



# Government Audit & Oversight Committee

Civil Grand Jury Report – Safe and Accessible Parks for all

September 15, 2022

# Safe & Accessible Parks for All

The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) welcomes people of all abilities to enjoy our parks and facilities, and to participate in programs, classes and special events we offer. Most of our facilities are accessible to people in wheelchairs and other mobility impairments.

Over the past 10 years, RPD has invested more than **\$19 million** focused on improvements to trails, accessible pathways to parks and playground, and repaving projects at some of the City's most iconic places.



# RPD Response to Civil Grand Jury Report

2021 – 2022 Civil Grand Jury Report *Safe and Accessible Parks for All* publicly released the attached report with findings and recommendations. Below are **RPD's response**.

## FINDINGS

1. Published Hardscape feature scores for the City's parks fail to reflect the true surface conditions of pathways for pedestrian and wheelchair traffic, thus providing misguided information to the RPD for setting maintenance priorities, and to the public about a park's accessibility. **Disagree.**
2. The RPD doesn't integrate the park scores into each park's description. **Disagree.**
3. The RPD fails to provide park accessibility information on RPD's website and at all park entrances **Partially agree.**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1. The Jury recommends the Controller's Office create a Pathway Condition feature from existing park scoring systems that specifically assesses pathway surface conditions by December 31, 2022.
- 1.2 The Jury recommends that the RPD set a baseline for the Pathway Condition scores defined in R1.1 by March 31, 2023.
- 1.3. If a park's Pathway Condition score falls below the baseline defined in R1.2, the Jury recommends the RPD improve that park's pathway to raise this score to be above the baseline within a reasonable time.
2. The Jury recommends the RPD incorporate the most recent park feature scores under each park's description on the RPD's website by December 31, 2022.
- 3.1. The Jury recommends the RPD include accessibility information on the RPD's website by July 1, 2023.

**Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.**

- 3.2. The Jury recommends the RPD post accessibility information at all park entrances by July 1, 2024. **Requires further analysis to determine, fund, and implement.**

# RPD Park Scores

In 2003, San Francisco voted to amend the charter to name the Controller's Office as the City Services Auditor (CSA). The charter requires that the CSA in cooperation with RPD to establish objective and measurable park maintenance standards.

- **Parks are evaluated using standards for 12 categories of park features**, including lawns, children's play areas, and restrooms, and include questions about park maintenance and appearance.
- These standards measure the City's ability to provide **parks that are clean and safe**.
- **The standards do not evaluate the design of facilities, demand for amenities, or establish maintenance priorities.**
- **These evaluations are not substitutes for the professional assessment of structural integrity.**
- The evaluations produce scores for every City park. These scores are summarized which shows citywide trends, the highest and lowest scoring parks, and changes in individual park scores over time.



## AVERAGE CITYWIDE PARK MAINTENANCE SCORES

### Citywide Park Maintenance Scores

Every year, each park's maintenance level is evaluated quarterly. These quarterly scores are averaged to create annual park maintenance scores. In addition, all park scores can be averaged to measure the citywide park maintenance score. In this section, you can explore data on the citywide average park score, the highest and lowest-scoring parks, and how the scores have changed over time.

Click on the topic you are interested in learning more about:



Citywide Park Score



Highest- and Lowest-Scoring Parks



Changes in Park Scores Over Time

### Parks Evaluated in the Program



# RPD Progress & Future

**RPD welcomes people of all abilities to enjoy our parks and facilities and to participate in programs, classes, and special events we offer.** We have implemented improvements based on feedback from the disability community and the public and continue to be open to additional feedback.

**Continued Signage:** RPD will continue to improve signage and wayfinding throughout City parks by increasing wayfinding signage to accessible park entrances and providing information on paths to help park users plan their visits.

**Disability Access Team:** RPD is in the process of adding a new member to the Disability Access team. We currently have 2 ADA Disability Access Coordinators; one focused on physical access and another focused on programmatic access. This new team member will work directly with the disability community to ensure overall ADA compliance with physical, architectural, and code expertise.



Thank You.