



Responses to a Parks Questionnaire
(from the *Save Red Bank Central Park* Citizens' Group)
by the 2022 Candidates for the Red Bank, TN, Commission
September 2022

Side-by-Side Candidate Responses to Each Question

Question 5. Do you think resolution of Red Bank's out-of-compliance status with the National Park Service matters? Why or why not?

District 1 Candidates

Hollie Berry:

One of the things I love about Red Bank is that we stick to our community values, and I believe one of our values is that we keep our word. At one time, our leaders promised to replace the public land lost at the former Morrison Springs Park with equivalent park and recreation space, and I for one am not willing to forget that promise.

So long as we remain out of compliance with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the National Park Service (NPS), our city is red-flagged on any state or federal grant applications, especially regarding parks and recreation. Accepting this out-of-compliance status knowing this will affect our access to grant funds for future park and infrastructure projects is a disservice to Red Bank today and to our future generations. Everybody makes mistakes, but now is the time for our city to take responsibility for our past and honor our word by fulfilling this agreement with the NPS and creating a park and recreation space that will serve our community for years to come.

Dari Owens:

Yes, it matters. Potentially not being able to secure future grants for public spaces could be detrimental to our community. We need to get into good standing so we can move forward.

District 3 Candidates

Jamie Fairbanks-Harvey:

Whatever our city needs to do within ethical, community & financial means with the National Parks Service, means it matters to clear this hurdle for our city progress. If it matters, then address our problem. If the status doesn't matter, then let citizens take a vote on various options for that land-use.



Lawrence Miller:

Yes, it matters. It matters because this is what the City of Red Bank said would be done to complete the land swap. The City's integrity is on the line here.

There is also concern that elements of the Federal Government will not entertain grant funding requests from the City of Red Bank due to non-compliance on the land swap. As we move forward with a community-based planning process for Red Bank, it is likely that we will find opportunities to apply for Federal grants to pay for projects. We need to be in compliance to take advantage of such opportunities.

At Large Candidates

Jeff Price:

Yes ... being in compliance with NPS definitely matters to our city.

If we ever want to be approved for another grant with the NPS, we must take care of this. This is the first step and prime example of ways to obtain outside funding for future park initiatives.

Hayes Wilkinson:

Yes. It's fairly simple. Red Bank has a history of running on a "lean" but balanced budget. What this means is that the city is more dependent on grants from the state and federal government to fund various projects like road improvements, and infrastructure like sidewalks, parks, and recreational amenities.

The catch is that since Red Bank is out of compliance, it puts us at the bottom of the applicant pool for many types of grants from state and federal agencies, like the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the National Park Service (NPS) in particular. If Red Bankians truly value low taxes, we should be motivated to be as competitive as we can in our grant applications. The implications are clear. Red Bank must square up with the National Parks Service if we want our city to continue to grow and thrive.