

# Friends of Duboce Park

**DUBOCE PARK UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2024**

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## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MARCH 19**

Friends of Duboce Park will hold its annual General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 7-8:30 p.m., in the Ballroom at the Harvey Milk Center for the Arts.

This is a chance to meet our board members, hear our plans for the next year, and meet some of your neighbors. We will share the past year's activities in the park and will give an updates on all of the current maintenance issues and projects.

We are eager to hear your concerns and comments about Duboce Park.



## **SPRING CLASS REGISTRATION MARCH 2**

Registration for 2024 Spring activities, programs, and classes begin on March 2. A complete listing with descriptions, times, and costs for all classes at Harvey Milk and other Recreation Centers in San Francisco can be found online at [sfreconline.org](http://sfreconline.org) or in the printed catalog available at the Harvey Milk Center or Photo Center.

23 classes for all ages are being offered at the Harvey Milk Center for the Arts. Little People's Art Studio is offered on Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., for ages 3 and 4, starting March 21. This class promotes artistic cognitive development, linking tactile and visual fun in a casual environment. Adult participation is required.





At the other end of the age spectrum, Mixed Media Drawing, Inking & Watercolor for seniors is a free class for seniors 55+ years, on Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., starting March 22. The course will cover several approaches to thematically driven drawing projects. Students will use watercolor, image transfers, brush pens, stencils, and traditional drawing techniques.

Register online at [sfrecpark.org/register](https://sfrecpark.org/register) or call (628) 652-2900. Call Lillian Bautista at (415) 831-2717 for information on Recreation Scholarships.

### SUMMER DAY CAMP REGISTRATION MARCH 16

Five summer art day camps for ages 7-11 are being offered at the Harvey Milk Center for the Arts this year. Three 2-week camps are being offered, starting on June 17, July 8, and July 22. Two 1-week camps start on June 10 and August 5.

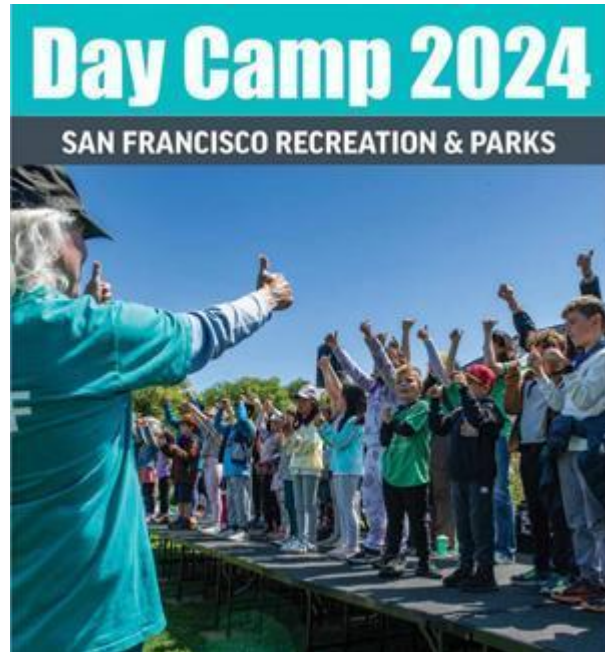
If your child loves to make art all day long, then this is the camp for them! Rec and Park offers intensive art making where campers can explore and develop their artistic abilities in visual art, creative writing, storytelling, and movement, led by art specialists. Projects will focus on multi-step processes and challenge fine motor skills.

Young People's Teen Musical Theater Company (YPMTC) is offering the two-week Vocal and Acting

Camp at Harvey Milk to teenagers 13-17 years old from July 22 through August 2. This challenging course emphasizes musical theater performance for all skill levels.

There are still the old-time favorites like Silver Tree and Pine Lake, but also some new camps. The Ropes Course Experience will challenge campers while teaching teamwork at the McLaren Park Ropes Course and there's also a multitude of sports camps being offered around our City at centers like Kezar Pavilion, Crocker Amazon, and more.

Sign up early as space is limited. More information and the catalogue of camps can be [found here](#).



### NEXT VOLUNTEER DAY MARCH 9

Our next volunteer day in the park is scheduled for Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m.-noon. Rec & Park suspended our volunteer days during the wet winter months as they typically done in past years.

In the last months of 2023, we refreshed the planted areas around the Scott Street Labyrinth with 20 new plants and planted 30 *Ceanophus* in the raised

planter bed along the sloped area between the stairs and the MUNI retaining wall.

Volunteers spent a whopping 400,000 hours in San Francisco parks and programs in the past year, an in-kind donation of more than \$144.3 million to Rec and Park. The department hosted 7,214 one-time and



repeat volunteers in San Francisco parks.

### PHOTO DARKROOM FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

The Harvey Milk Photo Center is offering 23 classes this spring, including a course specifically for high school students, ages 13-17 years. Photo Darkroom for High School Students teaches students how to shoot, process, and print film in the darkroom. Classes are offered on Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m., from April 24-May 22 and are small to allow for hands-on learning and experimenting.

For any questions, please contact Photo Center 415-554-9522. Full descriptions, class dates, and costs of all Photo Center classes can be found in the Spring 2023 Catalogue available at the Photo Center or [online](#) or the Photo Center [website](#).



### BODIES OF WORK PHOTO EXHIBIT OPENS MARCH 2

Bodies of Work opens with a reception and book signing on Saturday, March 2, 2-5 p.m. and continues through April 20. This exhibition explores the commodification of athletic bodies. Bringing two projects into dialogue, Katinka Herbert delves into the lives of Mexican wrestlers and Cuban athletes. In doing so, her images capture the dilemma of physical performance: a tense relationship between economic necessity and the human form.

'Slam' offers unprecedented access to the stars of the Mexican wrestling scene. Notoriously secretive



about their true identities, it follows these hyper-masculine stars from the drama of the ring to the intimacy of their own homes. Eight years in the making, Slam is a story of trust. In documenting each costumed character, the project unmask their private lives and alter-egos.

'The Movers' explores the subject of mobility through portraits of Cuba's top athletes. Their lives are dictated by movement: running, dancing, leaping and jumping. For a lucky few, this opens up new kinds of mobility – geographic, economic and social. But most of them remain trapped: frozen inside a communist regime. This exhibition invites us to

consider the labor conditions that determine the lives of professional athletes, and the economic architectures that construct their performing bodies.

### PLAYGROUND REOPENS, DOG PLAY AREA CLOSED FOR REPAIRS



Playground resurfacing has been completed in the Playground. The new surface is green artificial turf with a lot of bounce. A more durable rubber material was put down in the heavily used areas e.g., under the swings or at the end of a slide. The old surface is 23 years old and was installed as part of the playground renovation completed in 2000.

The Dog Play/Multi-Use Area has its annual field closure that started on January 1 and ends at the end of March. A fence surrounds the closed area for turf renovations and to allow recovery from overuse. Michelle Pallavicini, Park Services Manager said, “the goal is to get the field looking its best for DogFest ’24.” Other parks that also have annual field closures include St. Mary’s Dog Play Area, Upper Douglass Dog Play Area, and Dolores Park North Field.

#### **DOGFEST RETURNS ON APRIL 27**



DogFest, a celebration of dogs, families, community, and spring in San Francisco, returns to Duboce Park on Saturday, April 27. It’s also a charitable event that raises funds for McKinley Elementary – a small public school in the neighborhood.

DogFest attendees can expect nonstop fun and games. The park fills with carnival-style games staffed by McKinley students, while at the top end jumping castles keep the little ones busy. Dogs are the star of the event, of course, with a daylong show and contest. Food trucks ensure that everyone is well fed, while the book fair, merchant stalls, and the doggie adoption zone provide wonderful ways to support the community.

Starting 17 years ago as a small, grassroots event, DogFest has grown into a beloved San Francisco tradition with thousands of supporters and hundreds of businesses participating. For more information, visit the DogFest [website](#).





## PARKS IN THE NEWS

Be sure to check out all of the amazing drop-in activities and scheduled classes available at the newly renovated **UN Plaza** and surrounding **Civic Center** area plazas.

From free exercise classes including Rec and Park yoga and Zumba, to getting a mental workout with free chess lessons from the Mechanics' Institute and San Francisco Parks Alliance, there is something for everyone to get active! For more information, including the full amenity list and schedule, [click here](#).

[Magnificent Magnolias](#) is back at the **San Francisco Botanical Garden** (1199 9th Avenue) this winter! Experience one of the most significant conservation collections of Magnolias in the United States in bloom mid-January through March. Admire the sights and scents on the branches of more than 200 elegant trees, as velvety silver buds and saucer-sized pink, white, and magenta flowers make an appearance in this spectacular annual bloom.

San Francisco is in the midst of some **wet and windy weather** that is expected to last through next week. While using your parks, please be alert as strong gusts can topple healthy trees and snap limbs. In addition, there may be flooding throughout sections of our parks. Please avoid all flooded areas. Stay up to date on park impacts and closures [here](#).



The eight new pickleball courts in the **Larsen Pickleball Complex** at 19th Avenue and Vicente Street are the latest added by Rec and Park to meet soaring demand. Over the past five years, the department has increased its number of pickleball courts seven-fold, bringing the number of courts from just 12 in 2018 to more than 80 places to play today.

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department officials announced that the department is continuing to provide more pickleball opportunities with dual lines planned for **Moscone Park**. Under the plan, the two tennis courts at Moscone Park Playground

adjacent to the Marina Branch Library will be dual lined to create 6 pickleball courts. The courts are anticipated to be ready in spring of this year.

## JOIN FRIENDS OF DUBOCE PARK

Annual Membership dues for a Supporting Member are \$25 per person and entitle you to voting privileges and participation in the governance of the organization. Your dues help cover the few costs we have, such as

our website, newsletter, movie nights, and insurance.

Your tax-deductible membership is gratefully accepted and should be sent to Friends of Duboce Park, 71 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Friends of Duboce Park are a 501(c)(3) organization. General Membership is still available at no cost but does not carry any voting privileges. Another way to show your support is by getting involved.

Our Mission Statement includes the following: "to organize and represent the collective interests regarding Duboce Park; to beautify and promote safety within Duboce Park; and, to initiate and/or support beneficial neighborhood projects on behalf of Duboce Park."

## **FEBRUARY-APRIL CALENDAR**

Wednesday, February 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m. **Park Station Community Meeting** via Zoom. RSVP to [community@sfsafesafe.org](mailto:community@sfsafesafe.org).

Saturday, March 2, 10 a.m. **Spring Class Registration**. Online at [sfrecpark.org/register](http://sfrecpark.org/register).

Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m.-noon, **Friends of Duboce Park Volunteer Day**.

Tuesday, March 19, 7-8:30 p.m. **Annual Friends of Duboce Park Membership Meeting**. Harvey Milk Center for the Arts, 50 Scott St.

Wednesday, March 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m. **Park Station Community Meeting** via Zoom. RSVP to [community@sfsafesafe.org](mailto:community@sfsafesafe.org).

Tuesday, April 9, 6:30-8 p.m. **Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association General Meeting**. Harvey Milk Center. Visit [dtna.org](http://dtna.org).

Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.-noon. **Friends of Duboce Park Volunteer Day**.

Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. **DogFest**. Visit [mckinleyschool.org/dogfest](http://mckinleyschool.org/dogfest).

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