

URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT



SAN FRANCISCO
RECREATION
& PARKS

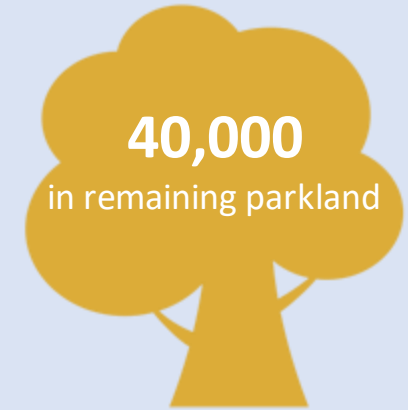
SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 4, 2023

AN OVERVIEW OF OUR URBAN CANOPY



Rec|Park manages an estimated **131,000 trees** on **3,400 acres** within city boundaries, out of 700,000 total trees in San Francisco



San Francisco is predominantly a coastal scrub landscape. **Native forest is a rarity** in the historical SF landscape.

Aging canopy with the most mature trees planted in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Large stands of even-aged trees and monocultures in open space.

Disease and pathogens, such as Pine Pitch Canker, play a role in increasing mortality.



CAPITAL FUNDING & OTHER RESOURCES

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL

Approximately \$1M annually to fund contract tree work and assessments

RPD CAPITAL BOND FUNDS

Specific tree work related to capital improvement projects

GRANT FUNDING

Recently awarded USDA grant (IRA funds): \$2M grant for enhancing urban canopy in SE San Francisco. Includes workforce development component and nexus to climate benefits/adaptation.



WINTER STORM IMPACTS

Heroic response of Rec | Park operations staff

- Estimated 650 trees lost to winter storms in 2023
- Successes and challenges
- Approximately \$2M in storm-related contract work conducted so far in 2023. Sites include: Stern Grove, Dorothy Erskine, Edge Hill Mountain, Mt. Davidson
- \$2.18M claim to FEMA for forestry-related eligible losses

Reforestation totals for FY23:

- ❖ 994 trees planted,
- ❖ 1028 lost (including storm).
- ❖ Near 1:1 ratio for 2023, despite storm losses

REFORESTATION



REFORESTATION CONSIDERATIONS

- Goals dependent on individual park design and uses
- Biodiversity and preservation of native landscapes

DEPARTMENT GOAL

- 2-for-1 replacement for tree removals

5-YEAR PLANTING-TO-REMOVAL RATIO

- 1.9-to-1

URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT GOALS

Strategic Plan Goal Objective 4.1(b)

Develop and populate a tree management database to record planting, maintenance, and status of park trees

Working toward an increase in **programmatic tree work**



Rec|Park is currently piloting a **GIS-based database** approach to tree management and inventory with goal of scaling up

Goals

are built upon key previous planning and assessment efforts:

Hort Science Assessment of Urban Forestry Operations in 2010

+

Natural Resources Management Plan

Thank you.



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OPERATIONS STAFFING & FUNDING

9

ARBORIST TECHNICIANS (Job Class 3434)

4

GENERAL LABORERS (7514)

9

GARDENERS (3417)

1

GARDENER SUPERVISOR (3422)

3

ARBORIST TECHNICIAN SUPERVISORS (3436)

1

ARBORIST SUPERVISOR (3438)

1

CHIEF URBAN FORESTER (3426)

TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET: \$6M (approx.)

TREE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

HAZARD ASSESSMENT & MITIGATION



Park Operations— Rec | Park staff identification and reporting of hazards through department work order system



Formal Assessments— Assessments performed and conducted by outside contractors