

San Francisco Recreation & Parks

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's Mission is to provide enriching recreational activities, maintain beautiful parks and preserve the environment for the well-being of everyone in our diverse community



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

June 20, 2025

Budget: Recreation – Proposed Reductions

RPD disagrees with the proposal to eliminate 7 additional recreation positions

Recreation Staffing Model

- Programs are run with both permanent and part-time staffing.
- If permanent positions are vacant due to hiring delays, RPD uses the salary dollars for part-time employees that run programming.
- Despite vacancies due to attrition and hiring, Recreation's current 253 FTE, is higher than its budgeted 186 FTE by 67 FTE.

Aquatics

- Due to on-going, nationwide Lifeguard shortage, permanent Aquatics positions have been left vacant for an extended period.
- RPD has used TEX positions for a Lifeguard Trainee program

Aquatics	Budget	Actual	Balance	Comments
Permanent Positions	62.72	48.72	14.00	Approved by Mayor's Office for hire in May
Attrition Savings - Miscellaneous	(8.55)	(8.72)	0.17	Vacancies held in attrition
Funded Permanent Positions	54.17	40.00	14.17	
Temporary Staff FTE	8.32	22.44	(14.12)	Using salary balance for TEX staffing
Total Staffing	62.49	62.44	0.05	



Budget: Partnerships – Policy Recommendation

RPD disagrees with the potential cut of 6 filled Partnerships positions

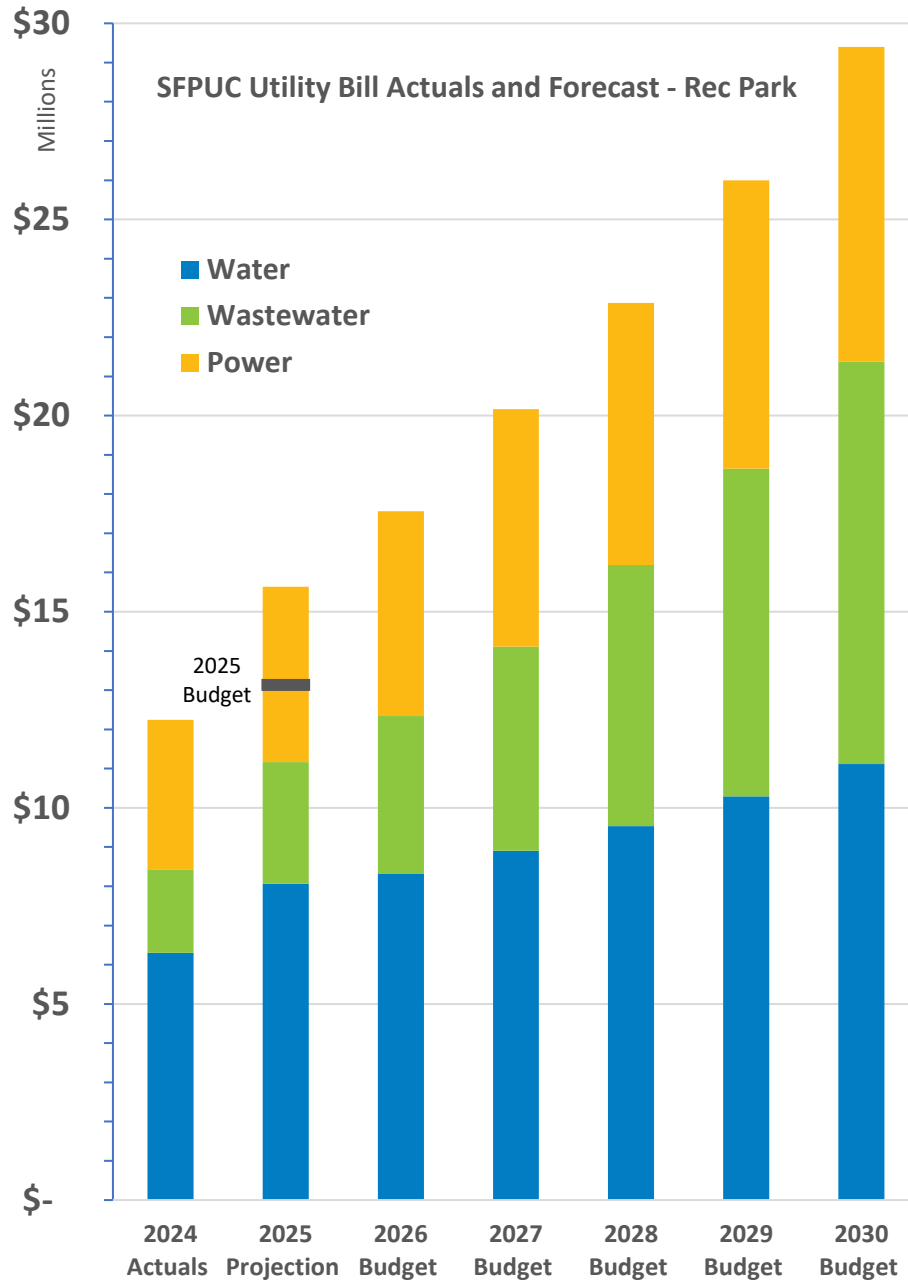
Elimination of the Partnerships Division would leave the Department with no staff to support and project manage community driven projects and programs. This team supports hundreds of donors and community groups in every supervisorial district.

Examples of current and recently completed projects supported by partnerships include **India Basin, Crocker Amazon Playing Fields, Herz Playground Rec Center, Esprit Park, Gilman Playground, Heron's Head, Francisco Park, McLaren Park Tennis Courts, Embarcadero Plaza, Jackson Park, Koshland Park, Reforestation of Parks in the Southeast of San Francisco, Tenderloin Rec Center Playground, and more.**

Over the last five years the partnerships division has generated on average \$29M a year in philanthropic support and state and federal grants unrelated to the former San Francisco Parks Alliance.



Utility Cost Recovery Surcharge



RPD's total utility budget is expected to increase by **roughly 50% over the next two years.**

- \$13M in FY 2024-25 to \$20M in FY 2026-27

Proposed surcharges to offset utility increases

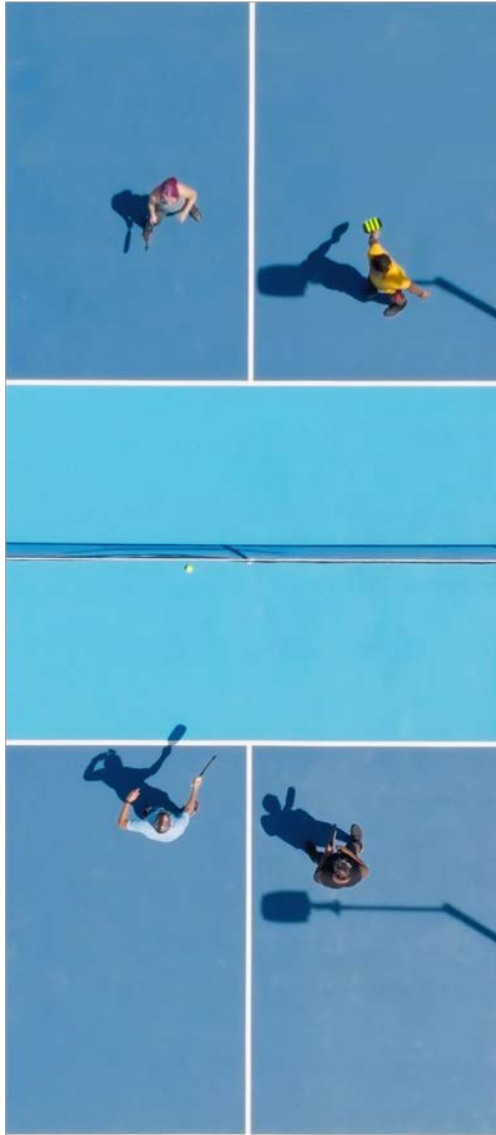
- Golf: \$4 (9 holes), \$6 (18 holes)
- Athletic Fields: \$1 per hour
- Picnic Areas: \$5–\$25
- Outdoor Events: 10% of venue fees

Estimated revenue

- \$1.2M (FY25-26), \$1.75M (FY26-27)
- Recovers ~10% of utility costs (FY25-26, 9 months)
- Indexed to CPI
- Total utility budget projected compound annual growth is 17% over five years



Court Reservations



Proposed \$1M in new revenue from implementing a **\$5 per hour court reservation fee.**

For reservations made more than one week in advance:

- Not for profit or individual \$20 per hour
- For profit \$40 per hour

28 out of 66 locations will have reservations

- Walk-up play remains free at the majority (68%) of court locations

Other Major Cities:

- Seattle: \$7–\$15/hour
- Berkeley: \$12/hour
- Santa Cruz: \$20–\$30/hour
- Oakland: \$10–\$15/hour
- New York, Los Angeles, Portland, Chicago: All charge for reservable court access

Recreation Scholarships and Cost Recovery

Current Recreation Cost Recovery: \$0.15 for every \$1 spent.

Proposal allows Recreation to recover up to specified amounts based on the type of program and the participants. Model is a best practice in other Bay Area cities, (San Jose, Santa Clara, Mountain View, Milpitas) and around the country.

Cost recovery models provide equitable distributions of funding support, greater transparency on the cost of programming, and improved financial sustainability.

Program categories

- **Community benefit** are group-based, inclusive, and promote community health and/or engagement
- **Individual benefit** are more specialized, skill-focused, or serve a single participant, justifying a higher recovery target.

RPD offers over 3,500 classes annually, with fees ranging from \$0 to \$600 and most benefit the community.

Program Category	Maximum Cost Recovery	Examples
Community Benefit	Up to 50%	Peace Parks Program: No increase, remains free Senior Dance Programs: No increase, remains free
Individual Benefit for Youth, Seniors, and Persons with Disabilities	Up to 75%	Youth Swim Lessons: \$5 increase per lesson Youth Karate: \$3.80 increase per lesson
Individual Benefit for Adults	Up to 100%	Adult Yoga: \$8 increase per lesson



Recreation Scholarships and Cost Recovery



Scholarships: Applicants must live in San Francisco and have income equal to or less than 250% of the current federal poverty level or live in public housing, be in Foster Care, or unhoused.

25% of all program participants are currently on scholarship

Scholarship	Eligibility
50% Subsidy	Households that meet income eligibility.
75% Subsidy	Household are in 2+ government subsidized programs AND Adult
100% Subsidy	Household are in 2+ subsidized programs AND Child or Senior

RPD projects an additional **\$0.6M in FY 2025-26** and **\$1.2M in FY 2026-27** with the adoption of a new program cost recovery model.



Golden Gate Park Paid Parking



Paid parking in all legal parking areas within Golden Gate Park (~3,100 spaces)

Rate:

Set in consultation with SFMTA. Demand responsive rate averaging \$3.00/hour with early bird option.

Projected Schedule:

9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 days per week

How to Pay:

App to facilitate mobile payment and pay stations located near park destinations.

Implementation Date:

Scheduled for January **2027**

Net Revenue:

\$4.9M for six months



Golf

Original proposal

Eliminate \$7.5M General Fund subsidy in FY 2026-27 through the potential leasing of golf courses to private operators.

With approval of trailing budget legislation, and revised golf fees, (pending introduction), RPD will no longer pursue lower cost private sector maintenance agreements.

This solution (a new Utility Cost Recovery Surcharge and revised Golf Fees) will preserve excellent public sector work, generate an additional \$4M over the next two years, and result in up to a 60% reduction of the General Fund subsidy.



Golf Affordability



Maintaining Affordable Access to Municipal Golf For All

- **No fee increases** at Lincoln or Golden Gate (except for utility surcharge)
- **Youth rates unchanged**, except for utility surcharge
- **First Tee** provides free access to **11,000 youth** annually (2,000 at Harding)
- **Senior discounts** continue Mon–Thurs at all courses
- **Harding Park Highlights**
 - **Youth on Course:** \$3–\$5 per round at Harding/Fleming
 - **14 high schools** retain discounted access
 - **PGA HOPE:** SF resident rates for all veterans
 - **Beginner lesson discounts** for seniors, adults, and youth



Potential service reductions October 2025

If legislation is not approved, Rec Park will need to reduce services, vacate positions, and implement layoffs as necessary in October 2025 by an additional \$5M, (\$6.7M on an ongoing 12-month basis,) which includes **34 full-time and 92 part-time positions**.

	FY26	FY27
Revenue at risk		
No Paid Parking in GGP		(4.9)
No additional fee revenue	(2.9)	(4.0)
At risk revenue subtotal	(2.9)	(8.9)
Service reductions to balance		
Service Reductions	5.0	6.7
Year 1 savings		2.2
Potential reductions subtotal	5.0	8.9
Ending Balance	2.2	0.0

SWIMMING POOLS (\$0.5M; 4 full-time and 4 part-time positions)

- **Closing one pool out of 9 pools (8 year-round) at a time on a rotating schedule** to reduce costs while keeping overall access available across the city.
 - Swim lessons serve about 5,000 children annually, but waitlists have soared to nearly 7,000—a 131% unmet demand.

RECREATION CENTER PROGRAMS (\$0.5M; 18 part-time positions)

- **Reduced hours at 25 recreation centers** from 60 to 40 per week, a 30% reduction. Fewer senior, tot, and drop-in program hours.

SUMMER CAMPS (\$0.9M; 70 part-time positions)

- A **25% reduction** in summer camps—**2,500 fewer camp slots**
 - In 2024, our summer camps are offering 9,000 spots, but more than 4,200 children are still on the waitlist. One of our most popular, the Jr. Warriors basketball league has more kids waiting to join than are enrolled.

PARK MAINTENANCE (\$2.0M, 21 full-time positions)

- **Reducing 2.5 hours from 120 restrooms** from 8 AM–8 PM to 8 AM–5:30 PM results in a **21% reduction** in open restroom hours.
- **Reduction in Local 261 gardener apprenticeship program**; currently, we have a class of 15, which will be reduced to 6.
- **Reduction in trash service**

PUBLIC SAFETY (\$1.1M, 9 full-time positions)

- A **10+% cut to Park Rangers**—reducing our ability to prevent illegal encampments and possibly eliminating fixed posts like UN Plaza and Dolores Park.



Thank You

