

SAVE WILLIAMSON PARK PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

First Ward – 4-year term

Helen Hlahol – did not respond

John Jack Cronon – SWP was unable to contact

Kathryn Price Engelhard:

- 1) Over the past 3 1/2 years I have fought hard for funding for Williamson Park. If I am elected I will continue to fight. But we need to elect people who will truly fight for this park and other open spaces. More voices have more power. We can't be complacent.
- 2) Yes as before but we did not have enough people on the council to make it happen.
- 3) Yes. Again, we need more than one council person who will fight for funding, more improvements, and the future of Williamson Park. We need SWP to help support those candidates who have proven their dedication to this park. But constantly putting pressure on those elected officials to keep their promises will have the biggest impact. Some elected politicians need to be educated on who really is their boss is.

Shawn Ratti:

- 1) I would absolutely vote to make it a dedicated public parkland in perpetuity. Williamson Park is an important and beloved staple of Morrisville Borough. It was donated with the purpose to serve the citizens of the town as a free and open parkland. As an individual who regularly uses the park to create and host many free public events for families in town, and given the actions in recent years of some council leadership, I think it's more important now than ever to preserve that space would what it was always meant to be.
- 2) Yes, there is no reason why Williamson Park should be included in the RDA Certified Redevelopment Area. And leaving it designated as blighted is a disservice to the park and the residential area surrounding it. If we want to improve the value of the park to our region, this needs to be corrected since it serves no benefit and isn't blighted.
- 3) Yes, we need to continue to provide grants and other funding resources to enhance Williamson Park. The fact that many projects have been left unfinished or undeveloped is a tragedy to our public spaces, especially one which stands out so much in our Borough. Working on ways to improve other public areas and parks in town is great, but should not come at the expense and neglect of a park as wildly loved as this one. People have asked time and time again to see Williamson grow and develop more. And the only way we will draw in those new events, families, and positive exposure is by building up the gem we have in this town which draws so many people to Morrisville.

PRIMARY IS MAY 20

**QUESTIONS SENT TO
ALL CANDIDATES:**

**1) If elected, do you
commit to declaring
Williamson Park as
dedicated public
parkland in
perpetuity in order
to keep it as a park?**

**2) If elected, do you
commit to removing
Williamson Park
parcels from the
RDA Certified
Redevelopment
Area so that it is no
longer improperly
designated as
blighted?**

**3) If elected, do you
commit to working
to find grants or
other funding
sources to revitalize
and enhance
Williamson Park?**

SAVE WILLIAMSON PARK PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Third Ward – 2-year term

Peggy Walsh:

- 1) Yes. “The DDPA provides that the donated or dedicated property must stay in trust—its original use must continue—unless the use” ‘is no longer practicable or possible and has ceased to serve the public interest.’“ Our park is used by a wide variety of people and provides multiple forms of recreation for our residents. I have asked Council on more than one occasion to take an up or down vote on their commitment to preserving our park. I have also campaigned for candidates who have declared their commitment to the park, but who reversed positions once elected.
- 2) Yes. When I saw the pictures of the parking spaces and the water tower to prove that the park was blighted, I was infuriated by the subterfuge. I am not sure how much confidence I have in the RDA because they approved the building of the Elcon waste-water processing plant close to the river.
- 3) Yes. The council has strangely ignored Williamson Park in its purported projects. They have refused to release the results of the community meeting, which established residents’ priorities for Williamson Park like a simple walking path, a community garden, benches, etc. This council has wasted tens of thousands of dollars, and as far as I can see, accomplished nothing tangible. We should be able to tap into state resources for grants to improve the quality of Williamson Park for all residents. I consider Williamson Park to be one of our town’s greatest assets.

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Third Ward – 4-year term

Dennis Kinney – did not respond

Andrew Lubin – did not respond

Deborah Colgan:

- 1) Yes. PA law is clear - land that is donated or dedicated for public use, must remain so. As a Council member, it would be my constitutional duty to uphold the law. The permanent preservation of Williamson Park must be enshrined.
- 2) Yes. The inclusion of Williamson Park in the expanded RDA Certified Redevelopment Area brings no benefits to the Park, and puts it at further risk. It declares the Park blighted and of no social or economic value to the community. Williamson Park is **not** blighted and brings enormous value to our region: social, economic, environmental and health.
- 3) Yes. The sudden stoppage, without discussion or even comment, for Williamson Park planning is unconscionable. Tens of thousands of dollars have been wasted, with nothing to show for it. The People have spoken – we want, and need, improvements in the Park. PA has taken a strong supportive stand on ensuring that citizens have access to healthy outdoor opportunities. We can tap into those State resources, as well as look for additional options to fund needed improvements. As a 40-acre riverside park, Williamson Park is a treasured asset to our Borough and deserves our utmost attention.

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Fourth Ward – 4-year term

Luke McKee – did not respond

Anna Langer:

1) Yes.

2) Yes.

3) Yes.

If elected, I will do all that I can to maintain, protect and revitalized Williamson Park.

Mayor – 4-year term

Gary Wallace – did not respond

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