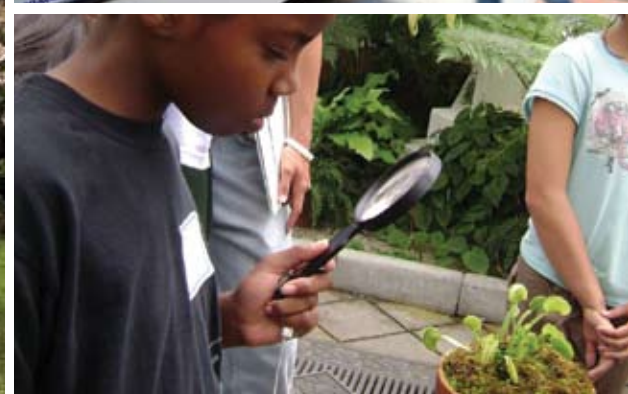




PARKSvoice



love your parks 

Spring 2008

STREET PARKS SHINE

Open Space Taskforce Highlights Street Parks

Late in 2007, the Mayor's Office launched the Open Space Taskforce to establish a vision of open space in San Francisco for future generations. The Taskforce is comprised of various City agencies and private non-profit organizations including SFPT. This group will meet over the course of the year to forge a new plan for the creation and maintenance of new and existing San Francisco open space.

Street Parks, our open space program developed in partnership with the Department of Public Works, was featured prominently at the most recent Taskforce meeting. Liz Lerma, Acting Superintendent of the Bureau of Urban Forestry, discussed the ways that we are partnering to convert the hundreds of available unused acres in the City into community managed public gardens. With more than 100 active and influential Taskforce members working to coordinate efforts and streamline services, the Street

(continued on p. 3)

PARKS BOND PASSES!

Lead Support of Campaign Yields Results

On February 5th, San Francisco sent a resounding message that it loves parks. You passed Proposition A, the Parks Bond, with more than 71% of the vote.

As the lead supporter of the Yes on A Campaign, San Francisco Parks Trust could not have led the way on this important bond without your time and financial support. We would like to thank you— our members, volunteers, staff, and board members— who contributed to this victory for parks. You helped walk the neighborhoods distributing fliers, passed out the posters, and made the phone calls that helped make this campaign a success. Thank you.

The \$185 million Parks Bond will help rebuild recreation centers to improve earthquake safety, plant trees, repair restrooms and protect open space. The Parks Bond will be segmented into these funding

(continued on p. 3)



Please take a seat.

This spring is the perfect time to become a part of San Francisco Park Trust's Commemorative Bench Program— helping to restore and beautify Golden Gate Park's Music Concourse. With your sponsorship of a park bench, you will receive a forged brass plaque with a message of your choice. Honor a loved one or simply thank the parks that give so much to all of us every day. Available to individuals and businesses. For more information or to sponsor a bench, please call San Francisco Parks Trust at 415.750.5443.

SAN FRANCISCO PARKS TRUST

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San Francisco Parks Trust, formerly Friends of Recreation & Parks, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, founded in 1971.



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San Francisco Parks Trust McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park
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STREET PARKS SHINE *(continued from p. 1)*

Parks model will prove valuable in establishing a vision for San Francisco open space.

In 2007, we were able to work with neighbors to initiate the development of twelve new street park gardens. These new sites are primarily in the southeast of the City, where there is a great quantity of available undeveloped open space. We also worked to establish a new neighborhood group in the Portola District, who are focused on improving their community with a new street park garden and a tiled steps project. Also, four SFPT Innovator Awards, totaling more than \$9,000, were granted to community groups starting new street parks or improving existing gardens.

In 2007, we also focused on developing the Street Parks Youth program, connecting youth volunteers to community gardens throughout the City. More than 285 youth participated in the program and logged more than 750 volunteer hours in San Francisco gardens. The program aims to focus young people on the positive changes they can make for themselves and their community by developing new open space and new environmental stewards.

Youth Programs Coordinator, Julia Brashares, has been working to better connect with motivated Street Parks Youth participants by launching a membership component that adds fun incentives for increased levels of participation. Furthermore, we're working



Street Parks beautifies a street median in the Bayview.

with two youth groups to start new gardens on their campuses to bring attention to the need for open space and to support the development of these new green leaders.

This summer we are working to launch an internship program

to compliment Street Parks Youth. Associate Coordinator of Youth Programs, Jasmine Marrow, is heading up this endeavor to support exceptional youth in their efforts to develop new community initiatives and new open spaces.

We provide opportunities for neighbors to improve and develop open space in their communities – in 2008 we'll focus on expanding our efforts and increasing the number of new gardens and new stewards that we are able to support.

If you are interested in learning more about starting a street park in your neighborhood, please visit www.sfpt.org.

PARKS BOND PASSES! *(continued from p. 1)*

areas, delivering for neighborhood parks across the city:

\$117 million Renovating unstable recreation centers for earthquake safety and replacing unsafe playground equipment in neighborhood parks

\$33.5 million Creating a blue-greenway of new parks along the bay waterfront

\$11.4 million Repairing or replacing every free standing restroom in San Francisco parks

\$8.5 million Resurfacing athletic fields and adding lights to increase play

\$5 million Restoring hiking trails in open space parks

\$5 million Providing matching grants for community projects

\$4 million Planting new trees in our parks

Community Matching Funds

In the coming year, parameters for the Park Bond's \$5 million matching fund for community projects will be established. This money will be available for your projects, in your neighborhoods, and will match your own contributions or volunteer hours. With 37 years of experience working with the City, the Recreation and Park Department, and community organizations, the San Francisco Parks Trust is the organization best positioned to help you strategize, apply, and secure matching funds for your



San Francisco Parks Trust volunteers at a neighborhood park rally for Proposition A.

neighborhood park project. Our expertise, financial tools, fundraising experience, and project coordinators have produced results for more than 100 neighborhood groups and park capital renovations, and can help your project come to life.

If you are interested in starting a park or neighborhood beautification project, call San Francisco Parks Trust today at

415.750.5442 and ask about our Park Partner program. We can help make your park dreams a reality!

BOARD PRESIDENT People really do love parks.

Dear Park Lover,

In the last few months, you have been incredible champions for parks and open space in San Francisco.

As you know, Proposition A passed with more than 71% of the vote on February 5th, and will deliver \$185 million for park repairs and improvements throughout the City while keeping property taxes steady. Recognizing that passing the Parks Bond was the single most important park advocacy charge for our organization this year, San Francisco Parks Trust stepped up in a big way, and so did you. We led volunteer efforts in key neighborhoods, participated in phone banks to spread the word, distributed literature, and became the single largest supporter of the Yes on A Campaign. The outpouring of volunteer support gave renewed veracity to our “love your parks” credo, and your memberships and financial contributions enabled us to support the Parks Bond campaign while continuing our suite of education programs and services to neighborhood organizations.

The Parks Bond victory could not have come at a more pivotal moment. In recent weeks, State and City budget deficits have called into question our ability to maintain treasured open spaces. Like other City departments, Recreation and Park has been asked to cut its dependence on the City’s General Fund by 8%, which translates into approximately \$3.4 million dollars in cuts to its annual budget. These cuts are not surprising in the current economic climate. As always, there will be ups and downs and cycles of fiscal surpluses and deficits.

And as always, San Francisco Parks Trust will be here to help— it is one of the main reasons the unique public-private partnership with Recreation and Park works so well. We are here when times are good, spawning real results like expanding the City’s capital renovation capacity by undertaking restoration projects. In recent years, we have helped restore the Conservatory of Flowers, the Dutch Windmills, the Koret Children’s Quarter, and the Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park. When we need to push through challenging economic times, we are also here as your park advocates to help ensure that investment in the future of our parks is a priority, like helping pass the Parks Bond. Your support and contributions give us the ability and flexibility to have a real impact on parks, and fill the gaps when necessary.

Even as the City tightens its belt, opportunities for park lovers are increasing. The Street Parks Program, in partnership with the Department of Public Works, was recently featured at the Mayor’s Open Space Taskforce forum, and heralded as a successful model for community greening. In addition, an important feature of the Parks Bond is its \$5 million Community Opportunity Fund, which will provide matching grants for your neighborhood projects. Whatever the size or scope of your project, whether it is an entire hillside of new gardens or just a little fresh paint, we can help. Our financial services, park restoration and fundraising experience, and 37 years working with the City and the Recreation and Park Department make our Park Partners program best positioned to help you achieve results.

Together, we have made a real difference for parks in recent months. Together, we can continue to improve the quality of life in San Francisco.

Thank you for your support, and keep on loving your parks.

Truly,



Glenn Snyder :: Board President



JAPANESE TEA GARDEN BLOSSOMS!

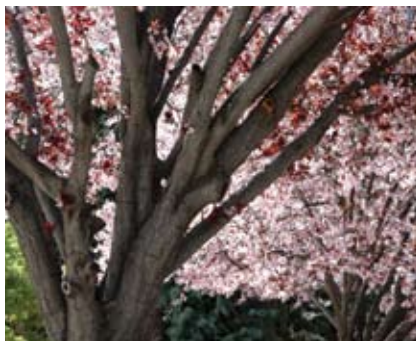
One of the jewels of Golden Gate Park is the Japanese Tea Garden. Each year thousands of visitors enjoy the beautifully manicured gardens. It is just one of the many important landmarks in the City's parks that your SFPT membership helps to maintain for everyone to enjoy year-round.

The Japanese Tea Garden, located in Golden Gate Park, is California's oldest public Japanese garden. It was originally designed and constructed as part of the Mid-Winter International Exposition of 1894 and was called the "Japanese Village". Due to its original purpose as an exhibition, the village was meant to portray a wide spectrum of life in Japan.

There were a large number of buildings within the Japanese Village compound during the Mid-Winter Fair. Among them were two teahouses, a two-story exhibit house, the main gate, a theater, and a bazaar where one could purchase Japanese curios. When the fair ended, it was decided that the Garden should be maintained as a permanent part of Golden Gate Park.

Today, our Tea Garden represents a blending of the natural village landscape together with a garden. The timeless charm, tranquility and beauty of the garden make it one of the most popular attractions in San Francisco.

The Japanese tradition of flower viewing, Hanami, is believed to have started around 710-784 AD. Although the term Hanami originally described viewing of all flowers from late March through early May, today it is usually used to describe cherry blossoms, sakura. Many centuries ago, Japanese people would place an offering to the gods, who were believed to live in the trees, at the base of cherry trees. Later, they would consume the offering and drink sake. As time passed, what started as simple offerings became parties and feasts held under the blossoms of the cherry trees. Cherry tree festivals around the world today are scheduled around weather projections, since weather and temperature play an important role determining when the cherry trees blossom. The breathtaking beauty of the cherry blossoms is fleeting, for the blossoms only last for one or two weeks.



All members of San Francisco Parks Trust enjoy free admission to the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park with a valid membership card. For more information on the best dates to view the cherry blossoms, please contact the Japanese Tea Garden at 415-752-4227.

Guided tours of the Tea Garden are offered year-round on Wednesdays and Sundays at 1 pm. Tours are 45 minutes. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior.

MEMBERSHIP

Donalda Watson-Walkinshaw

New Associate Director of Membership
donalda@sfpt.org

I've only lived in San Francisco for a few weeks, but I already feel a strong connection to the City. The exciting city skyline, the incredible dining, the mesmerizing waves of the ocean, the diverse culture, and the beautiful parks all make me realize how fortunate I am to live in one of the most vibrant cities in the world. As the new Associate Director of Membership for San Francisco Parks Trust, I am excited to help maintain one of the most important features of our City – our parks.

Growing up in Colorado gave me an early appreciation for nature and the outdoors. Some of my fondest memories revolve around the many parks I have loved in my life - memories of picnics under big trees, watching fireworks in parks, learning to fly a kite, riding my bicycle and laughing with friends. Visiting a park is more than having fun or connecting to nature. I think it is an experience that stirs and invigorates the mind, body and soul. As a new San Franciscan, I am looking forward to making new memories exploring Golden Gate Park and all the wonderful parks in the City.



Your membership makes a big impact in our community. Your generosity helps SFPT maintain the exceptional beauty of our parks by providing vital funds for restoration and improvement. It brings people together and it encourages pride in our neighborhoods. Thank you for your support.

I look forward to meeting and speaking with you at future SFPT Member events. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about your membership. I hope you will share with me your own stories on why our parks are important to you, as well as any thoughts or suggestions you'd like to share with me on member benefits and events.

SF PARKS TRUST PARTNER SALUTE

GreenTrustSF Central Waterfront

The GreenTrustSF Central Waterfront (GTSFCW) is a community-based organization that has been a Park Partner since November 2007. GreenTrustSF seeks to foster a strong sense of neighborhood ownership and responsibility for the Central Waterfront's green infrastructure.

The goal of GTSFCW is to pool contributions from new development within the Central Waterfront while leveraging additional private and public money to better maintain existing open space. Another goal is to fund small-scale interventions, such as transforming portions of sidewalks and paved medians into green spaces, working with the Street Parks Program.

GTSFCW's immediate goals are to begin a membership drive and to implement a pilot greening project which will inspire local stake-holders to join us. Its proposed project, 22nd Street from 3rd Street to Pennsylvania Street, is an important corridor and mini-commercial district which connects Potrero Hill to Dogpatch and the waterfront, connects travelers from 3rd Street and the Light Rail to and from the neighborhood, and brings people to and from the CalTrain Station.

For more information on GTSFCW, visit its website at www.GTSFCW.org or email info@gtsfcw.org.



Innovative Park Partners like GreenTrustSF are invested in improving San Francisco's waterfront, which will also benefit from the Parks Bond's blue-greenway of parks and access points.

PARK VOICES What do you love about McLaren Park?

About McLaren Park

John McLaren Park is one of the largest and most beautiful parks in San Francisco. Its 317 acres are home to a multitude of native plants and wildlife, diverse topography, a wide range of athletic facilities and walking/jogging trails, and the recently renovated Jerry Garcia Amphitheater. The Friends of McLaren Park in partnership with SFPT are working to maintain and improve the park's many offerings.

McLaren Park is planning to install a series of granite markers, stones, signposts, and seating that would be integrated into the surrounding landscape, and together make up a "philosopher's walk". This is a joint project of the SF Arts Commission and the SF Public Utilities Commission.



Susan Schwartzberg and Peter Richards
Philosophers Walk artists

"McLaren Park is a forgotten treasure. From its various summits one can see a map of the entire Bay Area. We hope our project will help people appreciate where they are."



Franco Mancini
Friends of McLaren Park

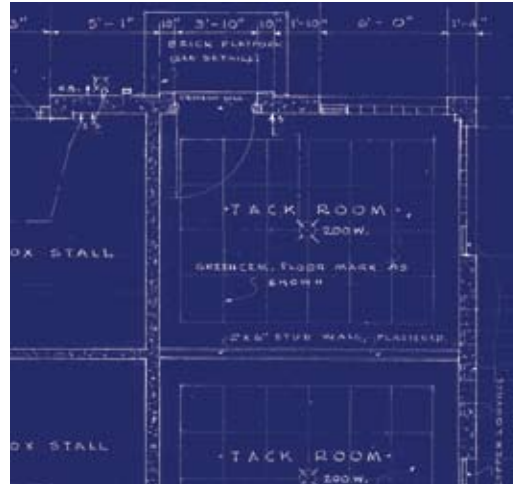
"McLaren Park makes a uniquely valuable contribution to the quality of life for all San Franciscans— a contribution that often does not receive wide recognition, but that is resoundingly respected and appreciated by all of the park's visitors."

STABLES CAMPAIGN UPDATE

San Francisco Parks Trust continues to work hard on the renovation of the Equestrian Center at Golden Gate Park Stables. We are laying the groundwork for a successful project and campaign that will ensure horseback riding returns to Golden Gate Park.

We are pleased to announce that the architectural firm Tom Eliot Fisch (TEF) has been engaged to work on the Equestrian Center project. TEF was selected after a detailed interview process that included consideration of several prominent San Francisco design firms. TEF was selected on the basis of their experience with similar civic projects, ability to work with a non-profit board, exceptional references and enthusiasm for the project. With preliminary approvals from both the Recreation and Park and Planning Commissions now in place, TEF is refining the previously approved 2003 Working Group Concept Plan into a refined SFPT Concept Plan. A major contributor to

the development of this refined scheme is the participation of an equestrian facility design team, Equine Facility Design (EFD) based in Oregon City, Oregon. EFD is an industry leader in



the design, specification and construction of equestrian facilities in the Western United States.

SFPT is working with architects to finalize design plans for the new Equestrian Center at Golden Gate Park Stables.

PARK PROTECTOR PROFILE Hilary Bates, SFPT Board Secretary



What first brought you to serve on the SFPT Board?

I joined SFPT almost 3 years ago with a specific project in mind: the renovation of Golden Gate Park Stables! I had ridden at the Stables for several years when I first

moved to San Francisco 18 years ago as a newly returned Peace Corps volunteer. I had no car and little money and I was amazed that such an amenity existed for the general public— many students took the Fulton Street bus to the Stables and paid a nominal fee to horseback ride in one of the most beautiful Parks in the world. As an architect, I always felt that the Stables were a jewel of the City, and worthy of remaining a legacy for the next generation of San Franciscans. On a recent trip to Rome I was walking through the Villa Borghese— the huge urban park in the center of the ancient city. Like Golden Gate Park, the Villa Borghese is animated with all kind of activities such as bike rentals, food vendors, dog walkers, musicians, skateboarders and of course the Romans have a public riding school in their park. The best part is the name: it's called the Galloppatoio!

What opportunities will the new Stables bring to city kids?

Exposure to horses— or any animal for that matter— can teach great life skills. Patience, discipline, confidence, responsibility, focus, sportsmanship, teamwork, mastery . . . they all occur in the metaphoric and literal equestrian arena! A universal truth is that children love being around animals, and horses make patient teachers and great friends.

What is your favorite Park in San Francisco?

I love Golden Gate Park— it is wild and woolly, and the 5th largest urban park in the world. Few people know that Central Park in New York City is a fraction of the size of our wonderful park. The great thing about San Francisco open space is not only the amount, but also the incredible variety. There are neighborhood parks tucked away down alleys and on the roofs of buildings. My favorite secret park is Michelangelo Park in North Beach— always warm and sunny, and only a block or two from a good espresso.

What is San Francisco Parks Trust's biggest strength?

Without question, the spirit of volunteering and community service. The fundraising, capital projects and program development take incredible amounts of time. Everyone has a busy life: family, work and all the other commitments. Somehow board members at SFPT find a way to squeeze in an early morning meeting or dedicate their lunch hour to a conference call . . . over the course of months and years, it is amazing how much time and energy people give.

BOSTON PROPERTIES

Latest Addition to the SFPT Corporate Partners Program

San Francisco Parks Trust is pleased to welcome Boston Properties to our Corporate Partners program! Donating at the Corporate Benefactor level (\$7,500), Boston Properties joins the growing list of local Bay Area companies supporting San Francisco parks. Boston Properties is one of the largest owners, managers, and developers of first-class office properties in the U.S., with offices in Boston, New York, Washington, San Francisco, and Princeton.

Boston Properties' donation will help ensure that Parks Trust's programs and services, including Street Parks, Park Partners, Music in Parks, and Project ReCreation, continue to serve San Francisco's many and diverse communities. We thank Boston Properties for their very generous donation to Parks Trust,

and we salute their commitment to San Francisco's parks and recreation centers.

For more information about joining our Corporate Partners program, please contact Samantha Jang, Associate Director of Corporate and Foundation Development, at (415) 750-5445 or samantha@sfpt.org.



LOVE YOUR PARKS ALL OVER AGAIN

Visibility Campaign Returns This Summer

After a successful visibility campaign in 2006, Love Your Parks returns this summer. Look for Mitch Tobias's stunning park photography around the City! If you are interested in becoming a media sponsor of the 2008 Love Your Parks campaign please contact Peter Tucker, Marketing and Communications, at 415.871.5881 or peter@sfpt.org.



Photos by Mitch Tobias, www.mitchtobias.com

UNION BANK OF CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION

San Francisco Parks Trust thanks Union Bank of California Foundation for their recent grant of \$20,000 to support our operating costs in 2008. The Foundation's funding enables us to rebuild and restore park icons, including the Stables of Golden Gate Park and the Murphy Windmill; teach youth to transform public lots into thriving green spaces through our Street Parks program; lead community volunteer days through Project ReCreation; and provide administrative and fundraising support to more than 70 community groups working to improve their neighborhood parks and recreation centers through our Park Partners program.

We are thrilled that Union Bank of California Foundation is committed to preserving parks and open spaces for San Franciscans, and we thank the Foundation for their very generous gift.



RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION

Commission President Larry Martin Speaks with SFPT about Parks and Budgets



What is the Recreation and Park Commission?

The Commission is primarily a policy-making body, establishing the policies by which the Recreation and Park Department operates. The Recreation and Park Commission is comprised of seven members appointed by the Mayor

to four-year terms. Those Commissioners are myself, Jim Lazarus, Gloria Bonilla, Tom Harrison, David Lee, Meagan Levitan and Michael Sullivan. We meet on the first and third Thursday of every month at City Hall, Room 416, 2:00 p.m. I encourage you to attend.

Why are parks and recreation important for San Francisco?

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department is rich with an abundance of property assets throughout all 88 neighborhoods in the City. The diversity of these facilities allows people from all walks of life to enjoy and appreciate a variety of recreational and leisure opportunities not paralleled in other cities. In addition, tourism is San Francisco's third most important industry and many of the sites that people from all over the world visit happen to be within the auspices of the Recreation and Park Department.

With the passage of Prop. A, what can we expect for our parks?

First, let me say how thrilled I am that this bond passed! As you know there are more than 232 park and recreation facilities in the City. In the last eight years, some of these facilities have been greatly improved as a result of Propositions A and C. To build on that momentum, the passing of Proposition A in February will allow for continued improvements over the next several years. Although the improvements will take time, citizens will have many opportunities to have a voice in the community design processes as well as participate in the decision making for the Community Opportunity Fund.

Will the 2007 budget increases for Recreation and Park gardeners and custodians be cut due to the City's budget deficit?

After receiving both written and verbal testimony on the upcoming budget, the Commission voted to submit the base budget as recommended by staff with the following policy statements and

amendments to the contingency plan:

Policy Statements

- No reduction in gardeners and that five vacant gardener positions will be filled within the first quarter of the fiscal year;
- Custodian positions remain at their current level and that two additional vacancies will be filled in the first quarter of the fiscal year; and
- Park Patrol remains filled at the 17 position level.

Contingency Plan Amendments

- Delete layoffs of Park Patrol;
- Delete the closing of the Sharon Arts Studio and no staff layoffs;
- Delete the closing of the Randall Museum and no staff layoffs; and
- Add a proposal providing for paid parking in Golden Gate Park and other park facilities, where appropriate, with the goal of raising the related money (\$1.8 million) in the balance of the fiscal year.

The budget was sent to the Mayor and will be heard at the Board of Supervisors meeting. We will keep San Francisco Parks Trust updated with the dates the Department budget will be heard. Again, I would encourage you to attend those meetings and voice your opinions.

Why is the public-private relationship between SFPT and RPD important?

Despite our annual fiscal budget and the passage of bonds, the City still has to leverage other resources in order to continue to improve and renovate park and recreation facilities throughout the City as well as enhance service provisions. We must continue to work closely with the San Francisco Parks Trust so that money and other types of support which will allow us to close the gap of need that perpetually exists within our parks and opens spaces are raised. With that said, let me thank San Francisco Parks Trust for all the support they have given this Department over the years. It is truly appreciated and I look forward to our continued long and productive relationship.

What is your favorite park?

As a San Franciscan, I am lucky to be able to get out and enjoy all of our parks. There is something special about each and every one of them – I couldn't choose just one!

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU. Your gift makes a difference!

We extend our deepest thanks to our donors who have given their support through membership, our programs and events. San Francisco Parks Trust thanks the following donors for their

generous gifts received between December 1, 2007 and February 29, 2008 (*gifts of \$125 and above are listed*).

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CALENDAR

For up-to-date event and program details visit us at www.sfpt.org

APRIL

Street Parks Youth Members' Event

Saturday, April 5 :: 9:00am - 2:00pm
Sailing with Treasure Island Sailing Center
For Street Parks Youth Members only
Information: 415.750.5110

Earth Day Workday

Saturday, April 19 :: 10:00am - 3:30pm
SFPT and SCA will be working with groups of trained volunteers to tackle projects at Alemany Farm and Sunglow Steps
Call 415.750.5110 to volunteer

Earth Day Workday

Sunday, April 20 :: 10:00am - 5:00pm
McLaren Park, Jerry Garcia Amphitheater
Sponsored by Nature in the City

MAY

Street Parks Youth Garden Workday

Saturday, May 17 :: 10:00am - 2:00pm
Douglas Street Garden
On Douglas Street, between Corwin Street and 21st Street
Information: 415.750.5110

JUNE

Street Park Youth Garden Workday

Saturday, June 14 :: 10:00am - 2:00pm
La Grande Community Garden, within Crocker Amazon Playground
Southern Cul de Sac of Dublin St., at 2999 Dublin St.
Information: 415.750.5110



SPRING REC & PARK PROGRAMS!

Spring is just around the corner, and that means recreation programs are blooming at parks and recreation centers all over the city. sfRecOnline is your online gateway to RPD recreation information and programming, available 24 hours a day.

You can view all activities offered by San Francisco Recreation and Park, register for a course, make a payment, and view all of your current registrations including your Family Account history. You can register online for 2008 Day Camps and Spring Activities starting Saturday, March 8, at 10:00 a.m.

To get started with sfRecOnline you will need a Family Account, Personal ID Number (PIN), a Login ID and a VISA or MasterCard credit card for any fee-based activities. Visit www.sfreconline.com for more information.

San Francisco Parks Trust is dedicated to providing leadership and support for San Francisco parks, recreation centers, and open spaces.



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