



# PARKSvoice



love your parks 🌿

Winter 2009

## YOUTH CULTIVATE FUTURE SFPT'S Second Urban Gardening Conference

In 1998, the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks, and Tourism was founded to encourage cooperation between public and private entities involved in outdoor recreation, public lands and tourism. This year, it created the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights that lists ten things every kid should accomplish before age fourteen. Included in the list are activities and experiences, like fishing and exploring, which are intended to promote a love for outdoor recreation and a connection to nature. Governor Schwarzenegger, the California Park and Recreation Commission, the California State Park Rangers Association and the Stewardship Council have all endorsed this Bill of Rights. Local and state leaders are acknowledging the importance of outdoor experiences in a child's development.

In 2006, we launched Street Parks Youth, a program designed to grow a culture of stewardship in San Francisco. We believe

*(continued on p. 3)*

## INNOVATOR AWARDS BBQ Members Meet Community Groups They Help

On October 11th, SFPT Members enjoyed an afternoon at Koshland Park where they were able to see first hand the important impact their support of parks is making on local community organizations. The afternoon of fun, food, and music also featured ceremony for this year's SFPT Innovator Awards— cash awards between \$500 and \$2,000 that help park community organizations and recreation centers with equipment or programming.

San Francisco Parks Trust's four-year, \$100,000 Innovator Awards Program is dedicated to helping those community organizations that make a real impact in their neighborhoods at the grassroots level. This year's recipients included the Douglass Street Steps Coalition, El Dorado Elementary School, Friends of Glen Park Tiny Tots, Goettingen Neighbors Group, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Green Oasis Gardening Club at Raoul Wallenberg High School, MacCanDo Tenderloin Youth Track Club, Mission Neighborhood

*(continued on p. 9)*

# Looking for that unique holiday gift?

You've probably noticed bronze plaques affixed to many of the benches in your favorite parks. SFPT's Commemorative Bench Program is a unique and lasting way to celebrate your loved ones this holiday season, remember those who have passed, or honor those who have made great achievements. Remember a loved one by placing a bronze plaque on a bench in their favorite part of the park, celebrate the birth of a child by placing a commemorative bench in a playground, or honor your business or someone special with a bronze plaque on a bench in the Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park. For more information and to check availability, please contact Donalda Watson-Walkinshaw, Associate Director of Membership, at 415.750.5443 or at [donalda@sfpt.org](mailto:donalda@sfpt.org).



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*Cover photos: Propagation technique workshop at SFPT Breaking Ground Conference (left), Park(ing) Day (upper right), Jerry Day 2008 (lower right).*

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



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## YOUTH CULTIVATE FUTURE *(continued from p. 1)*

that San Francisco's most beautiful places belong to all of us. We also believe that we all share in the responsibility for caring for these spaces. To that end, we've created our own Declaration of Interdependence, which outlines the basic tenets of San Francisco Parks Trust's philosophy for stewardship:

- San Francisco parks belong to all of us
- by protecting natural resources we protect lives
- the future is what we create
- gardens grow more than plants
- youth have the power to create positive change
- gardening on public land is a civic act
- apathy is unacceptable

Street Parks Youth creates opportunities for young people to connect with nature— to get their hands dirty. It also creates opportunities for them to lead community initiatives and connect with their peers.

In September, nearly 100 high school students from all over the Bay Area attended the San Francisco Parks Trust's second annual Breaking Ground: Urban Gardening Youth Conference. This event draws together youth leaders and exceptional stewardship programs from all over the Bay Area. The conference is the only one of its kind in San Francisco, emphasizing peer-to-peer instruction while providing a platform for young environmental leaders to connect with a broader community.

Several youth-led workshops focused on practical skills and shared experiences. The Brigade of Environmentally Educated Teens (BEET Rangers) from Hayes Valley led a workshop on food from small spaces, sharing lessons learned from their experiences in the community garden at Koshland Park. Another workshop, led by youth from Visitacion Valley Green Stewards, covered the basics of plant propagation with hands-on demonstrations.

*"I really appreciated the resources and networking opportunities with people and organizations that have information about environmental projects."*

*Hai Chi Vu, a youth volunteer from Garden for the Environment*

Other workshops focused on a variety of greening techniques including vermicomposting and natural building. Youth hosted a panel on green jobs and SFPT demonstrated the power of alternative energy with a pedal-powered sound system, which amplified speakers and performers.

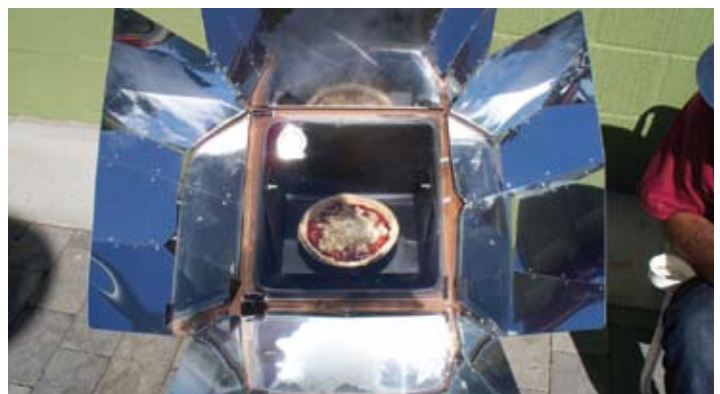
Research shows that the two most critical factors in catalyzing the ambitions of young environmental stewards are playing in nature, and having mentors take them outdoors. Consider joining us for an upcoming gardening day to share your love for public



*The 2nd annual Breaking Ground Conference drew green-conscious youth from different backgrounds and different parts of the City— all with a common purpose.*



*Conference attendees learned about one of our best friends in the garden— worms! (top). Mission Pie donated delicious treats that were cooked in solar ovens(bottom).*



lands and to inspire that same sense of stewardship in young people.

San Francisco Parks Trust is preparing today's youth with the skills they'll need to lead tomorrow. If you're interested in learning more about community initiatives in San Francisco open spaces, please consider volunteering with us Saturday, November 15 from 10am until 2pm at Sunset Community Garden. Call Julia or Jasmine at 415.750.5110 to RSVP.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR People need parks.

At a time when so many are lamenting the difficulty of prying youth away from video games and computers and there are dire warnings of a generation detached from nature, SFPT is actively engaging with teenagers. Our Street Parks Youth program helps create a cadre of urban land-use stewards that secure and protect neighborhood parks and gardens while increasing exposure to and appreciation of nature in urban neighborhoods.

On Saturday, September 27th, our second annual Breaking Ground Conference was a vivid illustration that there actually are many urban youth who want to connect with nature and the environment. Nearly 100 high school students from around the Bay Area spent the day learning, interacting, and making connections with their peers. Most impressive to me was that youth groups like the BEET Rangers and Visitacion Valley Green Stewards led sessions on propagation, composting, and food gardening in urban spaces. Their knowledge and confidence as they taught their peers was wonderful to see. They had fun, and they learned that there is a network of youth caring for the environment, greening urban places, and learning to grow food. They are part of a burgeoning movement and it's exciting that SFPT is in the vanguard.

SFPT also encourages play and recreation, whether it is the annual Play Day in the Park, or through Park Partners like Friends of Boedekker Park and Presidio Heights Playground. We also directly support recreational activities in parks through our Innovator Awards program. In addition to community groups focused on greening (including two youth groups), we also fund youth recreation programs like Youth Tennis Advantage and the MacCanDo Tenderloin Youth Track Club, which for the second year received an award that they will use for program equipment. When the club members arrived at our awards ceremony barbeque on October 11th directly from team practice, their energy, fitness, enthusiasm, and appetite was a joy to behold.

We all know that today's youth must be prepared for a complicated and challenging future. Gardening teaches planning skills, patience, and the flexibility to work around setbacks and unplanned changes. Training for sports imparts discipline, collaborative skills, and teaches how to channel the human competitive impulse into healthy activities. Both activities provide the tremendous gratification of individual achievement and group accomplishment. I am proud of the important work that SFPT is doing with youth, and hope that we will find more ways to help.

Thank you for your continued support of the parks in San Francisco that act as learning grounds for our youth.

All of us wish you the best for the holidays and new year!



Karen Kidwell :: Executive Director



*A young volunteer at an SFPT Street Parks gardening day at Michelangelo Playground. Today's youth are increasingly detached from nature, but it is never too early to expose them to inspiring green spaces—starting with those parks right outside their doors.*

# WEST END MEMBERS' EVENT

SFPT members gathered at the Park Chalet restaurant on September 24th for delicious food, good conversation, and a fascinating tour of the West End of Golden Gate Park. Over 100 members participated in two tours. Naomi Conroy and Jack Norton led the member groups through popular spots such as the Dutch Windmill, and the Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden. Shawn Connelly, site manager for Bloemendal Construction Company, stopped by to talk about the restoration project for the Murphy Windmill.



Long-time SFPT members Mary Ortega and Greg Lathrop said, "We attended and thought it was the best event we have gone to. The food was excellent and the walk so informative." Walking tours are some of the most popular events with SFPT members. Members appreciate learning more about the history of their favorite parks and neighborhood gardens while enjoying the natural beauty of their surroundings.

The next members-only event, the Annual Tree Lighting, will be held on December 4, 2008 at McLaren Lodge. Watch your mail for your postcard invitation!



## Give a Gift – Get a Gift

When you start your holiday gift shopping, consider an SFPT gift membership for a loved one, friend, or co-worker. It's easy! Just call Donalda at 415.750.5443 or e-mail [donalda@sfpt.org](mailto:donalda@sfpt.org) for more information. When you make your donation for a gift membership, you will receive a FREE boxed set of Love Your Parks note cards. It is our gift to you for supporting SFPT and sharing your love for our parks.

# MEMBERSHIP

## Year-End Contributions

As the final quarter of 2008 quickly passes, take a few moments to reflect on what is important to you: family, friends, and quality of life. San Franciscans are fortunate to live in one of the most vibrant, exciting, and beautiful cities in the world. We are only minutes away from any one of the more than 200 parks and recreation centers in our City. These urban oases provide opportunities for exercise and relaxation. Can you imagine your life without your favorite park? As a member of San Francisco Parks Trust, you understand how vital our parks, recreation centers, and open spaces are to your health and well-being. Today, you can do even more to maintain, improve and restore our beloved green spaces.

Call SFPT Membership at 415.750.5443 or donate through our secure website at [www.sfpt.org](http://www.sfpt.org) to make your special gift in addition to your annual membership contribution. If you prefer, mail your generous, tax-deductible donation to SFPT right away, when you receive your year-end contribution letter in November. It is a great way to show that you love your parks and to earn a tax-deduction before December 31st. If you would like information on how you can leave a legacy gift to SFPT through your will or estate, please contact Karen Kidwell at 415.750.5225.



## Commemorative Bench Program

Honor or remember a loved one by making a donation for a bronze plaque on a bench in your favorite City park. Benches start at \$3,500 for a 10-year term. Donations are tax-deductible. For more information, please contact Donalda Watson-Walkinshaw at 415.750.5443 or [donalda@sfpt.org](mailto:donalda@sfpt.org).

# 2008 Fall Fundraiser

On September 12th, more than 600 park lovers joined San Francisco Parks Trust for our fourth annual Fall Fundraiser. The annual celebration is a unique event that each year changes location to highlight a different park gem. This year's event was held at the Conservatory of Flowers and marked the fifth anniversary of its reopening after SFPT's milestone \$25 million campaign that restored it. A portion of the proceeds from the event went to support the Conservatory's education programming for youth.

The Conservatory was transformed into a vibrant evening venue, with dancing, incredible food, as well as an opportunity to escape inside the Conservatory to experience its exotic plantings. Continuing our commitment to sustainability, all materials for the event were made of recycled content, or were reused and/or recycled. We also used bio-diesel in generators, locally-sourced organic food as well as sustainably-harvested seafood.

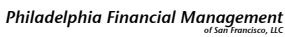
We are especially grateful to you, our members and supporters, who made the event so successful. We would also like to thank event Co-Chairs Meg and Craig Bertero and Christine and Curtis Gardner for bringing together park lovers and civic-minded businesses from all over San Francisco to sustain SFPT's important advocacy of parks and recreation.

If you missed this year's event, we hope to see you next year!



We are especially grateful to those members, patrons, donors, and businesses that supported the 2008 Fall Fundraiser. They are all park lovers, and realize the role that parks play in our quality of life.

## Invest in you®



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## MUSIC IN PARKS HIGHLIGHT SFPT's Program Brings Music to Parks

### Friends of Golden Gate Park Band

The Golden Gate Park Band has been performing free concerts in Golden Gate Park since 1882. In 2006, the Friends of Golden Gate Park Band formed and partnered with San Francisco Parks Trust to support the band through fundraising and programming. The Golden Gate Park Band is a true example of how music and parks can work together to build community and foster stewardship of public open spaces. For more information visit [www.goldengateparkband.org](http://www.goldengateparkband.org).



### Jerry Day

Jerry Day is another great example of how musical events encourage communities to love their parks. Jerry Day is a free music festival that is held every summer in McLaren Park in celebration of musician and Grateful Dead front man Jerry Garcia. It draws a crowd of over 3,000 music-lovers from across the city and country. The event has helped draw attention to San Francisco's McLaren Park which is almost as large as Golden Gate Park but not as well known. For more information visit [www.jerryday.org](http://www.jerryday.org).

If you have a park event with a music component, you may qualify for support through SFPT's Music in Parks Program. Please contact Maria D'Angelico, Park Partner Coordinator, at 415.750.5442 or email [partner@sfpt.org](mailto:partner@sfpt.org).

## PARK VOICES How are you a park innovator?



### Goettingen Neighbors Group

*Cybil Silberman, Pakize Diri, and Mikki Salas with Karen Kidwell*

We are part of a grassroots effort to reclaim a parcel of land that has suffered for years from litter, graffiti, and loitering. This year we participated in a one-day garden makeover and received an Innovator Award to install retaining walls in our neighborhood garden.



### MacCanDo Tenderloin Track Club

*Robert McDaniels and his team*

MacCanDo is an innovative approach to park stewardship and youth empowerment. MacCanDo is the first track and field club established in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. Since April 2004, it has provided a safe environment for at-risk youth to learn and compete in local, national, and international competitions. MacCanDo uses Kezar Stadium in Golden Gate Park as a practice space, thereby increasing usership and stewardship of this public facility.



### James Rolph Playground

*Linda Barnard and Cortez Espinoza*

James Rolph Playground is a facility in the Mission neighborhood that has recently been renovated and reopened. We received an Innovator Award this year to purchase uniforms for teens in our baseball program. This purchase will allow us to expand programming to at-risk youth and increase use of and guardianship of this beautiful new space.

## INNOVATOR AWARDS BBQ *(continued from p. 1)*

Centers and James Rolph Playground, Nature in the City Green Hairstreak Corridor Project, Russian Hill Neighbors, Tara Street Community Garden and the 21st and Bryant Neighborhood Alliance. From beautifying blighted spaces, to providing recreation opportunities for at-risk youth, to saving a San Francisco native butterfly, this year's recipients were on hand at Koshland Park to mingle with SFPT Members and connect their missions with the support that makes those missions possible.

Members also enjoyed great food from DeLessio Market and Mission Pie, live music from Japonize Elephants, human bingo, and a piñata! More than 75 members attended the BBQ and ceremony, and we hope to be able to provide more opportunities like this to connect you, our important members, to the great work you make possible.



*This year's Innovator Award winners with Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi and SFPT Executive Director Karen Kidwell.*

## **GREEN** facts *Cutting through the hype to get to the fact of the matter.*

### **Ethanol As An Alternative to Gasoline?**

*We've seen in recent years the increased use of corn-based ethanol as an alternative "green" fuel for cars. Ethanol is essentially an alcohol-based fuel distilled from grain, much like moonshine. In 2007, 95% of ethanol in the US was created from corn. Some cars run exclusively on 100% ethanol, while the most prevalent use of ethanol is in a fuel formulation called E85 (85% ethanol and 15% regular gasoline) which is used in "flexfuel" vehicles. As a plant-based renewable biofuel, ethanol looks good at the outset. Let's dive a little deeper into the two most often purported benefits of ethanol: its cost and its impact on the environment.*

As an energy source for cars, or anything else, ethanol has about 30% less energy per volume than gasoline. To travel from San Francisco to Yosemite in a vehicle that gets 20 mpg, we need about 10 gallons of gasoline versus about 13 gallons of E85. Today, national averages for gasoline and E85 are \$2.92 and \$2.37 per gallon which makes our trip to Yosemite \$29.20 using gas, and \$30.81 using E85. Even though ethanol may be more expensive, many of us would be willing to pay a little extra if corn-based ethanol were better for the environment, right?

Gasoline's largest impact on the environment is through tailpipe emissions of carbon dioxide. Producing, transporting, and burning one gallon of gasoline in your car releases 20.4 lbs of carbon dioxide, versus 16.2 pounds to fertilize, grow, harvest, refine, transport and burn one gallon of ethanol. Great, corn-based ethanol is better for the environment! But wait, remember that you have to use 30% more to get where you are going. So, for our trip to Yosemite, you will release 204 pounds of carbon dioxide for gasoline versus 210 pounds for corn-based ethanol.

Calculation methods vary for the carbon footprint of corn-based ethanol, largely due to whether or not one includes the carbon-sequestration potential of the land the corn will be grown on. In other words, are you clearing a forest to grow corn for ethanol, or are you using agricultural land already in use? Regardless of how you calculate its carbon "cost", corn-based ethanol is far from a compelling alternative to gasoline in terms of reducing carbon dioxide emissions. In addition, a significant side effect of increasing ethanol production is higher demand for corn, which has more than doubled corn prices in recent years, leading to higher food prices and even food shortages. Almost every dairy item and meat item on grocery shelves relies on corn, while corn-syrup is one of the most widely used food additives.

Is there a biofuel replacement for gasoline? The answer is probably no—at least right now for the scale we need. To put things into perspective, in 2007 the US used more than 200 billion gallons of gas, and about 6.7 billion gallons of ethanol—about 3% of our total need. Even if the US redirected every last kernel of corn to ethanol production, which would necessarily halt the creation of most dairy and meat products, we would only be able to make enough ethanol for about 20% of our transportation needs. While other biofuels such as cellulose-based processes using switchgrasses and agricultural by-products hold more promise, perhaps the biggest hope on the horizon comes from the smallest of "plants"—single-celled algae. One acre of corn produces about 300 gallons of ethanol a year, while an acre of algae theoretically would produce more than 5,000 gallons of biofuel a year.

*Sources: US Department of Agriculture  
Ethanol Producers of America  
"Green Dreams", National Geographic, October 2007  
AAA Daily Gas Gauge, October 21, 2008*

# SAVING THE GREEN HAIRSTREAK BUTTERFLY

Although it has a funny name, the Green Hairstreak Butterfly has a serious problem. This San Francisco native's habitat is disappearing, and without certain species of host flowers nearby for its eggs, it simply won't lay them.

But our unlikely hero with emerald wings has motivated a community to save it, with a swath of native plants, such as seaside daisy and coastal buckwheat, that will connect two of its last remaining populations and create The Green Hairstreak Corridor. This Nature in the City project has brought together the California Native Plant Society, San Francisco Parks Trust and San Francisco butterfly enthusiasts to plant more of those plants on which the Green Hairstreak can lay its eggs.

SFPT's Street Parks Program together with the Department of Public Works will coordinate the task of creating new street parks for the butterflies and their required host plants, connecting existing populations in Grandview Park and Golden Gate Heights Park.

For more information about the Green Hairstreak Corridor or to get involved, please visit [www.natureinthecity.org](http://www.natureinthecity.org).



photo: Adam Winer

## PARK PROTECTOR PROFILE Fran Martin, SFPT Board Member



**What is the Visitacion Valley Greenway?** The neighborhood park I am affiliated with, the award-winning Visitacion Valley Greenway Project (VVGP), is actually a 6 block long necklace of open spaces, which functions as an outdoor classroom, recreational area and vehicle for the

beautification and revitalization of the long neglected Visitacion Valley community. It has become a new paradigm for infill open space. Each of the 6 parcels has a theme: Urban Plaza, Community Garden/Propagation, Herb/Nutrition Education, Children's Play, Agriculture, and Native Plant Gardens—all providing a venue for educational opportunities for our children, youth and adult programs.

**How has SFPT helped your community organization?** First, let me say that being an SFPT Park Partner has been of great benefit to our park organization, VVGP. As our fiscal sponsor, SFPT has helped us obtain and manage our grants, as well as provide us legitimacy when we were a fledging group seeking funding. SFPT has funded site improvement projects, worked with us to hold work parties on site, and helped fund a street park project in our neighborhood. Our high school group, the Green Stewards, participated in the last two SFPT Breaking Ground Conferences.

Above and beyond my own park group, it is an honor to serve on the Board of SFPT, which has helped fund innumerable projects varying from small street and neighborhood park projects to mega projects which benefit the entire region, such as rebuilding the Golden Gate Park Conservatory of Flowers.

**How have parks impacted you?** Being involved with VVGP has changed my life for the better. All of us have the opportunity to improve and give back to our communities. The personal benefits far outweigh any time and energy that one might give to a community endeavor. It is very gratifying to see the change that individuals can make to the urban environment in this era of feeling powerless. The results of unsung individual efforts are seen everywhere in the City. One can get involved by identifying a community need whether it is an abandoned lot, a neglected park, a school garden, or a sidewalk that could be greened. If your neighborhood is perfect, there are plenty that are not—with children, youth and seniors in need. There are innumerable venues to channel your efforts: SFPT is a good place to inquire about how to proceed in terms of open space. Their Street Parks Program, Innovator Awards, youth programs, work parties, and park advocacy in general help to make San Francisco a better place to live. I feel privileged to live in a city with so many people making changes in our public living spaces.

*Fran Martin serves on the Board of San Francisco Parks Trust, is co-chair of the Visitacion Valley Greenway Project as well as chair of the Visitacion Valley Planning Alliance, and works as a teacher and design consultant.*

# SFPT TEMPORARY PARK LEAVES LASTING IMPRESSION

For the second year in a row, San Francisco Parks Trust participated in National Park(ing) Day. On September 19th during this one-day global event which celebrates urban parks, SFPT staff transformed a metered parking spot at One Sansome Street into a temporary public park, complete with a lush carpet of real grass, flowering and fragrant hedgerows, and park benches open for all to enjoy. SFPT's Park Partner Visitacion Valley Greenway was there too. Greenway founders Fran Martin and Anne Seeman transformed the adjacent sidewalk into an artful environment of beautiful herbs and plants, and shared their garden's bounty with downtown business people, commuters, and tourists.

The event provided the perfect venue for SFPT to champion the benefits of parks in our hectic urban lives. Passersby agreed as they stopped to rest on the benches, walked barefoot on the grass, and enjoyed grilled hot dogs from our park barbecue. Enthusiastic visitors raved, "I love it –this is beautiful" and "Can you make this park permanent?!" and "I wish this park was here for good– we really need some green space downtown". It's crystal clear to us that San Franciscans love their parks. For more information on Park(ing) Day, please visit [www.parkingday.org](http://www.parkingday.org).



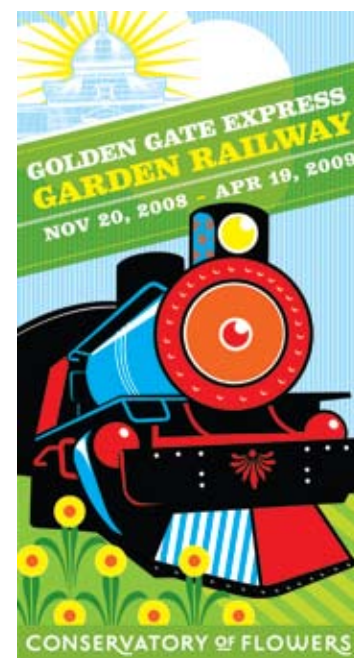
Visitors to SFPT's Park(ing) Day offering in downtown San Francisco enjoyed a picnic, green grass, and an oasis of relaxation.



# FAST TRACK FOR NEW CONSERVATORY EXHIBIT

All aboard The Golden Gate Express for a San Francisco holiday experience like no other! This winter, the Conservatory of Flowers premieres its first garden railway exhibition. It's a celebration of the city of San Francisco as model G-gauge trains wind their way through a lush landscape of dwarf plants and steam past mini versions of the city's landmark buildings. From Mission Dolores to the Golden Gate Bridge, Coit Tower to Chinatown's dragon gate, replicas of San Francisco's most famous places are set amongst miniature gardens and parks to create a magical setting for this special holiday attraction. Visitors will also enjoy a vintage train station seating area, appearances by costumed conductors and interpretive materials about the development of San Francisco and its railways.

So, gather the family and get on track. The Golden Gate Express is a must see destination for the holidays!



# CALENDAR

For up-to-date event and program details visit us at [www.sfpt.org](http://www.sfpt.org)

## NOVEMBER

### Street Parks Gardening Day

Saturday, November 15 :: 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Sunset Community Garden  
37th Avenue and Pacheco Street  
Information: 415.750.5110

## DECEMBER

### Annual Tree Lighting at McLaren Lodge

Thursday, December 4 :: 5:30pm - 7:30pm  
McLaren Lodge, 501 Stanyan Street  
Information: 415.750.5105

## JANUARY

### Street Parks Gardening Day

Time and location TBD

## FEBRUARY

### Street Parks Gardening Day

Time and location TBD



## TREE LIGHTING DECEMBER 4TH!

Even though the venerable tree at McLaren Lodge has lost a few limbs in storms this past year, the annual tree lighting is still not to be missed! Join us for this quintessential San Francisco tradition of holiday merriment and refreshments on December 4th, 5:30pm to 7:30pm— look for an invitation in November!

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



SAN FRANCISCO  
PARKS TRUST

McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, 501 Stanyan Street  
San Francisco, CA 94117-1898

[www.sfpt.org](http://www.sfpt.org)

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