



Questionnaire to the 2022 City of Red Bank, TN, Commission Candidates

September 2022

This survey is composed and submitted by the local citizens' group, *Save Red Bank Central Park*.

Red Bank, Tennessee, has eight official city parks. Seven of these provide a total developed area of 36.0 acres, equivalent to 0.87% of the total area (4,122 acres) of the city. In the US, the national median for the portion of cities devoted to parks is 9.3%.

Two of those seven developed Red Bank parks – comprising 14.5 acres of the 36.0 total acres of park space – are ballfield/boxing complexes that are *off limits* to the general public. Another, the Red Bank Swimming Pool, is open only one-third of the year and charges an entry fee, even for Red Bank citizens. Yet another is the “Bi-Lo Town Center Park,” the 0.06-acre clock garden at Dayton Boulevard and Morrison Springs Road. Thus, only three Red Bank parks, totaling 20.5 acres, provide functional public space and public amenities typical of city parks. The eighth Red Bank park, Stringer’s Ridge (majority owned by Chattanooga), offers wooded and hilly hiking/biking trails that are a valuable public resource, but do not serve typical city park functions.

The local citizens’ movement, *Save Red Bank Central Park (SRBCP)*, aims to permanently protect in public ownership all 12 acres of the former middle school property at 3715 Dayton Boulevard. Our goal is to develop an epic cultural and recreational commons that defines our city, energizes our economy, and exists for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.

To promote an informed Red Bank citizenry prior to the 2022 election for the Red Bank Commission, SRBCP solicits your thoughtful but concise written responses to the following questions **by September 15, 2022**. SRBCP intends to publish and distribute the answers of all six candidates.

The questionnaire form only allows one submission; your answers cannot be changed once submitted. The questions should appear in the email that you receive with the form, so you can see the questions and craft your answers in a Word document before pasting them into the form for final submission. Thank you!

1. Compared with other priorities for the City, how important do you think parks and recreation lands, and related amenities are to the Red Bank community, economy, and culture? Why?
2. What do you think the City of Red Bank should do with the publicly owned 12-acre former middle school property at 3715 Dayton Boulevard? Please explain in detail.
3. What is your opinion about the merits of the City’s current “10-minute Walk to a Park Initiative” compared with other Red Bank parks and recreation needs?



4. How do you propose to resolve Red Bank's out-of-compliance status with the National Park Service regarding the 2011 land swap agreement?
5. Do you think resolution of Red Bank's out-of-compliance status with the National Park Service matters? Why or why not?