

# SPUR

**Ideas + Action for a Better City**

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# DESIGNING SF NEIGHBORHOODS WITH CHILDREN: URBAN TACTICS.



Ilaria Salvadori, SF Planning- 04/30/20





# Tactical Urbansim explores the intersection between public space and imagination.

*Free Community Yoga  
Playland at 43rd Avenue,  
Sunset District*

Groundplay works with San Franciscans to build temporary installations that turn underused public spaces into joyful community places.



# it happens near the curb.

*parklet program,  
temporary food  
trucks, pedestrian  
safety zones (MTA)*





# it happens on the sidewalk.

*temporary art  
installations,  
prototypes, short-  
term uses, etc.*





# it happens on the street

*temporary plazas,  
temporary parks,  
play streets, etc.*





# it happens on private and public lots.

*multi-use parks,  
gardening, sports  
and rec, art, play  
areas, etc.*





**We start by listening.**

***Playland at 43rd Avenue***

***SFUSD Francis Scott Key Site  
Sunset District***

Our projects reduce asphalt, close streets,  
bring seniors and youth together, build  
community.







**Workshop 1**  
**Playland at 43rd Avenue,**  
**Sunset District**





***Youth-built Skate Area  
Playland at 43rd Avenue,  
Sunset District***

- A method for quickly improving the public realm (think streets, sidewalks, vacant lots)
- Fast implementation to test ideas for scaling up
- Effectively engages local stakeholders





*Basketball courts and bicycle course,  
Playland at 43rd Avenue,  
Sunset District*





*Children Garden Watering Day,  
Playland at 43rd Avenue  
Sunset District*







*Play Area,  
Playland at 43rd Avenue,  
Sunset District*



**Groundplay is young and visionary.**

## **Frank Norris Alley Transformation**



**Workshop,  
Redding Elementary  
Polk District**











**REDDING ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**



Groundplay children have increased access to public space.



*Frank Norris Alley closure and beautification,  
Redding Elementary  
Polk Gulch District*





# Groundplay children can learn by doing.



*Tunnel Top Park Prototyping,  
Dogpatch District*

Our pilot projects work with children's creative skills and test ideas for long-term improvements --and any project can be quickly modified or dismantled.



# Groundplay children can team up.



***Ocean Avenue Portable Parklet,  
Youth Art Exchange  
Excelsior District***

Once an idea is in the works, we help communities team up with local businesses and civic groups to get it done.





# Groundplay children can experiment.

*Sound Commons Installation  
SF Civic Center*

Our projects generate a sense of urban discovery and challenge children's imagination.



# Groundplay improves the city for everyone.



*Opening Day  
Persia Triangle Plaza,  
Excelsior District*

Groundplay is intergenerational and inclusive : it gives voice to community members by transforming them into stewards and advocates.





**THANK  
YOU!**

**GROUNDPLAYSF.ORG**





# Frank Norris Alley, Polk Gulch

## Academic Year: 2020-2021



*Frank Norris Alley Play streets event*  
*Public WorksJurisdiction*  
*Partner: Redding Elementary*

Regular alley closure during school hours to transform street into playground.





# Woh Hei Yeun Park + John Alley, Chinatown

## Spring-Summer 2021



*Woh Hei Yeun Park Today*  
*Rec and Park Jurisdiction*  
*Community Partner:CCDC*



Play area redesign for early childhood needs; activation pilots for intergenerational activities; alley activation.





# SF PLANNING + YOUTH

HOME-SF TIER SUMMARY

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Total BMR Requirement	20%	25%	30%
55% AMI	10%	10%	10%
80% AMI	5%	5%	10%
110% AMI	5%	5%	10%
Density	No Density Controls	No Density Controls	No Density Controls
Additional Height	5' only for non-resi uses *	10'	20'

PSIV and Mayor's Office  
supported choice for 65 Ocean



San Francisco  
**Planning**



**CENTER FOR  
CITIES+SCHOOLS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY



# Goals of Youth Engagement



## Diversity in the Planning Process

Youth represent 13 percent of City



## Diversity in the Profession

Creates a pool of diverse local planners invested in their city

## Outreach to Families



Engaging youth can also engage harder to reach populations, including families, parents, and monolingual community members



## Increase Planners Skills

Develops Planning Department's skill and toolkit for engaging youth, which further develops our outreach capabilities



Have you ever been to a community meeting? Why did you participate? Did you learn something new?







## Balboa High School

- How can we house everyone in San Francisco fairly and equitably now and in the future?

## Malcom X Academy

- How can we educate our communities about the impacts of Sea Level Rise in Bayview?



## Monroe Elementary

- How can we improve streets, public spaces, and businesses in the Mission Street corridor to be safer, cleaner, and greener?



# KEY TAKE-AWAYS FROM SF PLANNING

- **Children are a great equalizer:** making engagement interesting and targeted to them increases the interest and engagement for everyone; advocating for youth means advocating for everyone; designing for youth means designing for everyone.
- **Youth are visionary** and we need to be able to translate their ideas into practical, engaging actions.
- **Youth bring everyone together:** they can be planners' allies to outreach to the broader community: families, friends and school.
- **Tactical projects can be a great entry into broader participation** in the city and can also strengthen the care or stewardship of a space.
- **Youth participation can be developed across a broad spectrum** - from policy decisions to hands-on projects.







SAN FRANCISCO  
**CHILDREN  
& NATURE**

# Nature for Every Child, Every Day

**Maria Durana**

SF Children & Nature Coordinator  
SF Recreation & Parks Department  
[maria.durana@sfgov.org](mailto:maria.durana@sfgov.org)





SF Children & Nature is a cross-sector collaborative of child and youth-serving, health, environmental justice, and nature-focused organizations, that works to ensure all children & youth growing up in the city can **PLAY, LEARN** and **GROW** in NATURE.



# NATURE IS GOOD FOR US | Kids who play outside are...



Despite the benefits children today spend less time outside than any other previous generation, to the detriment of their health and well being. Let's change that!



# Nature in the CITY

What is San Francisco to you? The city is people, buildings, and views. It is also a peninsula made over millennia by rocks transported from far away and uplifted from deep below by powerful tectonic forces that continue to shape—and shake—our region today. Sunlight, weather, and geology create a biodiversity hotspot for more than 3000 species, some of which live here and only here. For countless generations, California Indians have tended the landscape in harmony with its plants and animals. In the 1900s, European colonization radically altered many natural and cultural processes which today we are working to restore. The past helps us re-see the present, and move into a more harmonious future full of what Charles Darwin called endless forms, most beautiful life.

## EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

- PARKS & OPEN SPACES
- TREE COVER
- LAKES & WATERWAYS TODAY
- HISTORIC WETLANDS & WATERWAYS
- REACHES
- NATIVE PLANT NURSERIES
- NATURE EDUCATION SITES
- CAMPGROUNDS
- BART & CALTRAIN
- HISTORIC SHORELINE
- SELECT TRAILS

Pacific Ocean



## San Francisco:

- Exceptional Natural Resources & Biodiversity
- Every resident within a 10 minute walk of a park
- Top 5 cities for providing access to public parks and recreation. (Trust for Public Lands)

**GOBBLE GOBBLE! BOTTLENECK DOLPHIN**  
Bottlenose dolphins are the most common marine mammals in San Francisco Bay. They are often seen breaching the water's surface near the Golden Gate Bridge.

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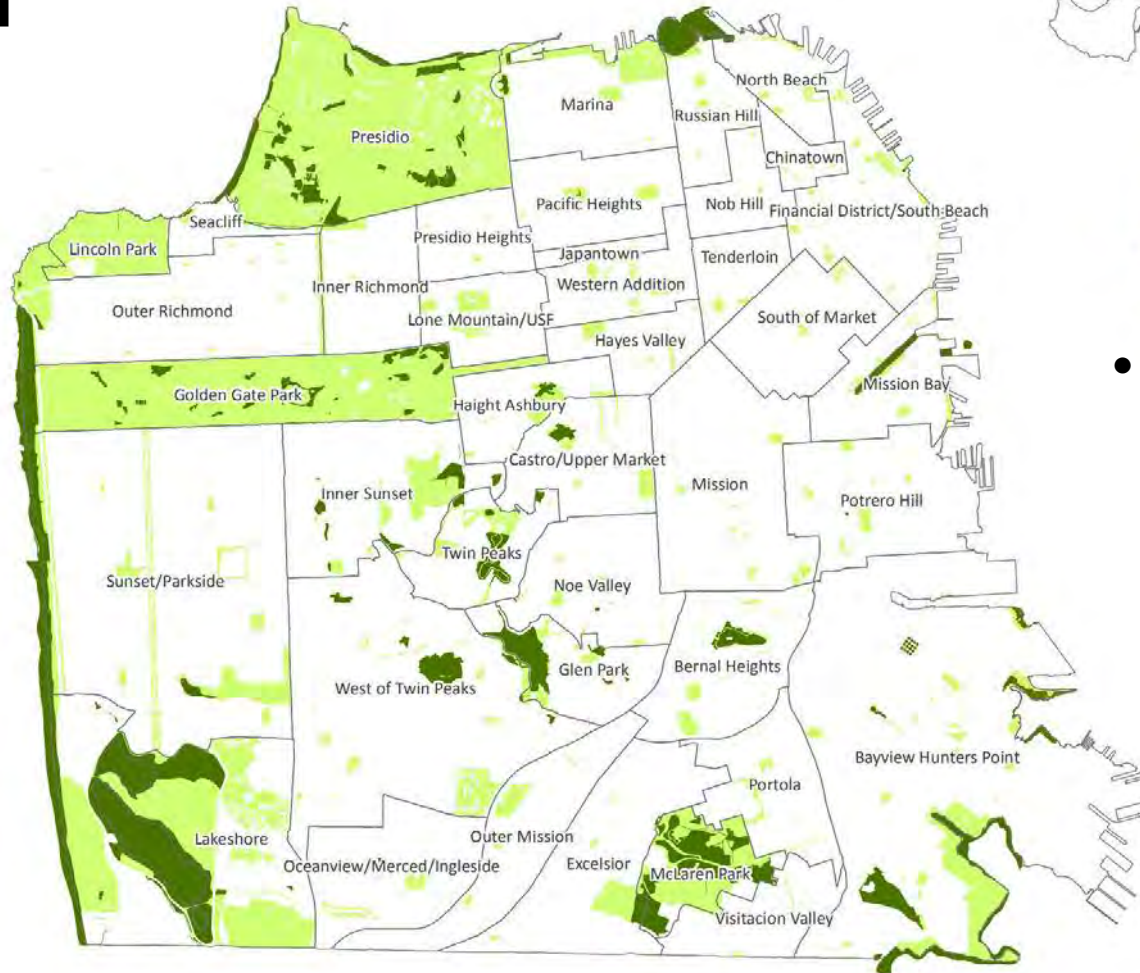
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# Proportion of Open Space that is a Natural Area



Data sources: Presidio Trust, 2015; Recreation & Parks Department, 2014; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2014.

- Some neighborhoods have easier access and greater quantity of natural areas and open space



# STRATEGY

## Partnerships



## Placemaking



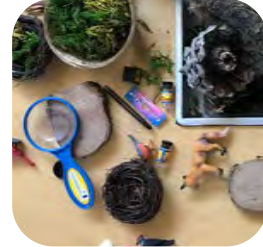
## Programming



## Policy



## Professional Development



## Public (Youth & Community)



Together, we make it easier for youth to have frequent and quality experiences in nature by:

- Expanding opportunities for nature connection in early education, schools, and neighborhoods
- Advocating for places, programs, and policies that support our mission.



# STRATEGY

## Partnerships



## Placemaking



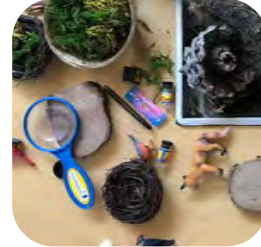
## Programming



## Policy & Advocacy



## Professional Development



## Public (Youth & Community)



**GOAL:** Increase equity, quality and abundance of nearby nature experiences for children and youth where they live.



# PLACEMAKING | Nature in Early Childhood Playspaces



- 36 Early childhood playspaces have been enhanced for nature connection through the First 5 SF & OECE Connecting Children to Nature Project
- SF Rec & Park & Presidio Trust have provided over 900 wooden stumps and natural loose parts



# PLACEMAKING | Green Schoolyards



Sherman Elementary School (Photo: Sharon Danks/Green Schoolyards America)



Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary



Commodore Sloat Elementary

- 90% of Schools in SF have green schoolyards or green elements



# PLACEMAKING | Playgrounds include nature elements



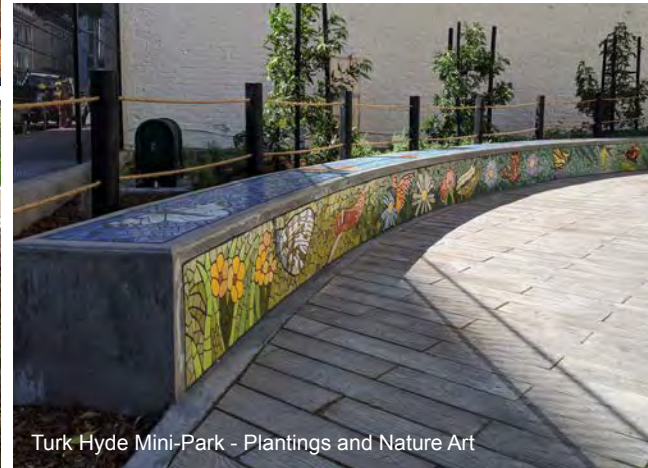
Panhandle Playground - Wooden playground elements, boulders, sand area with treasures



Hilltop Park - Water feature & boulders  
(Photo: Miller Company)



Juri Commons Nature Play



Turk Hyde Mini-Park - Plantings and Nature Art



# PLACEMAKING | Nature Exploration Areas





# PLACEMAKING | Nature Exploration Areas



Presidio Main Post - Prototype Field Station + Outpost





# PLACEMAKING | Create-with-Nature Pop Ups

CREATE with NATURE





# PLACEMAKING | Create-with-Nature





# PLACEMAKING | Create-with-Nature



## Dia de los Niños

Nature + Literacy

SF Public Library, SF Rec & Park,  
National Park Service, Presidio  
Trust, Golden Gate National  
Parks Conservancy, Tandem



## Access to Adventure

Nature for ALL

Support for Families of Children  
with Disabilities, SF Rec & Park,  
SF Public Library, National Parks,  
Presidio Trust, Golden Gate  
National Parks Conservancy



## Accessible Nature Play Day at Rolph Nicol

Explored tools to make Nature  
Exploration Areas more  
accessible with support from  
Zach Pine and professor Lucas  
Tobin, SF Rec & Park



## City Kids Family Fair

SF Children's Council



# PLACEMAKING | Building Capacity



Nature Play Space  
Design & Construction



Curriculum, Experiential Outdoor  
Learning, Loose Parts Nature Play



Draft 4/20/20

## **The San Francisco Nature Exploration Area Design Playbook**

Designing Nature Experience  
for Childhood in the City



Nature Exploration Area  
Design Playbook



# PLACEMAKING | People Powered



Ilaria Salvadori, SF Planning opens our October Work Groups Meeting with an introduction to Playland at 43rd





**THANK YOU**  
[www.sfchildrennature.org](http://www.sfchildrennature.org)



A young girl with a joyful expression is the central figure, wearing a dark winter jacket with a fur-lined hood and a grey beanie. She is positioned in a garden, with tall green plants in the foreground and a school building in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in a dark blue, bold font.

# **San Francisco Unified School District's Green Schoolyards**

**Connecting San Francisco's Children to  
Nature on Public School Grounds**

**Tamar Barlev, Green Schoolyard Manager SFUSD**



# San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) by the Numbers

- 114 Schools
- Nearly 500 acres of land
- Nearly 55,000 students
- Since 2003 voters approved over \$2 Billion in general obligation bonds to modernize and upgrade San Francisco Schools
- \$17 Million in Voter approved bond funds allocated to Green Schoolyards since 2003



# SFUSD SUSTAINABILITY PILLARS

**CARBON  
NEUTRALITY**



**WATER  
RESILIENCE**



**ZERO  
WASTE**



**SUSTAINABLE  
TRANSPORTATION**



**CONNECTION  
TO NATURE**





# SFUSD GREEN SCHOOLYARD MANAGER



## CONNECTION TO NATURE



GOAL: Connect every student to nature every day

## WATER RESILIENCE



GOAL: Reduce water usage 50% by 2030...and replenish underlying aquifers.



# SFUSD's GSY Manager Provides Guidance to Schools that want to Sustain, Enhance or Improve their Green Schoolyard



## What you can do



**Find Connection to Nature activities on the Earth Day Every Day Challenge's Activity Menu**



**Sustain or expand your green schoolyard**



**Get ideas for teaching in your green schoolyard**



# SFUSD Green Schoolyards – By the Numbers



90+ Green Schoolyards



8 Sites w/  
Existing Stormwater  
Control Elements



# WHAT DO SFUSD GREEN SCHOOLYARDS LOOK LIKE?

Some are expansive....



Others, are much smaller





# WHAT DO SFUSD GREEN SCHOOLYARDS LOOK LIKE?



SFUSD SCHOOL COMMUNITIES MAINTAIN MOST GREEN SCHOOLYARD ELEMENTS



# SFUSD GREEN SCHOOLYARDS – A TIMELINE

**Late 1990s** – Various Green Schoolyards/GSY organizations begin sprouting up at school sites in SFUSD

**2001** – San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance (SFGSA) is formed.

**2002** – SFGSA hosts 1<sup>ST</sup> Green Schoolyard Conference @ SFUSD school sites

**2003** – SF voters pass first School Bond that includes \$5 Million for design & construction of Green Schoolyards

**2004** – SFGSA hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Schoolyard Conference @ SFUSD school sites

**2006, 2011 & 2016** – SF voters pass 2<sup>nd</sup> , 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> School Bonds that all allocate funds for Green Schoolyards

**2007** – SFPUC funds school projects & watershed curriculum

**2009** – SFPUC establishes Watershed Stewardship Grant program & funds rainwater harvesting gardens @ SFUSD schools

**2012** – Education Outside is born, ultimately serving 40+ schools in SFUSD

**2014** – Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights is adopted by City of San Francisco

**2016** – SFUSD hires its first Green Schoolyard Manager & San Francisco selected to join inaugural cohort of Cities Connecting Children to Nature.

**2018** – SFUSD & SFPUC complete first jointly funded Stormwater Schoolyard @ RL Stevenson



# Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8 - Before





# Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8 - After





# RL Stevenson Elementary School - Before





# RL Stevenson Elementary School - After





# 20 years later.....

- 90% of SFUSD schools have green schoolyard elements on schools grounds
- Teachers, SFUSD departments (Shared Schoolyards, Wellness, Custodial, Curriculum) and multiple outside organizations (SF Children & Nature) are working to support SF student access to nature both on and off campus.
- SFUSD & SFPUC are working on additional opportunities to address access to nature and water resiliency on school grounds.
- SFUSD staff is working to create opportunities for hands-on, outdoor learning, nature play, and introductions to careers in the new green economy
- Education Outside closed AND nearly all sites successfully transitioned to new garden education program partners or independent consultants.
- What is old is new again: SFUSD is hosting Green Schoolyard Liaison Gatherings to encourage community building & strengthen schoolyard greening efforts in the District.





# San Francisco Safe Routes to School Partnership



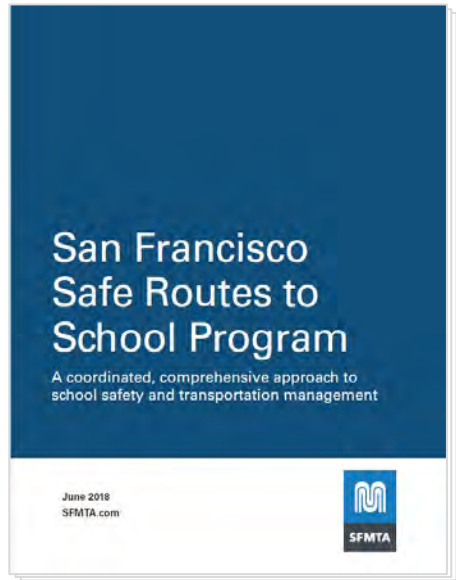
**Ana Vasudeo**, Safe Routes to School Coordinator at the SFMTA

**Sam Kwan**, Safe Routes to School Community Engagement team at Walk SF





# Who we are: Government and Nonprofit Partners working hand in hand







- Safety programs (such as crossing guard and engineering) available to all 240+ public and private schools, prioritized by collision history and school size
- Mode shift outreach expanded from 27 schools to all 103 non-charter public schools including:







## “4 Fun Ways”







# Walk SF & Safe Routes to School Partnership







# Redding Elementary School





## REDDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# WALK TO SCHOOL DAY!

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

### MAP



### START

(لندا) يقف الميوس (١٠١) شارع توريك  
على زاوية شارع توريك وشارع جونز.  
سلكي لأشواخاء وتناول الفوجيات الخفيفة في.  
الساعة 7:45 صباحاً  
مجموعة المشي تغادر لوقه في الساعة 8:00 صباحاً.

### END

مدرسة وينج الابتدائية، 1421 شارع باين-  
تصل مجموعك المشي حوالي الساعة 8:25 صباحاً.

### INFO

يقود شخص بالغ ذو خبرة مجموعة المشي لضمان السلامة\*  
سوف نسير إلى المدرسة سواء مطر د ام مشمس حيث سيتم توفير المظلات\*  
المتي يمان إلى المدرسة مع الأصدقاء ومجموعك\*  
سيتم تقديم الإفطار والمعدات للطلاب\*  
يمكن أن يمثل هذا بمثابة نقطة الاتصال بديلة إلى المدرسة\*  
ترحب بالعثاءات للانضمام إلى حفلة المشي إلى المدرسة في أي وقت\*  
إلعبت عن الجاكيت) ستره (البرقائي بينما نسير بمحذاه شارع لأركن\*

### INTERESTED IN LEADING A WALKING GROUP IN THE MORNING OR AFTERNOON?

Contact  
Redding's Parent Champion:  
Joss at [jjenkins@gmail.com](mailto:jjenkins@gmail.com)  
OR  
Safe Routes to School's Family and  
School's Coordinator:  
Sam at [sam@walksf.org](mailto:sam@walksf.org)  
415.431.9255 ext





# Commodore Sloat Elementary School



VISION



HEARING



SMELL



TASTE



TOUCH



**MUNI TIPS**  
Brought to you by  
Safe Routes to School

MUNI EDUCATION

This Ticket belongs to :





## COVID-19 Response

- Art Contest
  - Updated content
  - Online classes
    - How to Host a Walking School Bus on May 7th
- <https://walksf.org/event/how-to-host-a-walking-school-bus-webinar/>

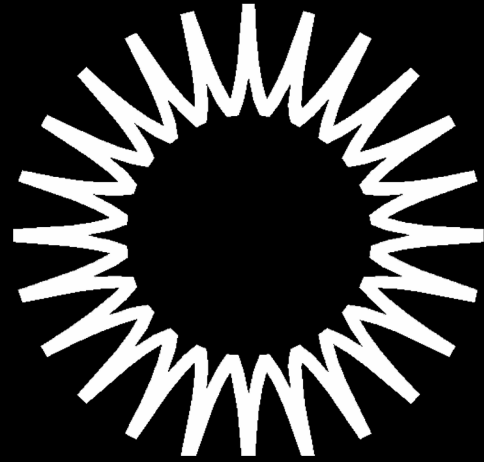




# Questions?

- Ana Vasudeo: [saferoutestoschool@sfmta.com](mailto:saferoutestoschool@sfmta.com)
- Sam Kwan: [sam@walksf.org](mailto:sam@walksf.org)





# SPUR

**Ideas + Action for a Better City**

learn more at [SPUR.org](http://SPUR.org)

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*#KidFriendlyCities*