



PARKSvoice



PHOTO BY MITCH TOBIAS

love your parks 🌿

Spring 2007

STREET PARKS YOUTH

Our future in focus

San Francisco Parks Trust is helping San Francisco develop and care for community-managed open spaces throughout the City. We call them Street Parks, but you may know them as school gardens, community gardens, planted medians, and neighborhood beautification projects. The gardeners and community organizers that tend these spaces have expressed a need for support and San Francisco Parks Trust is here to help. This year we have launched a new volunteer program: Street Parks Youth (SPY).

The SPY program offers youth a fun and rewarding way to give back to San Francisco. SPY crews are teamed up with professional landscape architects, naturalists, outdoor educators, and other environmental professionals that connect them to career paths in environmental conservation.

Since November, more than 80 youth have volunteered with San Francisco Parks Trust in community-managed open spaces.

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INNOVATOR AWARDS

\$100,000 for Park Projects by 2010

San Francisco Parks Trust is proud to announce the 2007 Innovator Award recipients: Hayes Valley Neighborhood Parks Group, Literacy for Environmental Justice, Visitacion Valley Greenway Project, Quesada Gardens Initiative, Randall Museum Friends, Friends of McLaren Park, Friends of Sunset Playground, San Francisco Tennis Coalition, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Friends of Joe DiMaggio Playground, and San Francisco Junior Tennis League.

We are proud of the innovative solutions to improve San Francisco neighborhoods, parks, and recreation centers in sustainable, forward-thinking ways that San Francisco community groups and Park Partners created for this inaugural year of the Innovator Awards.

Last November, San Francisco Parks Trust invited Park Partners and other community-based organizations to propose park projects for funding that included a community match of volunteer hours or other funds raised.

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MUSIC CONCOURSE BENCHES

A place of your own in Golden Gate Park

A commemorative bench is a wonderful way to celebrate an anniversary or birthday, acknowledge a milestone such as a graduation, or memorialize a loved one. We invite you to sponsor a bench in the Music Concourse, either along the paths in the Bowl or the upper Promenade. San Francisco Parks Trust is offering over 170 handsome benches in the Concourse, each for a contribution of \$5,000. This is a unique opportunity to remember a special event or honor a loved one with a custom engraved brass plaque on your bench, in addition to making a personal statement of support for the Park. For more information please call Kate at 415.750.5108 or e-mail kate@sfpt.org.

Colorful Parks!

We are happy to be able to now bring you the SFPT quarterly newsletter in full color. With recent advances in printing technology, we are able to bring you more vivid pictures of San Francisco's most beautiful parks while reducing printing costs by more than 25% from our last issue. We are also able to continue our dedication to sustainability by using recycled paper and environmentally friendly soy-based inks.

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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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STREET PARKS

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We have worked with gardeners from White Crane Springs Community Garden to construct new plots, stir up the compost pile, create raised beds, mulch paths, and complete a field survey of insects and animals living in the garden.

This winter, we returned with Street Parks Youth to the YES! Garden in the Bayview. As you remember, during the summer participants from the YES! program put in a retaining wall and small native garden in this cozy Bayview cul-de-sac. Neighbors were thrilled about the initial project and in December worked with Street Parks Youth to extend the wall and the native garden.

In February, we joined the Friends of Boeddeker at this Tenderloin park to reclaim a long forgotten community garden. We weeded and dug up plants to uncover the overgrown beds below. Seniors from the neighborhood are now planting spring greens in the newly spruced up garden. Building on the success of the YES! Garden, Street Parks Youth also connected with the Quesada Gardens Initiative to begin planning a new learning garden in the Bayview.

Street Parks bring communities together, and are sustained by active involvement from a diverse community of dedicated partners. In addition to working with San Francisco Recreation & Park Department, we're collaborating with amazing organizations



Street Parks Youth and SFPT staff in the Bayview.

throughout the City: City College of San Francisco, SF Clean City, Flora Grubb, Friends of the Urban Forest, Quesada Gardens Initiative, Sacred Heart Preparatory, San Francisco Department of Public Works, Student Conservation Association, Thurgood Marshall High School, University of San Francisco and community gardens and neighbors. Street Parks are generously supported by the Stewardship Council and the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation.

Contact us if your garden or youth group would like to participate in the Street Parks Youth program. Be sure to sign up at www.sfpt.org for the Street Parks' *Dirt*, a new monthly newsletter with event updates, garden news and helpful tips.



SFPT Awarded \$17,950 to 12 community organizations in its first annual Innovator Awards on March 1, 2007.

INNOVATOR AWARDS

(continued from p. 1)

Awards were given toward the purchase of equipment to help increase park access and strengthen program attendance. This year some of the projects we funded include: free tennis lessons for underserved youth, new basketball hoops at Eureka Valley, a climbing structure in the Sunset neighborhood, binoculars for bird watching in Heron's Head Park, bird skull and talon

replicas for animal education programs, signs for the Jerry Garcia Amphitheatre in John McLaren Park, an outdoor oven for a nutrition garden in Visitacion Valley, and others.

In March, Park Partners, Innovator Award recipients, and community leaders gathered to celebrate at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center. A champagne reception and light refreshments accompanied workshops and presentations on park fundraising, recreation programming and community policing.

The evening was a great success, encouraging collaboration and neighborhood networking. We look forward with excitement to next year's Innovator Awards reception and another opportunity to hear from groups who take an active interest in our parks.

Awards are between \$500 and \$2000 for the one-time purchase of items or equipment that will help increase park usership and strengthen a program's constituency.

To learn more about the program guidelines or for an application, please contact Program Coordinator, Jennifer Stark-Hernandez at partner@sfpt.org or 415.750.5442.

The deadline for the 2008 Innovator Awards is October 1, 2007.



Did you know that your gift to San Francisco Parks Trust could be matched dollar for dollar? Many companies offer matching gift programs that will double, even triple a donation's value. In many cases they will match gifts made by officers, directors, spouses and/or retired employees. If you are unsure about your company's matching gift policy please ask your HR department. Your gift may have an even greater impact on our parks and recreation centers! If you have any questions please contact Jenifer Botch at 415.750.5109 or email jenifer@sfpt.org.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR People need parks.

People need parks. We are here to help.

As a park supporter, you understand the important role that parks and green spaces play in all of our lives. More importantly, you recognize the need to protect, preserve and enhance them. That's why you're here.

Together, we have made a commitment to improve the quality of life in San Francisco and empower others to do the same. We do this primarily through Park Partners, a program that offers financial services, grant administration and technical assistance to a growing number of community groups throughout the City. We also do it through our newest program, the Innovator Awards. Designed to support community-based organizations, we have given and will continue to give awards of up to \$2,000 for the one-time purchase of items or equipment that will help increase park usership and strengthen the surrounding community.

Building community is one of the most serious challenges that we as a nation face today. Responses to such challenges come in many forms and from many groups. Some of the most effective agents of change, however, are community-based organizations such as the ones honored in this edition of the *ParksVoice*. I would like to offer my thanks and congratulations to the Friends of Sunset Playground, Randall Museum Friends, Literacy for Environmental Justice, Friends of Joe DiMaggio Playground, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, San Francisco Tennis Coalition, Friends of McLaren Park, San Francisco Junior Tennis League, Hayes Valley Neighborhood Parks Group, Quesada Gardens Initiative, and Visitacion Valley Greenway Project.

It is people like our award winners and all of you who make San Francisco the great city that it is. Where some see intractable problems, you see an opportunity to become part of the process and part of the solution. You realize that by working together, we can become agents of renewal, able to change our city block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood.

In so doing, you create hidden gems throughout the City. Over the next several months, we'll be working to unearth and highlight these gems. It is important to celebrate the work that you have done to strengthen our community while recognizing that there is much more we can do together.

San Francisco's most beautiful places belong to all of us. That's why we're here. Love your parks.



Jay awards a 2007 Innovator Award to Don Franklin, Eureka Valley Recreation Director.

Jay Banfield :: Executive Director

An important message about your Conservatory of Flowers passes

As Members of SFPT, you receive passes for the Conservatory of Flowers. Please carefully read the following details about this particular benefit.

SENIOR MEMBERS and FAMILY/DUAL MEMBERS: the passes you receive with your membership cards are for you to use for admission into the Conservatory. If you wish to give them to friends to use, you may do so, but please note that once you have used your passes, you will have to pay admission to the Conservatory. We are now including your membership number on the new Conservatory passes and the number of passes redeemed is now being tracked according to your membership number. If you do not have your Conservatory passes with you, you will have to pay admission.

CONTRIBUTOR, SUPPORTER and SUSTAINER MEMBERS: since your membership card allows you free unlimited admission to the Conservatory, your guest passes are for use by guests or friends. The guest may either accompany you or they may use them on a different visit. As mentioned above, the new passes will have your membership number on them and will be tracked in the database at the Conservatory.

PARKS VOICES

How do you love your parks? 🌿



Connie Underwood :: Boeddeker Volunteer

My park is the oasis in the desert.
If you're thirsty, it quenches your thirst.
If you're hungry, it feeds you.
If you're spiritually in doubt, it helps you.
My park is the heartbeat of the San Francisco Tenderloin.



Captain Gary Jimenez :: Tenderloin Police Station

Parks are for everybody but not everyone shares that sentiment. I am working hard to make sure Boeddeker Park is a safe place. I love Boeddeker Park because of the Friends of Boeddeker's love and hope to make it a better park. I love that Friends of Boeddeker Park are planning a garden for the seniors. I love that the seniors are active in the park. The garden represents the hope and tremendous potential the park offers our district. The Friends of Boeddeker are the most positive and helpful people in the Tenderloin.



Robert McDaniels :: Recreation Director

I love Boeddeker Park because it is one of a kind. It is unique. I spend a lot of time there making it the park it should be. All kinds of kids are in my MacCanDo Tenderloin Track Team. Every Saturday morning I take the youth bike club to Golden Gate Park and we ride to the ocean and back. Boeddeker also has the first cheerleading team ever in Recreation & Parks Department. The best is yet to come at Boeddeker.

MEMBERSHIP

SPECIAL GIFT FOR MEMBERS ONLY!

Upgrade your membership to a Supporter or higher level membership and we will include as part of your benefits a copy of the new book from the Conservatory of Flowers, *Treasures of the Conservatory of Flowers*, by Nina Sazevich.

Members who are already Supporter or higher level Members will be sent a copy of the book when they renew at the same level or upgrade their membership.



MEMBER EMAILS

SFPT encourages Members with email addresses to send them to us so that we can keep you informed about upcoming Members-only events, community events and volunteer opportunities. Send your email address to kate@sfpt.org. Email addresses are never shared.



COMING TO THE CONSERVATORY IN SPRING 2007: *CHOMP! Carnivorous Plants*

The Conservatory of Flowers is pleased to announce an original exhibit opening in May: *CHOMP! Carnivorous Plants*.

Carnivorous plants have long intrigued botanists, naturalists, and plant enthusiasts across the world, fascinating people with their complex and diverse methods of luring and devouring their prey. *CHOMP!* will immerse visitors in the fascinating world of these beautiful plants and feature more than 100 species of carnivores from all over the world.

From the glistening sundews of South Africa to the star-shaped *Drosera* of Australia, this living exhibit will draw children, adults, and students of all ages, providing close-up looks at these rare and endangered plants, while teaching visitors about biodiversity, conservation, and environmental stewardship. *CHOMP!* will also feature a range of kid-friendly components, including investigation stations, the Flytrap Theater, and an interactive scavenger hunt.

We invite you to visit the Conservatory of Flowers and explore the world of carnivorous plants. *CHOMP!* will run from May through October 2007. For more information about the exhibit and how to plan your trip, visit the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers website at www.conservatoryofflowers.org.

GIRLS ATHLETIC EXTRAVAGANZA

New City Office Provides New Opportunities

On February 10, Kezar Pavilion was full of energy as more than 200 girls gathered for a Girls Athletic Extravaganza, a day hosted by Mayor Gavin Newsom and the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department to promote sports programming for girls and to celebrate the 21st Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

Thanks to skilled recreation directors and amazing volunteers led by the Department's new Coordinator of Citywide Women and Girls Athletics, Veronica O'Boyle, the Department was able to provide an event where girls could gather and be encouraged to be sportswomen, make new friends and share a day in athletic play together without being pressured or judged. The girls had a chance to participate in 30-minute skills clinics in baseball, track, basketball, volleyball and soccer.

The event was part of the Mayor's Shape Up San Francisco initiative, a multi-agency effort to encourage children, youth and families to make healthy and active lifestyle choices.

Kim-Shree Maufas, from the Department on the Status of Women, was impressed by the event. "I must applaud not only Recreation & Park for putting on such a worthwhile event but Veronica, staff and volunteers for hanging in throughout an activity-filled day with such energetic youngsters," she said. "I was continually impressed with the clinic facilitators' fortitude and stamina, even in the rain. Bravo! Bravo!" The event was a great success thanks to the support and hard work of Recreation & Park Department staffers. "The event provided a wonderful



experience for the participants, many of whom said they were looking forward to similar events in the future," said O'Boyle. "Women and Girls Athletics is planning on presenting events like this throughout the year, highlighting different sports and encouraging young women and girls to get active."

A variety of girls sports programming will be available in the spring and summer seasons. If you know any girls or women who are interested in baseball, basketball, track, softball or volleyball, please encourage them to contact Veronica O'Boyle at 415.831.6313 or veronica.o'boyle@sfgov.org for more information.

YOUR TWO CENTS Project ReCreation

Project ReCreation is a high-impact volunteer workday program that targets high-use, underserved recreation centers, clubhouses, and playgrounds for improvement projects. Since the program's inception in 2004, SFPT has contributed tens of thousands of dollars in support of playgrounds and parks in need through Project ReCreation.

We want your input on how to spend the money in 2007. Complete and return the enclosed survey to share your two cents about parks in need.

We'll calculate your results and use the data to help select Project ReCreation sites in 2007. We're committed to increasing your opportunities to connect to parks, playgrounds and open spaces all over San Francisco. Tell us where volunteers need help. Show us the parks that need our funds and become a part of making San Francisco more beautiful.

With your help Project ReCreation will bring together the resources needed to create and sustain positive change in parks that are overused and under-funded. Please complete the enclosed survey – we want to hear from you!

PARK PROTECTOR PROFILE SFPT New Board Member :: Cynthia Silverstein



“I hope to continue the formation and implementation of programs to ‘green’ our outdoor spaces with the involvement of youth and neighborhood groups in such a way as to become a model for other world-class cities.” — Cynthia Silverstein

SFPT is proud to welcome Cynthia Silverstein to our Board. Cynthia joined SFPT in June 2006 and has already made a tremendous impact on the organization. Cynthia is a 3rd generation San Franciscan with two children. She received her BA at UC Berkeley and her JD at the University of San Francisco. She has years of experience in community service, serving on various Boards and has provided extensive pro bono legal work to local non-profit arts and educational organizations. Recently, we asked her to discuss what makes SFPT a unique non-profit and what makes our City's park system truly special.

What excites you the most about San Francisco Parks Trust?

What I admire most is the private/public partnership SFPT has developed with the City and how well it works. As SFPT expands its funding capabilities I am excited that we will continue to make a difference in the lives of individuals in our community by enhancing our outdoor spaces and programs.

What do you hope to accomplish as a Trustee of San Francisco Parks Trust?

I hope to accomplish the rehabilitation of some of our existing facilities such as the Golden Gate Park Stables, tennis courts and Japanese Tea Garden. I hope to continue the formation and implementation of programs to “green” our outdoor spaces with the involvement of youth and neighborhood groups in such a way as to become a model for other world-class cities. Finally, I

hope to build upon the funding resources that SFPT has already established so that we may continue to grow and thrive.

Why are parks important to you? And what parks do you frequent the most?

As a “city girl,” I cherish being able to walk where there are trees, grass, foliage, and outdoor spaces. My walks with our dogs are my special time of the day when I get to do something just for myself (well, the dogs are happy too). I walk everyday in one of our City's parks, as well as run, bike ride, play tennis with my daughter (Buena Vista Park courts), and picnic. The parks I frequent most are Buena Vista Park (a true gem), Alta Plaza Park, and Golden Gate Park.

Why is it important for people to support San Francisco Parks Trust?

It is vital for people to support SFPT not just with financial support, but with volunteer opportunities. Your support sustains the public/private partnership that exists between Parks Trust and Recreation & Parks, and enables the funding and management of more projects and improvements than the City could accomplish on its own. It truly works, and I am amazed at the variety and number of recreation opportunities here in San Francisco that I did not know about before joining SFPT.

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 September 1, 2006 and January 31, 2007 (*gifts of \$125 and above are listed*).

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PLAY TENNIS SAN FRANCISCO!



San Francisco Tennis Coalition and San Francisco Parks Trust gathered at the Golden Gate Park tennis courts on March 3rd to cheer on USF's women's tennis team and sign players up for the League. (From left to right) Jenifer Botch (SFPT), Carl Mendoza (SF Tennis Coalition), Loretta Conway (SF Tennis Coalition), Samantha Jang (SFPT), Miriam Moss (SF Tennis Coalition), and Steven Brown (SF Tennis Coalition)

In conjunction with our Park Partner, San Francisco Tennis Coalition, San Francisco Parks Trust is pleased to announce the launch of San Francisco's World Team Tennis Corporate League!

For six weeks this spring, corporate tennis teams are participating in the first annual Corporate League Tournament. The matches will be held over six weeks in April and May at the Golden Gate Park tennis courts. The Corporate League is a great opportunity for tennis players and tennis buffs to get outside and play tennis, no matter what their skill level. The winning team will play in the Nationals and meet Billie Jean King!

This exciting partnership has developed with the support of the United States Tennis Association/Northern California, San Francisco Recreation & Park Department, and Bank of the West Classic. SFPT is thrilled to support the League and promote healthy activities for adults.

For more information about the League, please contact Jenifer Botch, Director of Corporate and Foundation Development, at 415.750.5109 or jenifer@sfpt.org. You may also visit our website www.sfpt.org or www.worldteamentennis.com to follow the tournament.



SFPT SALUTES

Union Bank of California Foundation



San Francisco Parks Trust is pleased to partner with Union Bank of California Foundation in providing leadership and support for San Francisco's parks, recreation centers, and open spaces.

Union Bank of California Foundation recently awarded the Parks Trust \$15,000 to support our ongoing efforts to revitalize parks throughout San Francisco, provide outdoor education and stewardship through our youth environmental science program in Bayview/Hunters Point and spearhead capital campaigns to renovate San Francisco landmarks including the Conservatory of Flowers and the Historic Carrousel. We are proud to partner with an institution that shares our commitment to strengthening communities, supporting youth, and improving public spaces. We look forward to working together with Union Bank of California Foundation to enhance the City's parks and recreation centers for all residents of and visitors to San Francisco.

Join San Francisco Parks Trust as Corporate Partner!

If you would like to learn more about how your company can make an investment in San Francisco's parks, or how your company can double or even triple your individual donation, please contact Jenifer Botch, Director of Corporate and Foundation Development, at 415.750.5109 or jenifer@sfpt.org.

All Corporate Partners receive generous benefits, including recognition in the Parks Voice, on our website, and in our annual report.





Boeddeker Park's children's reading room after a SFPT-led Project ReCreation volunteer day.

SF PARKS TRUST PARTNER SALUTE

Friends of Boeddeker

Boeddeker Park at Jones and Eddy Streets is a green oasis for adults and a hub for kids' sports in the heart of the Tenderloin. To keep it that way, the community formed the Friends of Boeddeker in May 2003. The Friends of Boeddeker meet on a monthly basis and also have a volunteer "cleaning and greening" day on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Over the years, they have spearheaded senior citizen activities in the park such as ice cream socials and senior gardening days, advocated for increased safety, and worked with the neighborhood on an arts festival and numerous volunteer get-togethers. The Friends of Boeddeker want to make Boeddeker Park a space where youth, adults and seniors can relax, enjoy nature, socialize, and recreate in a safe, fun and beautiful environment.

PARK PARTNER DONORS — *Online donations are now available, visit Programs at www.sfpt.org*

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Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association
Golden Gate Tennis Club
Portola Family Connection, Inc.

CALENDAR

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

APRIL

Earth Day

Sunday, April 22

SFPT, SFGRO and SCA will be working with groups of trained volunteers to tackle projects at community gardens and Street Parks. Call SFGRO at 415.235.4292 to volunteer.

SFPT World Team Tennis Corporate League Matches

Thursdays, April 19, 26 :: 6:30pm

Golden Gate Park Tennis Courts

Come out and support your favorite teams!

MAY

SFPT World Team Tennis Corporate League Matches

Thursdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24 :: 6:30pm

Golden Gate Park Tennis Courts

Golden Gate Park Stroller Tours

May 16 :: 10am Lloyd Lake Walk

Meet at the pedestal map in front of Lloyd Lake on John F. Kennedy Dr. See www.sfpt.org for more information.

JUNE

Golden Gate Park Stroller Tours

June 20 :: 10am Statue Walk

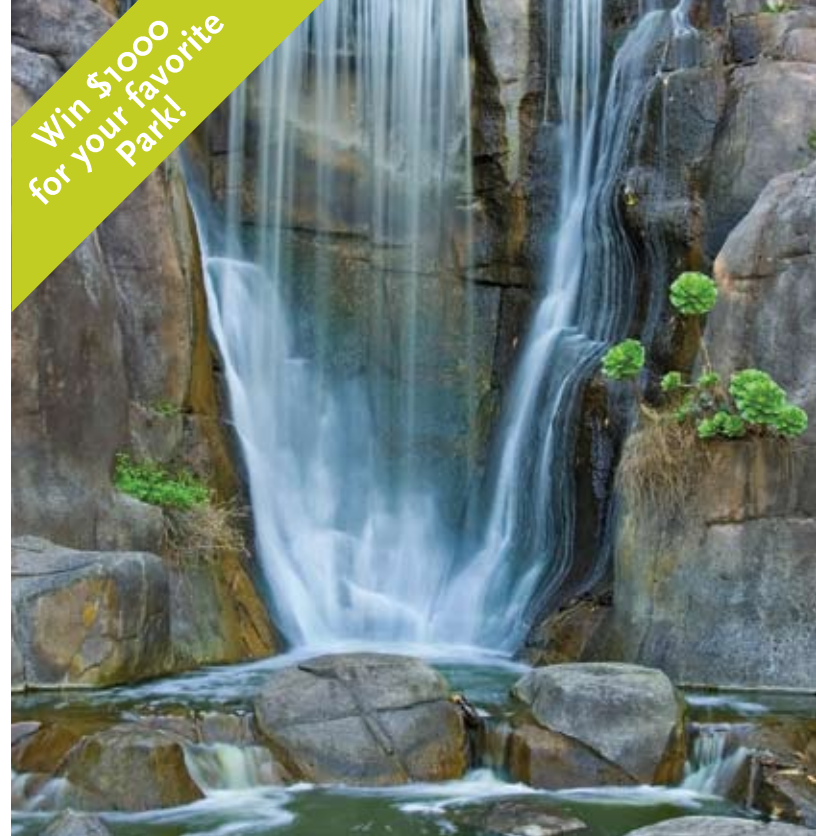
Meet at the John McLaren Statue, east of the Fulton St. and 8th Ave. entrance to the Park. See www.sfpt.org for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

San Francisco Parks Trust Fall Fundraiser

September 14th :: 7:00 – 11:00pm

Call Patricia Ivancich Dassios, Director of Development, at 415.750.5107.



PARK HIDDEN GEMS CONTEST

Did you know there is a waterfall in Golden Gate Park? We want you to help us explore the more than 200 parks in San Francisco, by sharing with us your favorite hidden gem: a corner bench, a historic building, a secluded path, or an entire park. Submit a photo and 100 words about your hidden gem, and winners will have their photo posted on the SFPT website home page, win SFPT gear, and be able to designate a cash grant to their favorite park or community center. Please visit www.sfpt.org for official rules and details.

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



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