

D6 Honey Mahogany

November 2022 Election

What park in your district do you use the most, and what do you love about it?

Victoria Manalo Draves Park – SOMA is a district with a dearth of green spaces, and Victoria Manalo Draves Park is an oasis within that. It is a park for everyone, families, seniors, pet owners, and the name honors the history of the neighborhood.

Are there any parks in your district that you feel need help? If so, which one do you feel needs the most help and what do you propose?

The Rincon Hill Dog Park could use some more support and amenities to make it more usable and friendly. Additionally, there is a small public space near Valencia and McCoppin that was formerly a container garden. Unfortunately, that space ended up not receiving the support it needed and became neglected and has become locked down. I'd like to see the space re-opened and revitalized. We also have opportunities for new parks throughout SOMA and I will be pushing the Parks and Recreations Department to prioritize the acquisition of space for public parks in the district.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing SF parks in the next 4 years? How do you intend to address this?

One of the biggest challenges our parks face is maintenance. Many of our parks don't get enough attention. Unfortunately, that can not only be unsightly but can also be dangerous. We need to find ways to better invest in the maintenance and stewardship of our parks. Another challenge SF Parks face in the next four years is the acclimation to our rapid climate change. This year we saw multiple heatwaves that brought record-breaking temperatures to the bay area. San Francisco also saw one of its driest rain seasons on record. A problem that has kept our state in an extreme drought for its fifth year in a row. We will need to work hard to ensure that we are making our Parks as drought resistant as possible so we can conserve water while also expanding upon green space.

What were some of the successes and failures of COVID- era public space programs in your district? Be specific.

While working in the District 6 Office during COVID, we were able to help implement some street closures that really helped provide space for children and their families to spend time outdoors, especially when distance learning was happening, and many kids were cooped up indoors in high-rise apartments all day. We found that having these spaces be stewarded

and programmed was a key part of their success. We did see that a lack of stewardship for street closures and public spaces could have the opposite effect and lead to blight.

How do you plan to move forward with COVID-era changes made to parks and public spaces in your district?

Due to our district's limited access to outdoor space, parklets have been a great way of helping our streets feel more active, accessible, and friendly. I want to help strengthen and improve our Parklet Programs.

I also am going to push for more stewardship of our parks and public spaces so that they are kept clean and healthy for our residents to enjoy.

What involvement do you have with volunteer community groups in your district?

I've worked with a number of community groups in my district over the years: Leather & LGBTQ Cultural District, Folsom Street, Berrison Street Fair, How Weird Street Fair, West Bay, United Playaz, SOMA Pilipinas, SOMCAN, and Kapwa Gardens are some community groups that I've worked with over the years to name a few.

We've heard from our partners that they believe the city permitting process is the greatest hurdle to serving public spaces. If you believe any changes need to be made, what would your proposals be?

I think this is true. When it comes to closing streets for fairs and when it comes to securing permits for food trucks, the permitting process can become overly burdensome. It would be helpful to have more support for businesses and organizers around permitting such as a permitting ombudsman to help walk them through the process and also identify ways in which the permitting process should be streamlined. This is something I'd be happy to pursue.

As for further changes, District 6 is the district that has had the least amount of green space per resident. Over the last 4 years, we have advocated for more resources for the parks that we do have to make them more accessible and greener. I've worked to expand the usage of public space and worked with city departments like Public Works, SFMTA, and Rec & Park, organizations like Demonstration Gardens, several CBD's, and other local community groups and non-profit organizations to further green our densely populated district. Some of this has looked like advocating for more tree planting and pushing for more resources so that the Bureau of Urban Forestry can better care for our new trees until they are well established. We have also taken over abandoned lots and slow streets and turned them into container gardens in parts of SOMA and the Tenderloin. We also have relentlessly advocated with Rec & Park to prioritize purchasing land in SOMA in particular to provide more public open space.

As Supervisor, I am committed to fighting for more robust greening efforts throughout my district and the city. I hope that SOMA can be a neighborhood known for its tree-lined streets, wide, walkable sidewalks, extensive protected bike lane routes, and well-maintained and beautiful public parks and open spaces, as well as its tall buildings, office space, and arts & culture.

According to the SF Recreation and Parks Department, they currently have about \$1.5 billion in deferred maintenance. How do you plan to tackle this?

This is an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed in a couple of ways:

1. Get help from the State to help address some of this deferred maintenance, and apply to State and Federal Grants
2. Go to the ballot with a bond measure
3. Identify potential tax revenue for ongoing maintenance so we don't end up in this same position again.