

Friends of Recreation & Parks is founded with a \$50,000 grant from developer and philanthropist, Walter Shorenstein.

The Open Space Tax is established, enabling the Recreation & Park Department to purchase acres of open space and spend money on park improvements throughout the city.



The carousel reopens after extensive renovation. Friends initiates a hospitality desk and guide program at Coit Tower. Friends helps administer the Tea Garden Gate Reconstruction.

\$50,000 is raised to restore the 6th Avenue entrance to Golden Gate Park.

Golden Gate Park Bond: overwhelming approval of voters for a \$76,300,000 park bond. The bond provides funds for improvements throughout the park, such as creating and maintaining water supply and irrigation, cleaning and restoring lakes and water areas, and fixing and adding utilities. Midnight basketball program launched.



The multi-year restoration of the West End of Golden Gate Park commences thanks to a \$1,603,353 grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. The grant represents the first private national funding received for parks in San Francisco.

First membership drive yields 350 members. Annual Labor Day festival, Opera in the Park, is founded, co-hosted by the Recreation & Park Department, The Examiner and Friends of Recreation & Parks.

Money is raised for the replacement and repair of benches, the Union Square Rhododendron display, athletic supplies, and to repair the Rossi Playground. Friends' support enables band concerts in Golden Gate Park to continue another year.



Friends purchases Play Mobile teen center at Hamilton Recreation Center.

Centennial Celebration: first collaboration among all the park institutions. The Fine Arts Lagoon is repaired.

As a result of a brutal storm, parks suffer \$3.5 million in tree-related damage and the Conservatory of Flowers is closed to the public.



The Neighborhood Park Grants Program is established. The Beach Chalet restaurant and Golden Gate Park's first ever Visitor Center open in the restored WPA building.

1971 1972 1974 1979 1984 1987 1988 1992 1994 1995 1996 1997

# 35 YEARS OF LOVING PARKS 1971-2006

photo by Mitch Tobias, www.mitchtobias.com



1998 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2006 2007

Friends is awarded a second Wallace-Reader's Digest multi-year grant for \$600,000 to institutionalize its successful programs in education and neighborhood park grants, as well as to launch new mentorship and advocacy programs. Restoration of the Conservatory of Flowers begins.



Friends' Neighborhood Park Grant program has provided approximately \$400,000 by 2001 to more than 75 groups of community-minded citizens working to improve neighborhood parks and parks facilities.

Friends begins a new program, Project ReCreation, which identifies and renovates high-use recreation centers. Friends celebrates the completion of the Conservatory renovation with a gala event weekend and raises another than \$100,000 toward the Campaign. The Conservatory reopens to the public on September 20th.

In the wake of the Conservatory Campaign's great success, Friends overwhelmingly decides to change its name and revitalize its commitment to parks with the implementation of the Healthy Parks Initiative. San Francisco Parks Trust is approved by the membership in a vote at the annual meeting on June 17th.



Koret Children's Quarter reopens to the delight of kids and families. First 12 Innovator Awards given to Park Partners and neighborhood organizations. SFPT adds more than 500 new members in 2007 alone.

The Campaign to Restore the Conservatory of Flowers is launched with the announcement of the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund's extraordinary \$5 million gift. Vocal Minority presents a farcical play about politics surrounding Golden Gate Park to benefit the Conservatory of Flowers.

San Franciscans rally behind the Campaign to Restore the Conservatory of Flowers. More than 5,000 people contribute to the icon's restoration as a cultural institution, education center, and conservation program for rare tropical plants. At the end of 2002, the campaign has only \$1 million left to go to reach its \$24 million goal to completely upgrade the building and its extraordinary collections.



The renovation of the Koret Children's Quarter begins, and the Commemorative Bench Program adds 50 new benches to the Music Concourse, on its way to adding 171 benches as part of its renovation. Four-year, \$100,000 Innovator Award Program created. SFPT secures \$750,000 grant for educational programming once the West End Windmills are completed. 20th Annual PlayDay in the Park hosted by SFPT and Recreation & Parks.