

Golden Gate Park Access & Safety: Accessibility Initiatives

Recent Accessibility Improvements

SF Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) has worked to improve accessibility in and around JFK Drive in the last year, with many initiatives already in place to support seniors and people with disabilities in accessing Golden Gate Park and its many attractions. The following are in place as of Spring 2022:

Accessible Parking Spaces

- 8 new accessible parking spaces near the Music Concourse and the Tennis Center (across from the Conservatory of Flowers)

Music Concourse Access

- Unrestricted vehicle access from MLK Jr. Drive to the Music Concourse, allowing everyone access to passenger loading areas directly in front of the Cal Academy and the de Young, and to the new Bandshell lot

Paratransit Service

- Marked Paratransit van vehicles (SF Access Program) are allowed to drive on the JFK Drive promenade, as well as any other roadways with restricted vehicle access

Shuttle Operations

- Free shuttles every 15 minutes on weekends and 20 minutes on weekdays
- Improved route goes directly to Haight Street and Muni bus line connections, the new Bandshell lot and Stow Lake
- Temporary physical signs identify shuttle stops. Benches are also provided.

Upcoming Accessibility Initiatives

Providing an accessible environment requires continual feedback and iteration. The following represent initiatives that will be accomplished in the next year and a half pending annual budget approval. RPD will continue to improve and modify initiatives with full participation from the disability community, and in coordination with the Mayor's Disability Council and disability advocacy community groups.

Accessibility Initiatives

Completion Timeline

Disability Access Coordinator

- A new Disability Access Coordinator will work directly with the disability community and other City agencies to provide architectural accessibility compliance analysis for the Recreation and Parks Department. This position adds to existing RPD ADA coordinators.

Winter 2023

Additional Accessible Parking Spaces

- 20 new accessible parking spaces in a parking lot next to the Japanese Tea Garden, closer to the Cal Academy and the Botanical Gardens. This work includes path of travel improvements such as re-graded walking surfaces and upgraded curb ramps.

Spring 2022

More Shuttle Improvements

- Start using low floor buses that are easier to board
- Add new shuttle stop signs, seating and key shuttle route and reliability information at all shuttle stops
- Confirm and upgrade stops for level landing, path of travel, and curb ramps, where needed.

Spring 2023

Spring 2023

Spring 2023

Garage Enhancements

- Communicate the free 15-minute pick-up/drop-off option in the garage; work with the garage to make this time longer
- Improve garage waiting areas with seating and drop-off and loading parking spaces.
- Provide additional subsidized parking for everyone via Museums for All and Discover and Go passes

Spring 2022

Fall 2022

Fall 2022

Accessibility Initiatives

Completion Timeline

Safer Streets

- Implement transportation engineering and education improvements to separate faster moving bikes from slower users on shared street spaces and speed management for all the vehicles in the Park

Summer
2022

Wayfinding

- RPD will identify accessible routes with physical signage. Accessible wayfinding directions will also be included on the RPD website.
- Develop a new map and brochure of GGP, that will be available in large print, tactile, and Braille formats.

Summer
2022

Winter 2023

Program and Architectural Access

- Special events along the closed stretch of JFK, such as Entwined, and Holiday Tree Lighting, will develop and execute programmatic access plans to ensure accessibility for all attendees.
- Enhance RPD website accessibility and ensure compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) providing image descriptions and descriptive navigational information for people who are blind or low-vision.
- Evaluate the access points to the Conservatory of Flowers, a National Historic Landmark and identify improvement opportunities.
- Renovate curbs and crosswalks along JFK Drive, especially at Peacock Meadow and Conservatory Drive West.

Spring 2022

Spring 2022

Fall 2022

Summer
2023