

Friends of Duboce Park

DUBOCE PARK – JANUARY 18, 2023

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MEET OUR GARDENER MARK

You may have seen Mark, our gardener, working around Duboce Park. He is always busy trimming, planting, and maintaining and repairing. In the opinion of many park users, he is among one of the best gardeners we have ever had. He has been part of the recent tree expansion in the park and created and maintains the succulent garden at the corner of Steiner and Duboce. We caught up with Mark and asked him a few questions about himself.

Where did you grow up? Southern California, in the suburbs east of LA, and Key West, FL.

Did you go to parks as a child? Of course!

What is your educational background? Sparse. I am an autodidact

and an experiential learner. I either do something and make mistakes, or I research it in a book or online, and then make mistakes.

Where did you learn to be a gardener? Self taught, but I got my start in the conservation corps.

What is the most rewarding part of your job? Seeing all my trees thriving. (They're mine. I planted them. I care for them. As far as anyone here is concerned I am the Lorax.)

What is the most frustrating part of your job? Litter. Vandalism. Constantly filling and refilling holes in the lawn that dogs have created. Finding dog poop with a line trimmer and becoming covered in a spray of dog poop, some of which will take two left turns to somehow get on my face regardless of how much protective cover I am wearing. Watching people literally stack poop higher rather than walk it to a trash receptacle that

isn't already overflowing. Having to ask people to clean up the poop because they aren't watching their dog, and it is pooping. SO MUCH POOP.

What makes Duboce Park different? Probably all the dogs.

Do you go to parks in your spare time? Not anymore. My spare time is spent playing games with my friends or my partner, or hiking as far as possible to camp in a space where there are no other people, usually somewhere up in the sierras.

How has Duboce Park changed since you started working here? The biggest change I've been able to make here is expanding the amount of tree cover throughout the park.

SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

The Harvey Milk Center for the Arts held its annual Holiday Craft Fair on December 10. Over 90 local artists applied for a space but there was only room to showcase 32 this year. 60 artists applied last year.

Besides the two levels of tables of gifts and crafts, there was arts and craft activities for kids in the Photo Center, free hot apple cider and popcorn, and the always popular free Photo Booth in the main lobby. Organizers were very happy with the turnout and most vendors reported doing very well.



YOGA AND PILATES AT HARVEY MILK CENTER



2024 Winter activities, programs, and classes are underway. 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](#) or in the printed catalog available at the Harvey Milk Center or Photo Center. 23 classes are offered at the Harvey Milk Center for the Arts, including Healing Yoga and Mat Pilates Workshop, both of which offer gentler ways to exercise.

Yoga is an ancient practice used for developing strength and balance between mind and body. Healing Yoga classes will build your knowledge and skill in addition to teaching fundamental poses which will increase your flexibility, enhance muscle tone, and improve coordination. Rec & Park provide a certain number of mats but encourage you to bring your own. Classes are free and held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

This Mat Pilates Workshop incorporates the classic Pilates sequence without the use of expensive equipment. Mat Pilates is an exceptionally good workout that challenges and strengthens the body's core muscle groups. Toning, flexibility, better posture, more efficient movement, the body/mind connection just about every benefit the Pilates method has to offer can be achieved through mat work. Saturdays, 10-11 a.m., \$80 for eight sessions.

Register [online](#) at sfrecpark.org/register or call the registration hotline at (628) 652-2900. Rec and Park offer annual Recreation Scholarships to eligible, low-income individuals and families. Call Lillian Bautista, Scholarship Coordinator, at (415) 831-2717 for information on how to qualify.

PHOTO DARKROOM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Harvey Milk Photo Center is offering 28 classes this winter. There are courses for experienced photographers and as well as classes for beginners, including Photo Darkroom for High School Students, aged 13-17 years, being offered on Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m., from January 31 to February 28.

This introductory class is designed for high school students, who wish to learn how to shoot, process and print film in the Photo Center darkroom. It's a fun class as we keep the Classes are kept small so you really have time to learn and experiment in this class. Students can practice their new skills at the Photo Center facility, while the course is in session.



Instructor will email materials list prior to the first class. If you have any questions, please contact the Photo Center 415-554-9522. Full descriptions, class dates, and costs of all Photo Center classes can be found in the [Winter 2023 catalogue](#) or on Photo Center [website](#). Register [here](#).

120 YEARS OF SFMTA PHOTO EXHIBIT

The Harvey Milk Photo Center's 120 Years of San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency



(SFMTA) photo exhibit opened on December 16 and continues through February 3. Curated by Jeremy Menzies and Melissa Castro Keesor, this exhibit draws on the 120-year-old collections of photographs in the SFMTA photo department and archive. The collection is one of the largest single repositories of images focused on how people move around our city.

Capturing everything from buses and streetcars to major historical events, the images inadvertently document the growth of San Francisco from a sandy backwater into a major metropolis. Well over 100,000 images have been created by more than two dozen people between 1903 and 2023. Of those, just a sampling is on display.



PLAYGROUND, DOG PLAY AREA UNDER REPAIR



The Dog Play/Multi-Use Area has its annual field closure January 1 through March. A fence has been put around the field for turf renovations and rest from overuse. Michelle Pallavicini, Park Services Manager said, “the goal is to get the field looking its best for DogFest '24.” Other parks also have annual field closures, including St. Mary's Dog Play Area, Upper Douglass Dog Play Area, and Dolores Park North Field.

Playground resurfacing has begun and should be completed by February 28, although weather could affect the construction schedule. The new surface will be green artificial turf except under the slides and swings.

The current surface is 23 years old and was installed as part of the playground renovation completed in 2000. The Duboce Park Playground was the first city playground to use poured in place rubber playground surfacing that makes it safer for children by providing a softer surface with some bounce.

NEXT VOLUNTEER DAY IN MARCH

Our next volunteer day in the park is Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m.-noon. Rec & Park is suspending our volunteer days during the winter as they have in past years. In recent months, we refreshed the planted areas around the Scott Street Labyrinth with 20 new plants and planted 30 *Ceanothus* in the raised planter bed along the sloped area between the stairs and the MUNI retaining wall.



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."

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024 CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Park Station Community Meeting via Zoom. RSVP to community@sfsafesafe.org.

Tuesday, February 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association General Meeting. Harvey Milk Center. Visit dtna.org.

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

www.friendsofdubocepark.org • 71 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94117

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