

in the works

June 2017



A friendly grazing goat takes a break from clearing the Twin Peaks hillside for the Pink Triangle event.





A message from our director



7/1

Proposition E Street Tree Maintenance Initiative Begins July 1

Thanks to the voter-approved measure Proposition E, the City officially takes responsibility for maintaining street trees and repairing tree-related sidewalk damage beginning July 1, 2017. Check out this [FAQ](#) for more information on funding, pruning responsibilities, permits and other commonly asked questions.



7/4

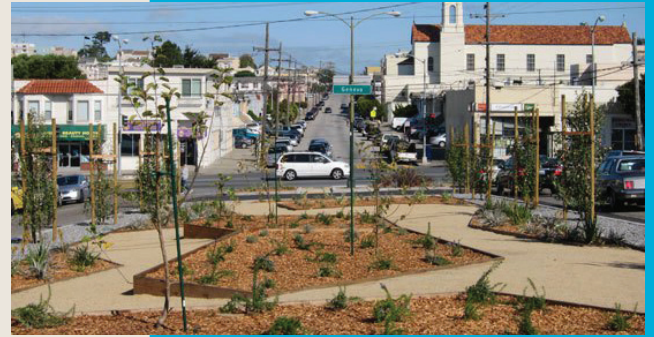


Sunday Streets Mission

Enjoy car-free fun in the heart of the Mission, on Valencia Street between Duboce Avenue to 26th Street, with fun, FREE activities for the whole family to enjoy all along the way.

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
[Route Map](#)

7/16



Naples Green Volunteer Day

Join Supervisor Ahsha Safai, Public Works and Excelsior community members to spruce up Naples Green.

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Naples Green
(Naples St. & Geneva Ave.)

7/22



7/29

Community Clean Team in District 7

Community Clean Team is San Francisco Public Works' longest-running and largest volunteer program that keeps San Francisco beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods.

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
(Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)
City College of San Francisco
50 Phelan Ave. (parking lot)



Nancy Wong, from your Outreach and Enforcement (OnE) Team is the best! She handles problems swiftly and is very pleasant to deal with.

Eleanor C.

I want to take the time to THANK YOU for funding our (Dorchester Way) project and restoring my faith in City government!

Working together we CAN make a difference in our neighborhoods.

We all benefit when folks feel that their voices have been heard.

I really appreciate all the time it took to see this project through to funding.

Cheers to you!

Yvette S.

I wanted to let you know that I went into Public Works' office assuming that my horrible day would only get worse. My condo partners and I have been working on a condo conversion since 2006 and we were just told that I needed to obtain a Notice of Termination of Restrictions Under the Subdivision

Code for title purposes. I went into the Public Works office to submit my request and was worried that it would take a long time to be reviewed and approved.

Instead, we walked into the offices and were quickly introduced to Ernie Banks, who was ready, willing and able to help. His demeanor instantly put me at ease and made me realize that he was on my team and would do what he could to ferry the paperwork through the process. Instead of an obstacle, I found a partner. Although I arrived with fear and frustration, I left with relief and calmness. That is 100 percent due to Ernie.

Naomi G.

San Francisco Public Works has again answered my 311 service requests promptly and effectively, usually within the next day or two even though the 311 service request form states the days to wait before a service.

Thank you so much!

Regards,
Peter O.

I live in the vicinity of one of your San Francisco Pit Stops. The woman who attends it during the week keeps what is typically an unruly corner of the City clean, ordered and cared for. She works tirelessly and seems to get along with the passersby as well as the regulars. She takes pride in her work.

She deserves acknowledgment for her outstanding work.

If each San Francisco resident took as much pride in their work as she

does in hers, we would be one of the cleanest cities in the country.

Maria P.

I want to thank Public Works and especially Jimmer Cassiol from your Community Programs team for pursuing our service order to a successful completion.

During our phone calls, I sensed passion and urgency about how the trash can was impacting our business. This gave me confidence that our government partner –you – cared about issues deemed significant by a small businesses owner.

Todd and Jennie L.



As I walked home from church Saturday morning, students from a local sketching class -- hobbyists with an inherent love for art -- had gathered on the Filbert Street side of the building that Public Works was instrumental in cleaning up. I doubt that this class would have been there at all if Public Works hadn't made these sidewalks and streets near Washington Square more inviting.

Marc B.



TEAM
13
SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC
WORKS



Add us on Snapchat!

We'll keep you informed and entertained with Public Works news, events and unique happenings going on all over the City. Add "Sfpublicworks" on Snapchat or scan the ghost icon using the Snapchat camera on your phone.

When hundreds of thousands revelers danced, waved, cheered and showered rainbow confetti at this year's Pride Parade, San Francisco Public Works crews jumped into action as soon as the floats, bands and marchers passed by. ▶

Public Works Takes P





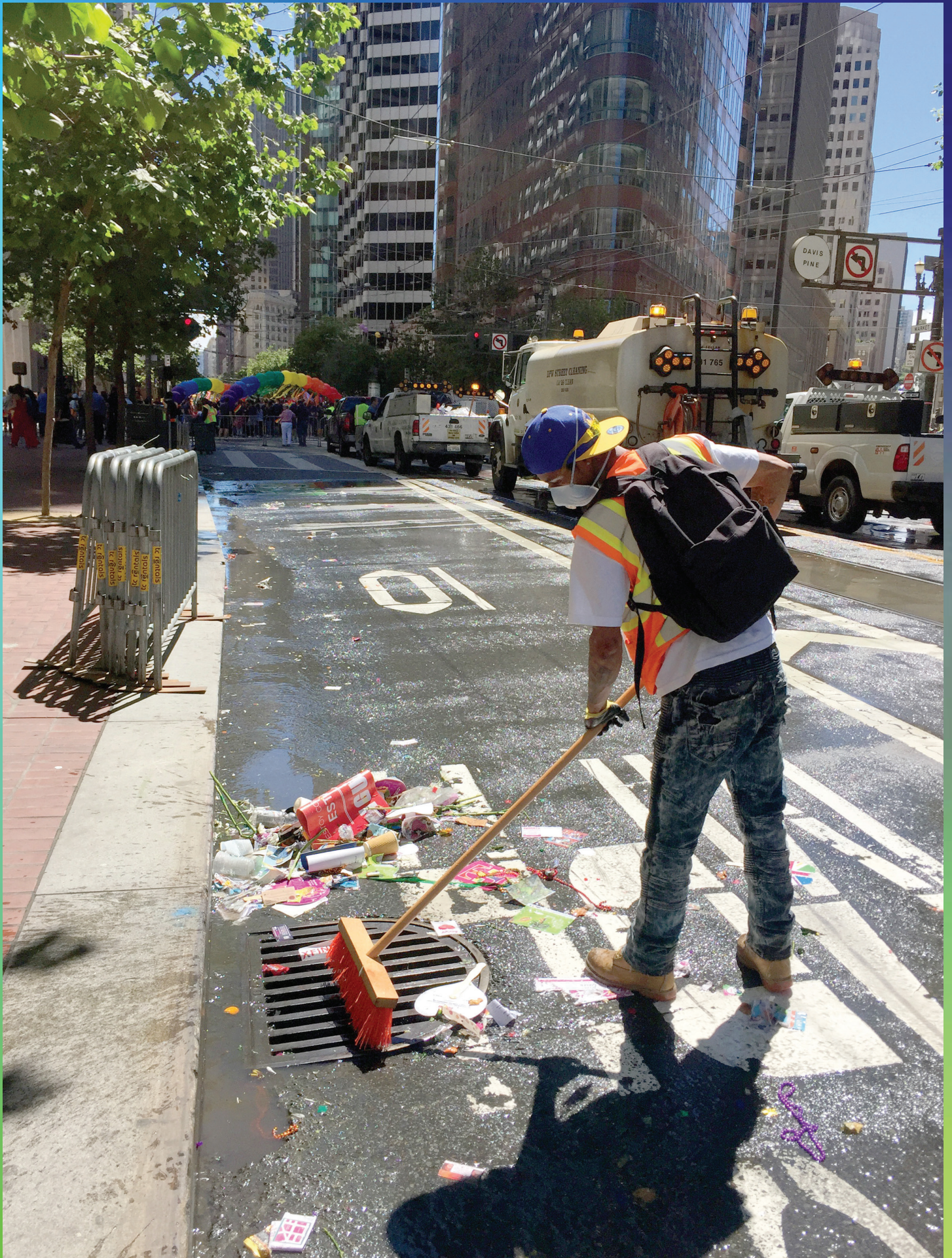
ride in Pride Cleanup



Public Works team ready to clean the streets post Pride Parade.







- ▶ Their mission: Pick up the tons of debris left behind by the celebrants.

More than four dozen street cleaners worked the operation. They used blowers, rakes, brooms, shovels and flusher and mechanical sweeper trucks to work as quickly as possible to get the roads back open to vehicles and bikes and the sidewalks clean for pedestrians.

This year, about 250 contingents participated in the 47th-annual Pride Parade on June 25; an estimated 1 million others lined the route – along Market Street from Beale to Eighth streets – to watch the moving celebration.

The windy weather didn't make the job easy for our crews, with trash and confetti blown in all directions. Still, we got the job done by 7:45 p.m., only a couple of hours after the parade passed by.

Public Works crews also worked overnight to scour Civic Center Plaza and nearby streets after the two-day Pride weekend festival shut down. By 5:30 a.m. Monday the neighborhood sparkled.

In all, working block by block, we cleaned up more than 30 tons of trash along the parade route and around the festival area.

Other Pride festivities kept us busy – the Trans March from Mission Dolores to the Tenderloin on June 23 and the Dyke March from Dolores Park to the Castro the next day. We also hired a herd of goats to prepare the Twin Peaks hillside for the annual Pink Triangle commemorative ceremony, which was held on June 24.

We also want to give a big shout-out to Recology, the refuse hauler, for being a great partner in working with us to put the City back in shape after the busy Pride festivities.

We'll be back next year ready to do it all over again. With pride! ■



HAVE YOU HERD? THE GRAZING GOATS WERE BACK!

Each year before the Pride festivities roll in, a friendly herd of landscapers makes its way to the top of Twin Peaks to tidy up the hillside that overlooks the entire City. ▶













► These landscapers are different than the ones typically seen beautifying our parks and public spaces as they have four legs and speak a different tongue, often belting out, “bleat!”

If you haven’t already figured it out, the laborers we’re referring to are goats, our unofficial mascot at Public Works. They were in town on June 14 for a one-day job.

Although the sightseers at Twin Peaks – many of whom were “bleating!” back at the goats – may have thought they only came out to say hi, these friendly hooved creatures were hard at work prepping for the June 24 [Pink Triangle](#) event at the top of Twin Peaks for Pride weekend. In order to have the area

ready for the annual event, the goats were brought in to clear overgrown weeds on the north-facing hillside that overlooks downtown and many neighborhoods, including the Castro, Noe Valley and the Mission.

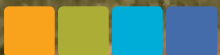
The herd is run by [Goats R Us](#), a family-owned and operated grazing company based in the East Bay community of Orinda. The goats provide an organic weed abatement service that has quickly become a favorite tradition among us goat lovers here at Public Works.

Terri Oyarzun, who co-owns Goats R Us with her husband, said it was an honor that her goats were brought in by Public

Works to get the hillside in shape for the Pink Triangle event. “It has so much meaning,” she said.

The Pink Triangle is an annual San Francisco commemoration of the gay victims who were persecuted and killed in concentration camps during World War II.

The pink triangle was originally a symbol used by the Nazis to identify and shame homosexuals, but has since been embraced by the LGBT community as a symbol of pride. Since 1995, the Twin Peaks hillside has been used to showcase a giant pink triangle that can be seen from miles away and serves as the perfect backdrop to the Pride celebrations. ■







No Ifs, Ands or Butts

We're ready to kick some (cigarette) butt. ▶

Butt can up and ready for use on Balboa Street in the Outer Richmond.





PLASTIC
HERE!

PLASTIC
HERE

放入这里

在这里

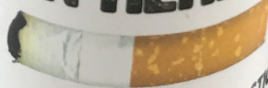
PLASTIC

PLASTIC



Cigarette Disposal

**BUTTS
IN HERE!**



CIGARETTE FILTERS ARE PLASTIC
RECYCLE YOURS HERE

Tàn thuốc lá vào đây

把烟头丢在这里



SPONSORED BY: **rdnc**

**SURFRIDER
FOUNDATION**



► We teamed up with Supervisors Katy Tang and Sandra Fewer to launch a pilot program aimed at reducing cigarette litter by placing butt receptacles in the Richmond and Sunset districts. The goal is to get smokers to stop using our sidewalks and streets as their ashtrays.

Studies have found that cigarette butts are the most prevalent type of litter in San Francisco and they often are difficult to pick up because they get stuck in cracks and crevices. Not only are they unsightly blight on our neighborhoods but they also harm the environment, especially when they are washed down our sewer

system and into the waterways. “Flicking cigarettes is a common habit and many people think cigarette filters are biodegradable,” said Shelly Ericksen of the Surfrider Foundation. “In fact, cigarette filters are made of tiny strands of cellulose acetate – the same plastic as your sunglasses. They are loaded with toxic chemicals, including arsenic, lead and cadmium, poisoning children and animals that mistake them for food. When those chemicals leach into our oceans and groundwater, they threaten the safety of the fish we eat and the water we drink.”

The 6-month pilot program, which launched June 30, provided

for the installation of 40 cigarette butt receptacles along Irving Street, Noriega Street, Balboa Street, Geary Boulevard and the Ocean Beach promenade. Public Works street cleaners will empty the pole-mounted cans.

The Surfrider Foundation’s Butt Brigade conducted a cigarette butt count prior to the program kickoff, and will conduct counts during the pilot to see if they’ve been effective at reducing cigarette detritus in the vicinity.

If the experiment is deemed successful, we will look at adding butt cans to other commercial corridors throughout the City. ■



This Blue Feeling Brings Joy

Jane Warner Plaza got a nifty new look just in time for Pride celebrations, when crews applied a colorful coat of “seafoam” blue epoxy to protect the asphalt. The protective finish was applied to the





Vintage Muni streetcar from Washington D.C., circa 1946, is a great match for the new colored pavement at Jane Warner Plaza.

pavement after spot repairs at the plaza were completed – adding a welcome splash of color to the Castro neighborhood destination.

Jane Warner Plaza, named after a [Patrol Special Police Officer](#) who walked the neighborhood beat, came to life in 2009. Then, the City, in partnership with the [Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District](#), closed off the block of 17th Street, just east of the Castro

and Market intersection, to private autos and trucks. Born was a public gathering space.

Improvements to Jane Warner Plaza, including the blue-tinted ground, are an offshoot of the Castro Streetscape project, which Public Works managed. Completed in the fall of 2014, upgrades along Castro Street, from Market to 19th streets, include wider sidewalks, new street trees and landscaping, new street lights, street furniture

and bike parking, decorative rainbow-striped crosswalks and a freshly paved roadway in the heart of San Francisco's historic LGBT neighborhood.

The \$4.5 million streetscape improvements were funded with proceeds from the \$248 million Road Repaving and Street Safety Bond, which City voters approved in 2011.

Photo credit: San Francisco Recreation and Park Department



A Dynamic New Outdoor Space Parks Itself in the Mission

Hundreds of people gathered with joy on June 24 to celebrate the transformation of an asphalt parking lot into a community-inspired park in the heart of the Mission District. ▶





Rituals were a big part of the ribbon-cutting celebration for the new In Chan Kaajal Park.









Interactive water features delight young visitors.



Playful visitors
check out the new
amphitheater.

Photo credit:
San Francisco Recreation
and Park Department



- ▶ They dedicated the new open space with a Mayan blessing, rhythmic percussion drumming and an upbeat Aztec dance.

The unveiling of the new park's name, In Chan Kaajal, also took place at the celebration. The name is a Mayan phrase that means "My Little Town" or "My Little Village," and gives a nod to both the neighborhood's cultural roots and the park's community focus.

Located at 17th and Folsom streets, the 31,850-square-foot park is packed with amenities for people of all ages. There's a large central lawn with an outdoor amphitheater; a children's play area with interactive water features; an

adult fitness zone; a community garden and drought-tolerant landscaping that provides habitat for wildlife.

The park came to life in a densely populated neighborhood where outdoor recreation space has been in short supply. In Chan Kaajal Park will give thousands of families and friends a fun, beautiful and safe place to play, exercise and catch some fresh air. It is the first new neighborhood park in the Mission acquired and built by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department in more than a decade.

Working closely with Rec and Park, Public Works provided design, engineering and

construction management services.

Primarily funded by a California Recreation and Parks Department Statewide Park and Community Revitalization Grant, the \$5.2 million project began in 2009 with the support of hundreds of neighborhood residents and dozens of local community groups who participated in multiple design sessions, open houses, street stall displays and public hearings.

In Chan Kaajal Park is a testament to the power of partnership among neighbors, City agencies and nonprofit groups, and will be a community space guaranteed to be enjoyed by many generations to come. ■



Rec center's climbing wall ready for the daring.





Renovated Glen Canyon Rec Center: The Gem in the Rec and Park Crown

The oldest recreation center in the City has emerged from a \$14 million makeover as perhaps the most magnificent. ►

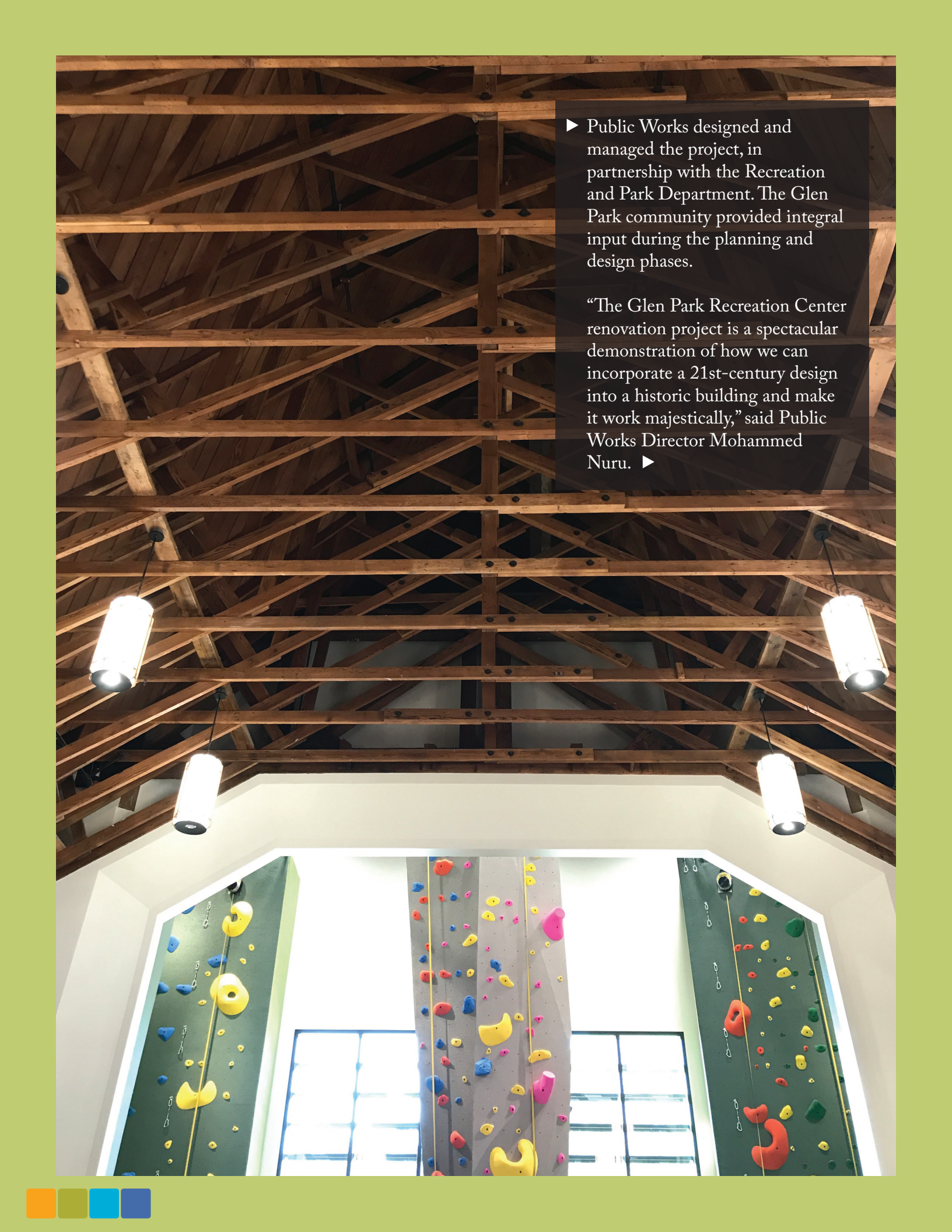
At right, *Solar Totems*,
made up of three
reclaimed redwood logs
serve as public art and
instruments to record
weather data.

Photo credit:
San Francisco Recreation
and Park Department



- ▶ The Glen Canyon Recreation Center in San Francisco's Glen Park neighborhood, opened in 1938 during the Great Depression – and certainly showed its age. But a major renovation refurbished the gym and auditorium; overhauled the mechanical systems, roofing, floors windows and walls; added accessible restrooms; and brought the first indoor climbing walls to the City's park system. ▶





► Public Works designed and managed the project, in partnership with the Recreation and Park Department. The Glen Park community provided integral input during the planning and design phases.

“The Glen Park Recreation Center renovation project is a spectacular demonstration of how we can incorporate a 21st-century design into a historic building and make it work majestically,” said Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru. ►





► Rec and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg described the rebuild as the “prettiest in the system,” and Kat Anderson, who serves on the Rec and Park Commission, called it “the gem in the crown of Rec and Park.”

Mayor Ed Lee and other elected and community leaders toured the almost-completed facility June 5 and watched as kids from the Silver Tree summer camp in Glen Canyon Park tried out the new climbing wall and gave it an enthusiastic thumbs-up. The revamped rec center is expected to be fully operational in mid-July. ■

The new gymnasium promises a better bounce for basketballs.

Photo credit:
San Francisco Recreation
and Park Department

Esmeralda Slide Park Finds Its Way with The Locator

We love a party, especially one that trumpets public art. That brought us to Bernal Heights on June 24 for the christening of “The Locator,” a sidewalk mosaic installed at the top of Esmeralda Slide Park.

The colorful artwork features four arrows pointing to Mission Street (west), downtown (north), Cortland Avenue (south) and Bernal Hill (east).

Esmeralda Slide Park steward [Joan Carson](#) came up with the idea for The Locator; graphic designer [Nancy Windesheim](#) provided the detailed design and mosaic artist [Rachel Rodi](#) crafted it.

Esmeralda Slide Park has been lovingly upgraded in recent years, with the refurbishment of a double slide that whisks the daring down the hillside; new planter boxes and retaining walls; a refurbished trellis; and beautiful landscaping.

Volunteers have worked alongside Public Works crews to care for the mini park, located at Winfield Street and Esmeralda Avenue. If you're in the neighborhood, check it out.







From Blight to Right: Excelsior Neighbors Create an Oasis

The staircase at the Athens Avalon Greenspace welcomes travelers with color.





Neighbors celebrate the opening of the transformed open space.

It was nearly a decade ago that Excelsior District residents, fed up with the illegal dumping on a City-owned, undeveloped hillside covered with weeds and pocked with graffiti, decided something had to be done to remove the eyesore. Their answer: turn the space into a welcoming park.

Their vision became the [Athens Avalon Greenspace](#), a

collaborative [Streets Park project](#) involving neighbors, Public Works and the [San Francisco Parks Alliance](#). On June 24, we marked the project's completion with a ribbon-cutting and community celebration.

Volunteers gave their time to transform the steep hillside at Athens and Avalon streets into beautiful terraced open space graced with drought-tolerant

plants, and the drab concrete staircase has been brightened with colorful tiles. The project was made possible through the generosity of grants and individual donations.

The remarkable makeover is now a neighborhood place of pride. And, at its essence, showcases how a dream, layered with determination and strong collaboration, can make magic.

A PRESCIENT WISH FOR NEW CITY ENGINEER

Not long after John Thomas graduated from Santa Clara University with a degree in civil engineering, he met San Francisco's City Engineer and a fellow Bronco alum and thought to himself: "That's a job I'd like someday."

Today, 30 years later, his wish came true. Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru appointed Thomas City Engineer and deputy director of infrastructure on June 16.

In his role, Thomas – a Public Works veteran – manages Design & Engineering, Project Management & Construction and Street Use & Mapping. He also will continue to oversee the 2011 Road Repaving and Street





Safety Bond, which has resulted in the resurfacing of nearly 4,000 blocks in San Francisco and transformative streetscape projects.

Thomas joined the City 30 years ago after graduating from college, and climbed the ranks. He has worked for several divisions within Public Works, including Streets and Highways, Project Management and Construction Management; as well as in senior project management roles at the Airport and Muni.

Apart from a nine-month stint in Los Angeles working for Caltrans on bridge construction for Interstate 105, Thomas' career has focused on infrastructure projects in the Bay Area, including demolition of the Embarcadero Freeway after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and the construction of a new boulevard in its place that opened up the City's central waterfront. He also worked on the Advanced Train Control System for Muni and the Airfield Development program at SFO.

More recently, Thomas led the Laguna Honda Hospital Replacement Project, which had particular significance for him, as he had visited the long-term care hospital as a child and remembers

feeling a sense of sadness when looking at the crowded, open wards that offered little privacy to the residents. The new hospital offers a starkly different environment that is more welcoming with a focus on healing and wellness.

Thomas is a third generation San Franciscan whose father and grandfather worked for City agencies. As a child, he routinely scavenged for things around the house to pull apart and put back together; and in the eighth grade, he announced his plans to become a civil or mechanical engineer. By the time he was in high school, he had read all of his father's shop manuals and successfully rebuilt the transmission on his '65 Mustang.

Today, he plots ways to improve the City's infrastructure for the future while keeping up with the day-to-day demands of residents and commuters. Now a Peninsula resident, his own commute is on Caltrain and bicycle, and in his off time, he cycles an average of 50 miles each week.

Thomas credits Nuru with shaping his thinking of the bigger picture inherent in every Public Works project. "Mohammed," he says, "has given us an acute awareness of how our projects affect people."





Sidewalks Get Their Day

All the world loves a parade, and at San Francisco Public Works we certainly love the idea of a parade that celebrates sidewalks. ►







Nicole Bohn, director of the Mayor's Office on Disability uses the new Diamond Heights Boulevard sidewalk.





- ▶ To our delight, we were invited to join in a small but festive sidewalk parade in Diamond Heights on June 23 to rejoice in the construction of a new sidewalk on Diamond Heights Boulevard where there hadn't been one before.

"This has made a big difference in my life," said Sue Johnson, who has lived the last eight years at Casa de Vida, a housing complex on the 5100 block of Diamond Heights Boulevard. Johnson, like many of her neighbors in the ADA-accessible residence, uses a wheelchair to get around. Without sidewalks, she and others often were forced to travel in the roadway to go shopping or catch a bus.

At the urging of the Diamond Heights Community Association, and with the support of then-District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, Public Works developed a two-phase plan to construct 16,000 square feet of new sidewalk in the neighborhood.

Diamond Heights was developed in the middle of last century when cars were king and sidewalks were an afterthought – at best.

But as the view-rich neighborhood evolved, the demand for safe pedestrian passage to shopping and transit grew.

The first phase was completed in the spring of 2016. The final phase is set to be wrapped up this fall. The tab for the new sidewalks is \$540,000.

Additional work, including 42 new curb ramps, new water main, bulb-outs to shorten the crossing distance across Diamond Heights Boulevard, a flashing beacon light and fresh paving, is being done for a total cost of \$3.5 million.

But it is the new sidewalks that capture attention. Wiener and his successor as the District 8 representative on the Board of Supervisors, Jeff Sheehy, came for the parade, which started and ended outside of Casa de Vida. So did Public Works staff, neighbors and a pastor from nearby St. Aidan's Church, who blessed the new accessible paved pathways and noted how they are community connectors.

And at the end of the day, that's worth celebrating. ■

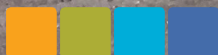
Fresh Paving for Crossover Drive

If you drive or bike Crossover Drive, which runs through Golden Gate Park, you may have noticed something different: the road is smooth.

Our paving crews laid down 1,418 tons of asphalt – about the weight of 203 large African elephants – to get the job done.

Crossover Drive connects Park Presidio Boulevard and Fulton Street at 25th Avenue, getting people between the Sunset and Richmond districts.

Prior to the resurfacing project the road was rutted and bumpy. The project, which started in late May, wrapped up June 6.



A Public Works crew repaves Crossover Drive.



San Francisco Police
Cadets spruce
up the Octavia
Boulevard median.



Goodbye Graffiti, So Long Weeds -

District 5 Community Clean Team Volunteers Did Many Good Deeds

An energetic group of volunteers swung into action on June 17 to pull weeds, paint out graffiti and spruce up medians and the grounds of a community center as part of ►



GER





MAYORAL ASSISTANT


REVELS CAYTON

A volunteer spreads wood chips at the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center in the Western Addition.



A police cadet helps beautify the Octavia Boulevard median.





► this month's Community Clean Team workday in the Western Addition, Haight, Hayes Valley and other District 5 neighborhoods.

The day got started with a call to action by Board of Supervisors President London Breed, who represents the district. "You coming out here to volunteer helps our neighborhoods and builds community pride," she said.

Nearly 200 volunteers gave up their Saturday morning to work side by side with Public Works and Recreation and Park Department employees to green and clean parks and other public spaces. Our

new contingent of summer youth workers and recruits from the San Francisco Police Academy also participated. When the work was wrapped up, everyone was invited to join together for a communal meal.

Community Clean Team is Public Works' largest and longest-running volunteer program. Yes, the work can be hard, but also a ton of fun! Join us July 29 when we head to District 7; the kickoff will be at City College of San Francisco, in the 50 Phelan Avenue parking lot. Registration starts at 8:30 am. Check our [website](#) for more details. We hope to see you there! ■

Meet **Robert Milton**



Public Works street cleaning crew member Robert Milton helps care for this neighborhood.







張雪玲
張雪玲
ANGIE H. LING
ANGIE H. LING
8 02019



Meet Shirley Leong



Tzu Chi Foundation volunteer Shirley Leong helps care for this neighborhood.





Health Tip:

The ABCs of Zzzzz

Zzzzz Zzzzz

Sleep. Everyone does it. Some of us do it better than others, waking up rested and ready to go. Others of us? Not so much. There are myriad reasons people don't get a good night's sleep – lack of exercise, an uncomfortable mattress, a stuffy bedroom, too much stress at home or on the job keep your mind from relaxing.

If you're one of those people who wakes up tired, you may want to see about changing that. It could be a life-changer.

There are many benefits to getting a good night's sleep:

- Get sick less often
- Stay at a healthy weight
- Lower your risk for serious health problems, like diabetes and heart disease
- Reduce stress and improve your mood
- Think more clearly and do better in school and at work
- Get along better with people
- Make good decisions and avoid injuries and accidents



A recently unearthed photo, taken by an early 20th-century Public Works photographer Horace Chaffee, shows crews regrading Townsend Street in 1922. You can check out hundreds more of these period photos at OpenSFHistory.org.



REGRADING TOWNSEND ST. 2nd to 3rd Sts. 54.22