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PARKS TRUST

San Francisco Parks Trust
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*** Press Release ***

The Stewardship Council Announces \$70,000 grant to San Francisco Parks Trust to Involve Underserved Youth With Open Space Renovation

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SAN FRANCISCO – The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council, a land conservation and youth investment program, recently announced San Francisco Parks Trust (SFPT) as one of six recipients throughout California to receive a Collaboration Fund grant. SFPT's "Street Parks" program identifies potential open space and mobilizes the community to conduct the initial groundwork, rehabilitate the space and plant the seed to help sustain the space's ongoing maintenance and use.

"We want the entire community to be a part of the process of reclaiming San Francisco's parks and open spaces," says Jay Banfield Executive Director. "By involving local youth, City College students, NGOs, private land owners and the City, we have a community of stakeholders that care about preserving and developing the natural environment in the City."

The Collaboration grants, ranging from \$60,000 to \$125,000, are part of the Stewardship Council's Youth Investment Program and are designed to support field-wide initiatives and partnerships among youth-serving organizations. The Collaboration Fund supports programs that could not be accomplished by a single organization alone and intend to overcome obstacles that discourage youth from engaging with their natural environment. SFPT's Street Parks program mobilizes young people to transform unused city lots, such as street medians or hillsides, into thriving community gardens everyone can enjoy. Teens have fun getting their hands dirty and develop a personal stake in their neighborhoods, while learning about the environment and how to work as a team.

"Our goal is to help connect young Californians to the outdoors, but we can't do it alone" says Jayne Battey, Executive Director of the Stewardship Council. "It is only through collaboration among cities, community organizations and schools with programs that educate youth about California's natural environment, will we reverse the trend of kids increasingly staying indoors."

The Stewardship Council's Youth Investment Program supports organizations that make the outdoors more accessible to underserved youth through innovative programs. This year, the Stewardship Council has allocated over \$2 million in grants for both programming and infrastructure to organizations that provide kids with exposure to nature and the natural environment. The Stewardship Council has granted over \$4 million since its inception in 2005 and intends to grant more than \$20 million over the next eight years.

"When we promote the involvement of our children in the outdoors, we're making an investment in their health, their education and in their future. We are also making an investment in the healthy and productive future of California's natural resources," said Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman, President of the Stewardship Council Board of Directors. "As stewards of California's lands, these programs are critical for this generation and for those generations that will follow in our footsteps."

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Since 1971, the San Francisco Parks Trust has supported parks, recreation, and open spaces in San Francisco with the fiscal sponsorship of neighborhood organizations, programming, and direct support of the SF Recreation and Park Department through grants and capital campaigns restoring some of the City's most beloved gems. Recent capital projects include the restoration of the Conservatory of Flowers and the Koret Children's Quarter.