

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

Park Code - Admission Fees at the Gardens of Golden Gate Park]

Ordinance amending the Park Code to waive fees for admission by San Francisco residents to the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers; to authorize the Recreation and Park Department to charge discounted admission fees to non-San Francisco residents visiting two or more of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park (i.e., the Japanese Tea Garden, the Conservatory of Flowers, and the San Francisco Botanical Garden); and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

The Park Code sets different rates for children, adults and seniors to be admitted to the Japanese Tea Garden the Conservatory of Flowers, and San Francisco Botanical Garden. San Francisco residents receive discounts at the Japanese Tea Garden and Conservatory of Flowers, and do not pay any fees at the Botanical Garden.

In 2019, the City enacted Ordinance No. 194-19, which, among other things, authorized the Recreation and Park Department ("RPD") to set non-resident adult admission fees for the Gardens through a system of flexible pricing. Under this system, RPD could increase non-resident adult admission fees by up to 50%, and could authorize decreases of any amount, based on factors such as public demand, facility conditions, and rates at comparable facilities. This system was to remain in place until at least June 30, 2021. In 2021, the City extended flexible pricing at the Gardens by enacting Ordinance No. 131-21, which provided that flexible pricing could continue until December 7, 2021.

Amendments to Current Law

The ordinance would waive all admission fees for San Francisco residents at the Japanese Tea Garden and Conservatory of Flowers, to make the fees at those facilities consistent with the Botanical Garden. The ordinance would also authorize RPD to develop discounted ticket options for non-residents visiting two or more of the Gardens, based on certain factors. The ordinance would not renew RPD's authority under Ordinance No. 194-19 to increase fees for non-residents by up to 50% based on flexible pricing, so going forward RPD could decrease the non-resident rates as noted above but could not increase them.

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