

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: July 3, 2025

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

FROM: Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Department Update

July is National Parks and Recreation Month

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the nationwide celebration of Parks and Recreation month. Throughout the month of July, the Parks and Recreation Department invites the community to participate in a variety of free programs. The Department's social media accounts will also highlight and celebrate the City's Parks and Recreation professionals, programs, and parks in South San Francisco. A full schedule of free activities is available online at www.ssf.net/pandrevents.

The first Movie Night in the Park this summer will feature a free film screening of Moana 2 on Friday, July 18. In conjunction with the July is Parks and Recreation Month celebration, staff will be hosting additional activities prior the film screening.

Movie Night + Field Day Event Schedule

Friday, July 18, 2025

Orange Memorial Park Picnic Meadow

6:00 p.m.	Free lawn games and activities
6:30 p.m.	Free hot dog giveaway (while supplies last)
7:00 p.m.	Live performance – Hawaiian Hula Show featuring SSF Parks and Recreation participants
8:20 p.m.*	Moana 2 begins (*Approximate start time. Movie will begin at sundown.)

Cultural Arts Update

"Freedom: The Future of Hope" – Additional Exhibit Period

The South San Francisco Cultural Arts Commission presents an art exhibition titled "Freedom: The Future of Hope," which opened on June 27 and 28. Currently over 40 visual artworks are on an extended exhibition through July 25. The juried exhibit explores the theme of honoring resilience and the spirit of Juneteenth through the artist's personal expressions of hope and perseverance reflecting the significant cultural observance.

The gallery hours run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning June 30 through July 25. A special evening viewing took place on Tuesday, July 22, with the gallery open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The gallery will be closed on Friday, July 4. The exhibition takes place at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center (LPR), 3rd floor Gallery. Admission is free.

Information is available on the [Parks and Recreation Department Events page](http://www.ssf.net/culturalarts) and www.ssf.net/culturalarts.

Sports Program Update

Bocce Ball



The City of South San Francisco's Bocce League is experiencing impressive growth, now in its seventh season. The league has expanded from its initial eight teams to a remarkable thirty teams this summer. League play for the current season began on June 18, with games scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, as well as Friday mornings. The bocce courts at Orange Memorial Park are highly regarded, described as "among the best in the Bay Area," and are enjoyed by players of all ages. The growth of these leagues would not be possible without the help of Dan and Ruth DeNardi.

Bocce ball participants

Co-Sponsored Group Tournament Updates

The Youth Baseball Managers Association's annual Memorial Weekend baseball tournament was held at Orange Memorial Park from May 23 through May 26. A total of 53 games were played over the four-day event. Parks and Recreation staff played a crucial role in the tournament's success, diligently preparing fields for each game, and maintaining restrooms and park areas. Significant effort was also put into pre-tournament preparations, including power washing bleachers and dugouts, and troubleshooting a non-functional scoreboard as well as scheduling lights for night games and post-game cleanup. Despite very cold weather conditions, participants and organizers were reportedly very happy with how the tournament unfolded. Permits have already been submitted for the 2026 tournament.

The South San Francisco United Youth Soccer Club and San Mateo County Football Club co-hosted a soccer tournament at Orange Memorial Park on June 14 and June 15. The event hosted 38 games during this two-day event. Parks and Recreation staff collaborated to ensure the tournament ran smoothly, moving soccer goals and maintaining restrooms and park garbage throughout the day. Over 1,300 people attended each day of the tournament. The next tournament for the soccer groups will be February 21 and 22, 2026 at Orange Memorial Park.



The tournaments hosted at the Orange Memorial Park Sports Field were well attended and enjoyed by all attendees.

Indoor Rentals Update



Rental at the LPR

The Parks and Recreation Facility Rentals Program manages reservations for several popular South San Francisco venues, including the Library | Parks and Recreation Center (LPR) Banquet Hall and Social Hall, Joseph A. Fernekes Recreation Building, Alice Peña Bulos Community Center, and the Terrabay Gymnasium. These venues can accommodate a wide range of events, from smaller gatherings of up to 90 guests at Terrabay, to larger celebrations with a capacity of 240 guests at the LPR Banquet Hall. It has been a very busy year, and availability for the remainder of 2025 is limited. Currently, the Joseph A. Fernekes Recreation Building has only five dates available and the LPR Banquet Hall has seven openings remaining for the year.

Seeking Café Operator at LPR

Staff has issued an RFP seeking a vendor to operate a café on the third floor of the Library | Parks and Recreation Center. A mandatory site visit for interested proposers is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, July 8, 2025. Proposals are due on Thursday, July 24, 2025. The RFP is available on the City's procurement webpage at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/ssf/projects/168211>.

Preschool Program

Teddy Bear Picnic Day!

Children from Siebecker Preschool celebrated their theme of the week which was “Teddy Bears.” Each child was able to bring in their special teddy bears from home and have a lunch picnic outside. The objective of the theme was to embrace their imagination, stimulate a sense of security, and encourage their social-emotional development. The children enjoyed telling each other their teddy’s names and why they are so special. They loved pretending to “feed” their bears and just cuddle with them throughout the day.



*The children
enjoyed lunch time
outside with their
teddy bears.*

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: July 10, 2025

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

FROM: Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Department Update

Public Art Projects Update

As the City Council is aware, the City is progressing with multiple capital projects including the Orange Memorial Park Aquatic Center and the new park at Linden and Pine Avenues. Both projects have public art components.

This memo provides a brief update on the status of these public art components, as well as a general guide to the procedural steps and timelines for a project specific public art selection.

General Project Specific Public Art Process

- Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Development: Staff and the design team collaborate on the development of the RFQ, including establishing the scope, budget, artist eligibility, evaluation criteria, and submission requirements.
- RFQ Release and Advertising: The RFQ is released to the public and is advertised through a variety of channels including CAFE (a call for entries platform designed for artists and art related calls), the City's artist database, the Cultural Arts Program webpage, newsletters, the City's social media platforms, and shared with local and regional art organizations to reach a wide and diverse group of creatives.
- Application Review and Screening: Applications are vetted to ensure that they have met the eligibility criteria. Depending on the number of applications received, City staff and consultants may conduct an initial review to refine the pool, advancing candidates for the Cultural Arts Commission selection committee's consideration.
- Selection Committee Shortlisting: The committee reviews proposals and scores each candidate based on the selection criteria specific to each project. The combined ratings from the committee will result with the finalists (typically three or four artists) proceeding to the concept development phase.
- Concept Development: Finalists are commissioned to create one to two conceptual design proposals. The concept submission will also include clear design guidelines, budget

expectations, and site requirements to ensure feasibility. Finalists may receive a modest stipend for their commissioned work – an industry best practice.

- **Community Engagement and Stakeholder Feedback:** City staff will emphasize the importance of community engagement within the RFQ. Community engagement is also part of the selection criteria. Artists perform community outreach during their concept development process. Once the conceptual designs are completed, they will be presented to key stakeholders for feedback as well as presented to the greater community. This may be through pop-up community events, surveys, etc. All feedback is collected, summarized, and presented to the selection committee for consideration.
- **Final Recommendation and Selection:** The selection committee reviews the presented concepts, considers all feedback, refines their recommendation, and forwards it to the full Cultural Arts Commission. At a public meeting, the Cultural Arts Commission will review all input and make the final artist selection.

Aquatic Center Interior Mural (RFQ Link: https://bit.ly/ACmural_SSF25)

The Aquatic Center interior mural is currently at the “Selection Committee Shortlisting” / “Concept Development” stages. The RFQ received 96 responses in total. At the time of this memo, the selection committee is providing their scores in order to advance four artists (two mural artists and two mosaic artists) to the Concept Development stage. Final artist selection is currently scheduled for the August 26, 2025 Cultural Arts Commission meeting.

New Park at Linden and Pine – Columns, Mosaic Inlay in Concrete, and a Mosaic-Clad Playground Sculpture (RFQ Link: https://bit.ly/LindenPark_SSF25)

The artworks for the new park at Linden and Pine is currently in the “RFQ Release and Promotion” phase. The concept development proposals will be received in early September 2025.

The Eternal Flame Resurfacing (RFQ Link: pending)

Following a series of veterans group stakeholder meetings, the Eternal Flame Resurfacing project is just now embarking on the “RFQ Development” phase.

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: July 17, 2025

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

FROM: Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Department Update

Cultural Arts Commission

Freedom: The Future of Hope Art Show and Virtual and Extended Exhibition



“The Sound of Joy” by Elisa Colón Sosa

The third 2025 Cultural Arts Commission art show opened on June 27 and 28. The exhibit featured exceptional artworks that reflected the spirit of Juneteenth through the artist’s uniquely personal expressions, echoing the power of perseverance and the importance of embracing self-determination. Over 70 guests, including a lively group of artists and community members, attended the opening weekend.

On Friday guests were treated to a musical presentation by musician, vocalist and composer, Bianca “BB” Brown. She mesmerized the audience with powerful and soulful renditions of personal compositions ending the evening with a compelling performance of Etta James’ classic, “At Last.”

Twenty-eight artists exhibited forty-five works. The entries were judged by San Mateo County Arts Commission Chair, Victoria Magbilang. Ten artists received awards. The Best of Show was awarded to new participant, Elisa Colón Sosa for her artwork titled, “The Sound of Joy.” The Cultural Arts Commission Award was given to artist, Steven Von Mason, for his work, “Codifying Jim Crow: Deconstructing Reconstruction.” All the award-winning artists will be acknowledged at the Tuesday, August 26 Cultural Arts Commission meeting.

The art gallery is open weekdays through July 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The gallery will also be open until 8:00 p.m. for a special evening viewing on Tuesday, July 22. It is located on the third floor of the Library | Parks and Recreation Center. A virtual exhibit of the award-winning art may be viewed at <https://bit.ly/FreedomArtSSF25>. More information is available at www.ssf.net/culturalarts.



The art show was well attended and enjoyed by guests of all ages.

Preschool Program

On Wednesday, July 2, children enrolled in the Department's preschools celebrated the Fourth of July. The children dressed in their red, white and blue attire. The teachers led various themed activities. Additionally, children from Siebecker Preschool walked to the Roberta Cerri Teglia Center to participate in intergenerational programming with the seniors in the Adult Daycare Program. This has been an ongoing program where the preschoolers enjoy their visits with their "Grandfriends" in both Adult Daycare and on the third floor. There were approximately 12 "Grandfriends" and 15 children with their teachers. Together they made yogurt parfaits with blueberries, strawberries, bananas and of course red, white, and blue sprinkles. The children and seniors colored and had wonderful conversations from two very different but valuable perspectives in life. Staff, children, and seniors look forward to their next visit.



The children participated in activities to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday, and they also visited their Grandfriends.

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: July 24, 2025

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

FROM: Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Department Update

Genentech Gives Back

On June 12, the Parks Division hosted Genentech for their “Genentech Gives Back” week. Staff hosted approximately 200 volunteers at three different sites. The work took place on Centennial Way Trail, Callero Ballfield, and the Centennial Way Dog Park.

At Centennial Trail, 80 volunteers walked the trail from SSF BART to San Bruno BART with trash bags and pick-sticks, picking up litter. At Callero Ballfield, volunteers participated in painting the large set of bleachers at the field as well as the back stop. Volunteers also raked up debris and cleaned the dugouts.

The project at the dog park had approximately 90 volunteers participate in spreading 80 yards of mulch as well as installing dog play features in the large dog park. These features include two large tubes for dogs to run through as well as items that staff had custom built. This includes three jumping bars that can be altered in height from 12” up to 48.” Staff also created a large platform that has steps on one side and ramps on the other. This structure is 48” high and wide and 16’ long. Volunteers also painted this structure.





Urban Wood Milling and Reuse

The Parks Division recently acquired a lumber mill known as the “woodmizer.” This piece of equipment is used to mill logs into live edge or dimensional lumber. As an inaugural project, the equipment will be used to mill wood from trees that were required to be removed as part of the Aquatic Center project, specifically the large redwoods in the project footprint. This wood will be used to create benches for the pool and will include a small plaque noting the origin of the material.

This equipment will allow the City to create many custom furnishings and other amenities, while furthering the sustainability and carbon sequestration goals of the Department by using wood that is generated from our urban forest.



Playground Safety Surfacing Maintenance

Parks staff have been utilizing their on-call contract with JetMulch to refill playground chip around the city. Approximately 750 cubic yards has been installed to the playgrounds listed below. This work will keep our playgrounds in compliance and as safe as possible from fall hazards.

- Sellick Park
- Centennial Way Park South
- Zamora Park
- Newman & Gibbs
- Clay Park
- Paradise Rec Center
- Winston Manor Park
- Siebecker Tot Lot

- Orange Park Meadow Playground

City Hall Campus Tree Removal

The large pine tree next to the Grand Avenue Library has been removed due to its decline and potentially hazardous condition. The next step for this project is to complete design of the tot lot surfacing replacement project that needs to occur to mitigate the damage from the tree to the existing surface. Simultaneously, Parks staff are working on a landscape design to fill in the area where this tree existed. New irrigation and drought tolerant, but aesthetically pleasing, plants and trees will be installed.

Centennial Trail Tree Work

Centennial Way Park South had been experiencing a significant amount of bird droppings near the picnic sites and outdoor classroom. The condition was so pervasive that staff were pressure washing the site each week. In order to abate this and bring some more sun into the area, the adjacent eucalyptus trees were pruned and thinned to not allow the trees to hang over the park area. The pruning was effective, and the site is now much more sustainable in terms of maintenance.



Hillside Ballfield Scoreboard Replacement

A new scoreboard was recently installed at the Hillside Ballfield. The previous scoreboard had reached end of life and was no longer working properly. The new scoreboard has LED lights and is remote controlled.

Historical Society Museum Refresh

Recently the Historical Society teamed up with the Parks Division and Improving Public Places Committee volunteers to rehabilitate the front of the Historical Society Museum. The work that the group completed consisted of spreading landscape chips throughout the front planters. Staff then followed up by staining and painting the sign and adding new post caps.



Stonegate Patio Demolition

An aged brick patio that was located in the Stonegate HOA that is maintained by the City was removed due to failing retaining walls and being out of compliance with ADA standards. This work was coordinated with HOA management and was approved after citing lack of use and high costs to rebuild and bring into ADA compliance. The patio was removed by Parks staff and soil was added to address the grade change. The area also had irrigation added and was mulched and planted.



Groundsperson Recruitment Update

The Parks Division recently finished recruiting for the Groundsperson position within the tree crew. The position is responsible for operating chippers, driving trucks, controlling ground safety for crews and pedestrians, and performs their duties as a crewmate to the Tree Trimmer position. The position was offered to Conor Robles who comes with a great amount of experience from his own business as well as Traverso Tree Service. He is still completing his entry process, but the Division looks forward to him starting later this summer.