, and the most industrial and car pollution, not on parks already in excellent shape.
- Zoning that allows for swapping parking space for green space in developments and allows for a little more building height with that shift.

Question: Would adding land along the waterfront of Boston would be helpful for addressing flooding?

Note: These ideas were compiled after Sept 23.

Research

Cambridge MA:

Cambridge councilors pass tree removal moratorium

<https://cambridge.wickedlocal.com/news/20190227/cambridge-councilors-pass-tree-removal-moratorium>