



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

2021-2022 CIVIL GRAND JURY



# SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKS FOR ALL

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## Summary

- The Recreation and Park Department (RPD) is responsible for 220 parks in the city.
- Some parks are less safe for foot or wheelchair traffic due to the poor surface conditions of their pathways, especially for people with disabilities or the elderly.
- Information regarding pathway conditions and accessibility is very limited on RPD's website <https://sfrecpark.org/Facilities/>
- The accessibility information are not available at all parks' entrances.



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## An Example of the Park's Description

- <https://sfrecpark.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Hyde-Vallejo-Mini-Park-174>
- No accessibility info either at the website or at the entrance of this park.

Hyde & Vallejo Mini Park



Washington-Hyde Mini Park is a postage stamp-size jewel tucked away in the City's Nob Hill neighborhood. The .15-acre park is one of the city's more charming and unique spots, marked by play structures and other features that replicate the streets of an Old World town. Bring the kiddies and a lunch and enjoy one of San Francisco's best-kept secrets.



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# Some Parks' Pathways Posing Tripping Hazards





# Current Evaluating the Parks

- The Controller’s Office aggregates the park evaluation data (collected by the RPD staff quarterly) and computes and publishes annual park maintenance scores in 12 aspects (features) for each park at <https://sf.gov/resource/2022/park-maintenance-scores>
- 12 features include things like greenspace, lawns, restrooms, trees, hardscape etc.
- None of these scores appears in RPD’s park descriptions.

## San Francisco Park Maintenance Scores

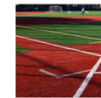
About Citywide Trends Park Lookup By District Equity Zones **Park Features**

### Park Features

Each park includes numerous park features, which include children’s play areas, trees, table seating areas, and more. In addition to the overall park score shown on previous pages, we also calculate scores for each feature. This enables us to:

- Examine a particular park’s maintenance in more detail to figure out what aspects are well maintained.
- Compare feature scores to see if there is a geographic trend in how a certain feature is maintained across the city.

Click on the feature below to see more information and scores for that feature:



Athletic Fields



Buildings & General Amenities



Children’s Play Areas



Dog Play Areas



Greenspace



Hardscape



Lawns



Ornamental Beds



Outdoor Courts



Restrooms



Table Seating Areas



Trees



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## Park Scores Are Used to Evaluate Parks

- The latest annual report for 2018-19:  
*“Since FY15, the citywide average park score has increased steadily, going from 86% in FY15 to 92% in FY19.”*
- The RPD’s response claims this evaluation is “based on appearance standards.” If that’s the case, then the current park scores are both misleading to the public and inadequate in accessing the current pathway surface conditions.



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## SFCGJ's Recommendations

- Compute a new ***Pathway Condition*** feature by using the same set of data from RPD's quarterly survey to reflect pathway surface condition such as potholes/gaps, tree root bumps etc.
- Set a baseline for this ***Pathway Condition*** score as a reference to maintain parks' pathways to be safe for all to use.
- Inform the public by displaying ANNUAL park scores (NOT the quarterly) published by the Controller's Office in each park's description at RPD's website.
- Provide accessibility information at RPD's website and parks' entrances, similar to CA State Parks' pictorial signages.