

Golden Gate Park Access and Safety Program: Quarterly Program Report (Winter 2023)

Program Background



FIGURE 1 - JFK PROMENADE

The Golden Gate Park car free promenade on JFK is approaching its first anniversary following its approval by the Board of Supervisors in April 2022 and reaffirmed by San Francisco voters in November 2022. Over the past year, the once dangerous roadway has been transformed into a space for recreation, arts, music, and human connection. San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD) and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) have continued to adapt and are committed to more than 40 ongoing efforts to support safety, equity, accessibility, and mobility in Golden Gate Park (GGP).

Highlights for Winter 2023

- **Increasing accessibility to and within the park** by improving the Golden Gate Park Shuttle, Community Shuttle Program, paratransit access, and connections to Muni.
- **The GGP Shuttle** implemented new staff training on accessibility and will soon provide real-time shuttle information on major map apps.
- **Pathway Improvements** are in progress along JFK, around Stow Lake and Middle Lake, and RPD is continuing to evaluate existing paths for a future Wayfinding Map.
- **Replacing car-centric infrastructure** such as signs, road paint, curb design, etc., with features designed to improve safety and mobility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other modes of transportation.
- **Extended promenade art and activities** through 2023 and added bell chimes under the Crossover Drive overpass. RPD is continuing to evaluate how to improve clear user preferences within the space.

Key Areas of Progress:

- ❖ Equity
- ❖ Mobility
- ❖ Accessibility
- ❖ Safety

Golden Gate Park Access and Safety Program: Quarterly Program Report (Winter 2023)

EQUITY



FIGURE 2 - VISITORS FROM THE COMMUNITY SHUTTLE PROGRAM

Equitable Access to and within Golden Gate Park

- **Community Shuttle:** Over the last several months, RPD welcomed community members, local non-profit organizations, children’s camps, children who are deaf/hard of hearing or who have disabilities, and various SFUSD schools to a guided tour of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park and de Young Museum, combined with an outdoor picnic and a ride on the SkyStar wheel. The program provides trips from Equity Zone neighborhoods to the park with the goal of empowering residents to return to the park with their families and serve as Honorary Guides to the park.
- **Muni:** Four GGP Shuttle stops are located near Muni lines to provide direct transportation into and around our park amenities. People traveling from Equity Zones in northeast (Chinatown/North Beach) and southeast neighborhoods (Hunters Point/Bay View) can now travel to Stow Lake in about an hour with no more than two Muni transfers (see appendix for bus routes and times). For people traveling from neighborhoods closer to the park, such as the Mission District or San Francisco State University, transit should only take 30 minutes. GGP Shuttle stops provide access to the following Muni Lines: 5, 5R, 7, 35, and 44 and stop at convenient locations within the park (See Figure 3). The N-Judah streetcar, 6, and 43 Muni bus lines are conveniently located about two to four blocks away from the shuttle stop at Haight and Stryan.
- **Muni 29 Sunset Improvement Project:** MTA and RPD are working together to improve the 29-Sunset bus stops along Lincoln Way. The project is in the planning phase, and planned improvements include aligning stops to paved park entrances, and lengthening and widening waiting areas, all while designing to be sensitive to park vegetation and trees. SFMTA will be seeking approval for the stop changes from the SFMTA Board of Directors on June 6th and construction is anticipated to begin in 2025.

Golden Gate Park Access and Safety Program: Quarterly Program Report (Winter 2023)

ACCESSIBILITY



FIGURE 3 – SHUTTLE STOPS, BUS TRANSFERS, AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING MAP

Golden Gate Park Shuttle and Roads

- **Shuttle alerts:** RPD is working on procuring accessible audio equipment and signage to announce shuttle stops and routes inside and outside of the shuttles.
- **GGP Shuttle:** With the added weekday shuttle service in early 2022, annual ridership more than doubled from 2019 with an increase from 23,400 riders in 2019 to 48,600 in 2022.
- **Improvements to Conservatory West:** RPD is developing a concept design for a vehicle pickup-drop off turnaround location at Conservatory West, with the design expected to be completed in the next quarter.
- **Paratransit:** Marked paratransit vans now have access to closed roads by permit.
- **Service schedule:** Evening shuttle service was extended to 8pm as an on-call evening shuttle service during Winter lights from December 2022 to March 2023.
- **Training for shuttle operators:** Shuttle operators and drivers have been trained in improving services for people with disabilities. Training will continue to happen on an on-going basis.

Pathways

- **JFK curb and crosswalks:** Renovation of several curb ramps and crosswalks along JFK Promenade are in the design phase. Stanyan Street sidewalk and curb ramps are also being designed and the project is funded. Bid documents are expected in fall 2023.
- **Pathway Usability Wayfinding Project:** Working with the Mayor's Office on Disability, RPD has recruited a group of six SF Fellows to evaluate existing paths and provide suggested routes and signage. The Fellows are enlisting input from members of the disability community, with hybrid tours of specific areas of the park (virtual and in-person) and feedback sessions. This research will provide a basis for a future Wayfinding Map and findings will be available on the RPD website. The project will conclude with a report and a presentation to the Mayor's Disability Council on April 21.

Golden Gate Park Access and Safety Program:

Quarterly Program Report (Winter 2023)

- **"Know Before You Go" Wayfinding Project:** A group of 14 Recreation, Parks and Tourism students from SFSU are piloting visual and text information that shows and describes the most usable pathways to take from the 15 shuttle stops to popular destinations. This project will conclude in mid-May and results will be published on the RPD website.
- **Lake perimeter pathways:** RPD is in the process of renovating roughly 5,000 linear feet of accessible pathway at Stow Lake and 3,000 linear feet of Outdoor Recreation Access Routes at Middle Lake.
- **Improvements from Fulton Street to JFK Promenade:** RPD is in the design phase and seeking funding for capital construction to improve pathways to connect bus stops on Fulton Street to JFK Promenade.

Staffing

- **Disability Access Coordinator:** RPD is recruiting an additional staff member to provide architectural accessibility compliance analysis; this person will work directly with the disability community and other City agencies. Funding has been identified. Waiting for approval from the Mayor's Office.



FIGURE 4 - SHUTTLE AT SKYSTAR STOP

MOBILITY

Bikeshare and pedicab service in the park

- **Bikeshare:** Contract with Lyft bikeshare to include 6 stations in GGP will be finalized in May.
- **Pedicab services:** RPD evaluated and deemed not feasible.

Shuttle communication and marketing

- **Technology:** Real time shuttle information has been installed in shuttles and will be activated at the end of April. Shuttle information has been integrated with Apple Maps and Google Maps so that the shuttle will be included when people search for directions to- or within GGP.
- **Website:** The website has been improved with more information on accessibility including a shuttle stop number system, and disabled parking spaces near shuttle stops.

Golden Gate Park Access and Safety Program: Quarterly Program Report (Winter 2023)

Staffing

- **RPD Transportation Demand Manager:** RPD and MTA are co-funding a planner position to support mobility, employee parking, and transportation. The recruitment process is set to begin in April.

SAFETY

Long term vision: JFK has been transformed from a dangerous roadway to a safe promenade, and RPD’s internal team and core partners are working on developing a long-term vision for safety, travel, recreation, and play.

Paint removal

- **Roadway striping:** MTA provided RPD with a cost estimate to remove striping, and RPD is pursuing funding to remove roadway striping from JFK and has requested state funding with related roadway improvements.

Placemaking

- **Evaluation:** RPD is evaluating placemaking spots and working with the MTA to evaluate how to best manage promenade users (walking, jogging, slow bikes, fast bikes, shuttle, etc.) to reduce conflicts.
- **Promenade activities:** RPD continued to upkeep the promenade art, activities, “living rooms,” etc., and added bell chimes under the Crossover Drive overpass.
- **Murals:** Exploring options to add murals including on the k-rail barriers along MLK Drive between Chain of Lakes Drive East and Middle Drive West.

Wayfinding improvements

- **MLK and Fulton:** RPD removed unnecessary car-centric signage.
- **East of Transverse:** RPD with SFMTA are exploring additional paint and signage options on Transverse to make the shift from JFK to Overlook more legible for people walking and biking.
- **West of Transverse:** Added barricades and reflective tape. Dedicated bike and pedestrian split complete on MLK one-way and Middle Drive near Chain of Lakes and the Polo Fields.

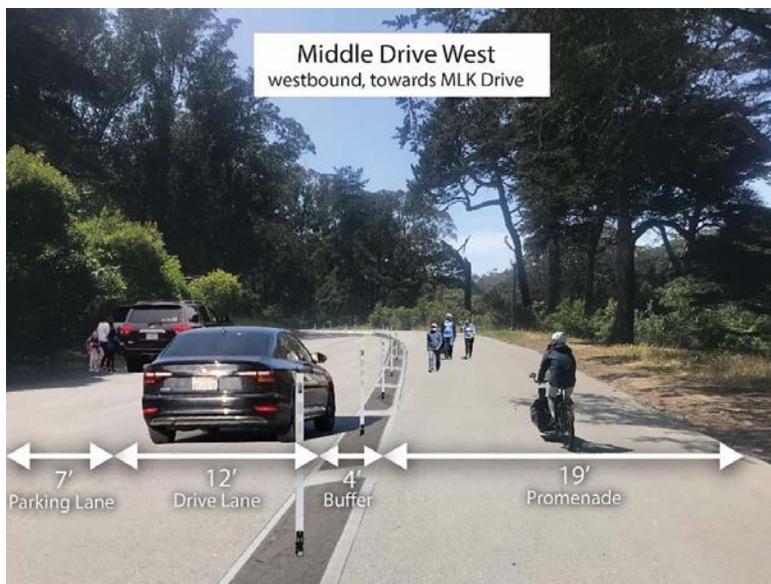


FIGURE 6 - ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS



FIGURE 5 - SIGNAGE

Golden Gate Park Access and Safety Program:

Quarterly Program Report (Winter 2023)

Upcoming Initiatives and Near-Term Work in Progress

- **Adaptive Bike Program:** Adaptive bike programs will return in April 2023 and run through Fall 2023.
- **Wayfinding Signage:** Removing old vehicle wayfinding signs and replacing with new signage that communicates access to garage for ADA and pass thru.

Completed Efforts

- **Shuttle Stop Improvements:** All shuttle stops now have benches, temporary signage, and improved route information.
- **Adaptive Bike Program:** Adaptive bike programs returned with Bay Area Outdoor Recreation Program (BORP) on July 9, 2022.
- **Muni Service:** The 21 Hayes returned to service on July 9, 2022.
- **Music Concourse Taxi Stands:** Two taxi stands were installed in front of the Cal Academy and the de Young Museum.
- **New tour bus zones:** In late April, SFMTA crews installed new tour bus zones next to the Structural Maintenance Yard for tour buses visiting Golden Gate Park to park and wait.
- **Transportation Network Companies:** Uber and Lyft are aware of the street closure and the ability of drivers to enter the garage through the north side of the park and drop off passengers at the base of the elevators or from the south side by the Music Concourse.
- **Middle Drive and MLK Drive Traffic:** SFMTA and Rec Park completed separation of vehicles from pedestrians and cyclists along Middle Drive and MLK Drive between Metson Road and Chain of Lakes Drive.
- **Music Concourse Garage:** San Francisco voters passed Proposition N, to allow more control of the Music Concourse Garage by Rec Park and SFMTA.

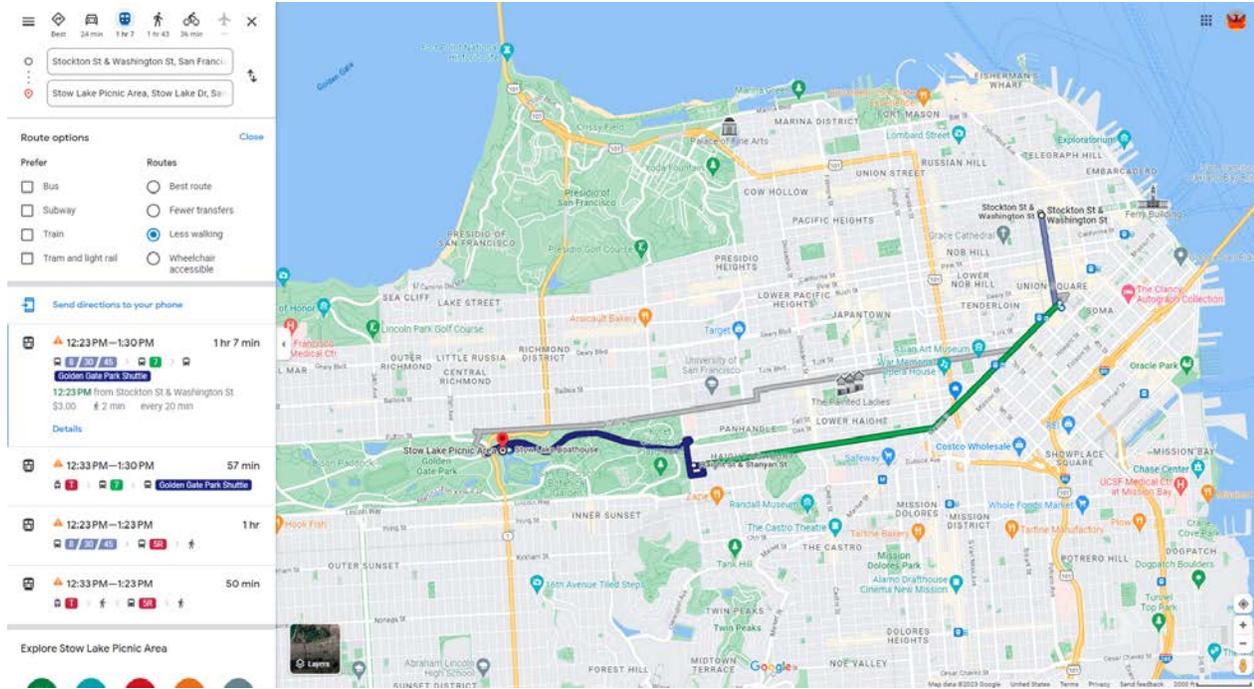


FIGURE 7 - PLACEMAKING ON JFK PROMENADE

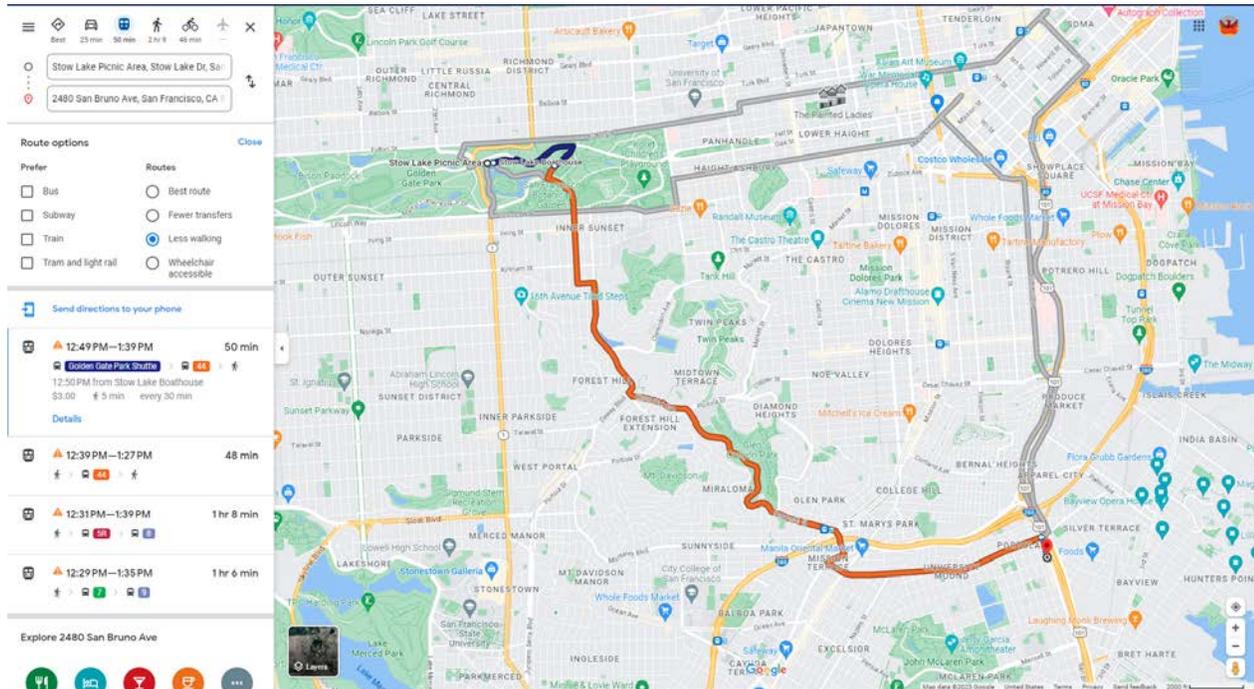
Golden Gate Park Access and Safety Program: Quarterly Program Report (Winter 2023)

Appendix

Chinatown to Stow Lake Boathouse via GGP Shuttle and Muni



Stow Lake Boathouse to Portola via GGP Shuttle and Muni



Golden Gate Park Access and Safety Program: Quarterly Program Report (Winter 2023)

Mission Dolores Park to Conservatory of Flowers via Muni and GGP Shuttle.

Best 16 min 29 min 56 min 21 min

Mission Dolores Park, Dolores St & 19th
Conservatory of Flowers, 100 John F. Kennedy Dr

Route options

Prefer Routes

- Bus
- Subway
- Train
- Tram and light rail
- Best route
- Fewer transfers
- Less walking
- Wheelchair accessible

Send directions to your phone

Time	Duration
12:38 PM—1:07 PM	29 min
12:51 PM—1:20 PM	29 min
12:30 PM—1:23 PM	53 min
12:30 PM—1:25 PM	55 min

Explore Conservatory of Flowers

Accessible Parking Lot behind the Golden Gate Bandshell to the Dahlia Dell

Best 7 min 9 min 14 min 4 min

Accessible Parking Lot, San Francisco, CA 94117
Dahlia Dell, San Francisco, CA 94117

Route options

Prefer Routes

- Bus
- Subway
- Train
- Tram and light rail
- Best route
- Fewer transfers
- Less walking
- Wheelchair accessible

Send directions to your phone

Time	Duration
12:33 PM—12:42 PM	9 min

Explore Dahlia Dell

- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Bars
- Coffee
- More