

Proposed Resolution: Moratorium on Removal of Trees Subject to City Jurisdiction

1. WHEREAS in 2014, the City of San Francisco adopted an Urban Forest Plan, which acknowledged serious deficiencies in our City’s urban canopy and urban canopy management. Inter alia, this plan recognized that San Francisco has the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the United States, and called for the planting of 50,000 (net) new street trees by 2034; and

2. WHEREAS in 2019, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution declaring that our City is in a Climate Emergency, and the primary consequence of this Resolution was to catalyze the creation of a new San Francisco Climate Action Plan; and

3. WHEREAS in 2021, after two years of intensive research, study, and community outreach, the City’s Department of the Environment unveiled a new Climate Action Plan, and this plan recommended, inter alia: “by 2023, create a policy to require preservation of mature trees during development or infrastructure modifications and for planting of basal area equivalent of mature trees whose removal is unavoidable”; and

4. WHEREAS in 2021, the City’s Office of Budget and Legislative Analyst released

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Gardens of Golden Gate Park

Spring is here and it is time to get out, barring more crazy storms. We in the Richmond are lucky to have Golden Gate Park and its

many gardens. Here is a small list of the many gardens in Golden Gate Park for you to explore, visit, relax and destress.



Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden

Below the towering Dutch Windmill is the Queen Wilhelmina Garden, where some 10,000 tulip bulbs planted each fall blossom the following March; interspersed with Iceland poppies, the tulips seem even more glorious and colorful. The bowl-shaped garden was designed by Roy L. Hudson and named in 1962 to honor the long-reigning queen of the Netherlands, who had died that same year. Tulips, the emblem of perfect love, originate from central Asia and Turkey, from where they were introduced into Europe and the Americas in the 17th century.

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Spring '23 PAR

**Wednesday
April 19, 2023**

Please see website for details:
sfpar.org

Richmond Recreation Center
251 18th Avenue
(between Clement and California)
Limited parking is available.
Muni: 1 California and 38 Geary

Annual Election of PAR Officers and Directors

The PAR Board endorses the following candidates for election at the April 19 member meeting.

Officers

Nicholas Belloni, President
Dan Baroni, First Vice President
Richard Corriea, Second Vice President
Chris Wright, Treasurer
Jean Barrish, Secretary

Board of Directors

Brian Larkin Margie Hom
Chris Wright Nick Belloni
Daniel Baroni Paul Epstein
Jason Jungries Richard Corriea
Jean Barish Zachary Nathan

Gardens of Golden Gate Park

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San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum

In 55 acres of landscaped gardens and open spaces, this local treasure grows and conserves more than 8,000 plants from around the world. Stroll through a grove of coast redwoods and a Mediterranean garden, explore cloud forests from meso-America and southeast Asia, and wander through gardens of flora from Chile, Australia, Japan, California, and more. The garden's special collections include rhododendrons, camellias, magnolias, and succulents.

Officers & Directors

Officers

Nicholas Belloni, President
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Jean Barish	Jason Jungreis
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Fred Altshuler	Lynn Altshuler
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PAR Representatives in Other Organizations

Housing Action Committee: Dan Baroni
Kaiser Permanente Citizens Task Force:
Peter Winkelstein
Neighborhood Associations for Presidio
Planning: Paul Epstein, Sharon Gadsberry
Richmond Community Coalition: Jean Barish,
Nick Belloni

Conservatory of Flowers

This Victorian confection of wood and glass opened in 1879. It is the oldest building in Golden Gate Park, and one of San Francisco's most beloved landmarks. It houses some 1,700 species of aquatic and tropical plants, including a 100-year-old giant Imperial philodendron, a world-renowned collection of orchids, giant water lilies, and

carnivorous plants. Special exhibits have included such popular favorites as the Butterfly Zone and the miniature garden railroad. Admission to the Conservatory of Flowers is free to San Francisco residents and all veterans.



Japanese Tea Garden

The oldest in the United States, this elegant garden was created for the 1894 Midwinter International Exposition as the fair's Japanese Village exhibit. The

garden's lush, harmonious landscaping pays homage to the traditional Japanese art of the garden. Paths wind through its 3.5 acres of carefully chosen and manicured plants, including graceful Japanese maples, twisting pines, clipped azaleas, and cherry trees that put on a spectacular flowering display in March and April.

Rhododendron Dell

The Rhododendron Dell is a 20-acre site, located in the heart of Golden Gate Park along Kennedy Drive near the Music Concourse. It was designed to honor John McLaren, the father of Golden Gate Park, with more than 850 varieties of his favorite flower. The area includes a pathway system by which a visitor can view the collection. The Dell dates back to the early

1950s. Rhododendrons in Golden Gate Park are truly a labor of love because growing conditions have made it difficult to sustain healthy, long-lasting plants in the past. However, recent renovations and advanced gardening techniques have ensured the existence of the blooms – which provide a visual delight in the springtime.

John McLaren Rose Garden

Until January 8, 1961, San Francisco had no municipal rose garden, although a two-acre informal one had existed in the park on Stanyan Street between Oak and Page Streets early in the century. Today, the park's Rose Garden contains examples ranging from a simple single five-petal configuration of the wild rose to hybridized elegant blooms in a wide

variety of sizes, shapes, and fragrances. These delicately perfumed blossoms are a universal symbol of love and romance, and offer the perfect backdrop for a budding relationship.

The Link 21 Program and the Richmond District

Link21 is a program/plan to build a second transbay rail crossing to complement the BART Transbay tube. From its website, “The Link21 vision involves building a new transbay passenger rail crossing that will connect more communities throughout the Megaregion. A new transbay rail crossing between Oakland and San Francisco was included in two major regional funding measures: BART Measure RR (70.5 percent approval in 2016) and Regional Measure 3 (55 percent approval in 2018). Both measures presented voters with information on the new transbay rail crossing and helped fund Link21. A new transbay passenger rail crossing is also included in the 2018 State Rail Plan.”

The program is divided into four sequential phases:

- Phase 0** Program Definition (2019)
- Phase 1** Concept ID (2022-2023)
- Phase 2** Project Selection Starts 2024
- Phase 3** Project Delivery Starts 2028

Note that project delivery, which includes design and construction of the entire system, is not scheduled to start until 2028. While no end date is predicted, it is likely to be several years or a decade-plus out.

Of peripheral but related interest is that one of the other major passenger transportation projects is the possible connection of the Caltrain Downtown Rail Extension (DTX - now labeled the Gateway project) to the new Transbay Transit

Center. Link21 has told Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) staff that they want to connect to the Transit Center, and to that end the TJPA is coordinating their DTX design with them. The goal is, at a minimum, not to preclude their connection to the Center and trainbox.

Coordination between and among related projects is a positive sign!

Of significance to the Richmond District is that the SFMTA is currently working in partnership with the SFCTA on an early planning study for the Geary/19th Ave Subway. The study kicked off at the beginning of this year. The subway concept was identified in the recent ConnectSF Transit Strategy completed in December 2021. SFMTA and SFCTA are coordinating with the Link21 program on this work as there is potential for the Geary/19th Ave Subway to be through-routed into the future Link21 transbay crossing.

The Geary/19th Avenue study is considering multiple alignment options in the area between Geary Blvd in the vicinity of USF and 19th Avenue at about Sloat. Brian Larkin of PAR’s transportation committee has been in contact with SFMTA staff and found that two possible/probable options are:

1. Route the trains west on Geary to about Masonic and south from there, ultimately connecting to the existing BART tracks.
2. As in the first option, route the trains west on Geary, but stay in that alignment



until Park Presidio, heading south from there.

Both of these alignments would benefit Richmond District residents who want better transit access farther south on the Peninsula. But neither would provide new service to the central or outer Richmond District.

Another plan worth studying would be a joint BART (heavy rail) / Muni Metro (light rail) tunnel to the point where the BART tracks turn south and from that point continue a smaller diameter tunnel for Muni Metro west. That would benefit the entire District with quality rail service for the first time in decades and could be in service well before the rest of the project was complete.

Trees

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a report concluding that “the City’s 10-year average of 2,154 street trees planted annually is less than half of the 5,000 of street trees that need to be planted annually to ensure that the City’s street tree population does not shrink”; and

5. WHEREAS in February 2022, the City’s Public Works Code Article 16 was updated by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and, among other updates, required that trees removed by City Departments be replaced within 120 days; and

6. WHEREAS in July 2022, the San

Francisco Board of Supervisors approved a City budget that included almost no money for the planting or replacement of Street Trees; and

7. WHEREAS in January 2023, the City lost hundreds of trees due to unprecedented winter storms and flooding; and

8. WHEREAS as of January 2023, the City of San Francisco: is now behind by thousands of trees as called for in the Urban Forest Plan; has no policy around tree preservation and replacement as called for in the Climate Action Plan; and lacks the apparent budgetary and personnel resources to achieve the mandates called for in both of those plans.

9. THEREFORE pending the dedication of adequate resources to: comply with the 2014 Urban Forest Plan, comply with urban canopy related mandates in the 2021 Climate Action Plan, replace trees lost during the January 2023 storms, and align with the City’s tree planting priorities to ensure environmental justice:

The undersigned respectfully call for a moratorium on the removal of any additional trees that are subject to City jurisdiction that do not pose a threat or hazard to human safety.

*Nick Belloni, President
Planning Association for the Richmond
(PAR)*

Letter from the President

Welcome to spring — was not sure with all these storms that we would make it. It was a crazy winter of storms and the winds — wow! As I write this, we are looking at another one coming. I hope everyone stayed safe and did not have any major damage. One thing I know that has taken some economic damage is our indepen-

dent theater chain. CinemaSF, which runs the Balboa, 4Star and Vogue now has a gofundme page. I will put a link to it on our website, and donating to help them out would be a nice thing for a local business. Have a good and safe spring.

Nick Belloni
sfparpresident@gmail.com

Consumer fraud impacts small businesses and workers

The City Attorney filed a lawsuit against Personnel Concepts, a marketing company that sells workplace compliance posters provided by government free of charge. Their solicitations are designed to look like official government communications and threaten large fines against small businesses that don't buy the posters. What makes things worse is the posters don't include all necessary information, so alongside small businesses being victimized, workers are harmed when they are not informed of their full labor rights.

Running a small business is hard enough these days, and these scams make it more challenging. Impersonating government actors not only defrauds consumers, but deeply erodes trust in government. The City Attorney is seeking restitution for those victimized and an immediate end to this practice.

Consumer protection has been a top priority of City Attorney's office. The City Attorney has launched a new consumer protection hotline and web portal to make it easier to report suspected cases of consumer fraud. Please visit our new web portal or call our hotline at (415) 554-3977 if you or anyone you know has been victimized by Personnel Concepts or any other company that is defrauding consumers.

Join PAR now and make your voice heard.

Membership is open to all persons living, working or owning property in the Richmond District of San Francisco. PAR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible as provided by law.

Yes, I/we want to support the Richmond District

First name(s)

Last name

Address

Name of business (for business members)

City

State

ZIP

Primary phone

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Email (PAR respects your privacy and will not share your email.)

Membership: Individual Business

- Supporting membership, \$20.00/year and above
- Subscribing membership, \$25.00/year and above
- Sponsor membership, \$50.00/year and above
- Patron membership, \$100.00/year and above

Please complete and cut out this form, then mail it with your check (payable to the Planning Association of the Richmond) to

PAR, 5758 Geary Boulevard, Box 356, San Francisco, CA 94121-2112

You can also join, contribute or pay your dues the easy way at

sfpar.org/site/join-par-via-paypal.html

THANKS for helping to support the quality of life in San Francisco's Richmond District.

Join, contribute or pay your dues the easy way—online at sfpar.org/site/join-par-via-paypal.html.

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