

in the works

March 2019



Public Works pothole crews smooth over Vermont Street. See story inside.



EVENTS



4/2

[Polk Streetscape Ribbon Cutting](#)

Join Public Works project team members, City officials, merchants and neighbors for a celebration commemorating the completion of the Polk Streetscape Project.

11 a.m.
Fern Alley at Polk Street



4/13

[Eggstravaganza](#)

Rec and Park presents its annual spring celebration with egg hunts, carnival rides, games, entertainment and more.

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Robin Williams Meadow
Golden Gate Park



4/14

[Sunday Streets Tenderloin No. 1](#)

With car-free streets, free activities and plenty of chances to meet your neighbors, Sunday Streets' most urban route celebrates the centrally located and densely populated Tenderloin, one of the City's oldest neighborhoods.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Route [map](#)



4/6

[Pop-Up Summer Resource Fairs](#)

The Department of Children, Youth & Their Families, Rec and Park and the SF Public Library present their Pop-Up Summer Resource Fair. No registration is necessary. Just show up, have some fun, and learn about the amazing resources San Francisco has to offer children, youth and families!

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
ShipShape Community Center
850 Avenue I on Treasure Island



4/13 - 4/21

[52nd Annual Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival](#)

Since 1968, the festival has cultivated the continued alliance between Japan and the United States using culture as its bridge. Each year, more than 220,000 people attend this dazzling display showcasing the vibrant colors and grace of the Japanese culture and the diversity of the Japanese-American Community.



4/27

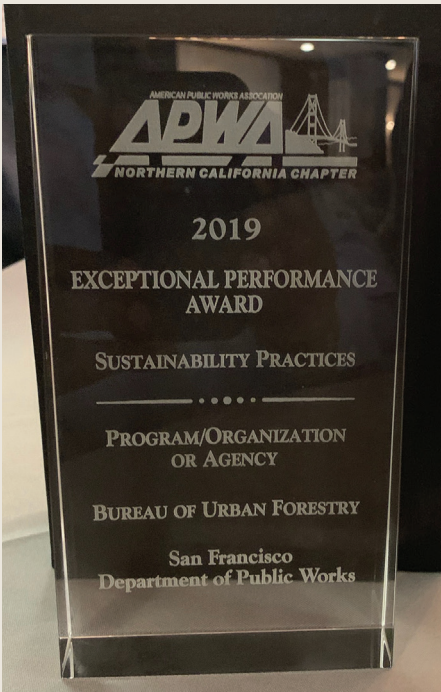
[Community Clean Team in District 5](#)

Community Clean Team is San Francisco Public Works' longest-running and largest volunteer program that keeps San Francisco beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods.

8:30 a.m. - registration
9 a.m. to noon - community work projects
Ella Hill Hutch Center
1050 McAllister St.



AWARDS



Our ground-breaking StreetTreeSF tree maintenance program won the top award for sustainability practices in a competition run by the American Public Works Association, Northern California Chapter. StreetTreeSF, approved by City voters in 2016, sets aside \$19 million a year for Public Works to care for San Francisco's 125,000-plus street trees and to repair tree-related sidewalk damage.



Two Public Works projects, the Polk Streetscape Project and the Central Shops Replacement Facilities Project, have been named winners of the International Partnering Institute's 2019 Partnered Project of the Year awards. Both projects were multi-agency collaborations led by Public Works that implemented facilitated collaborative partnering to resolve issues and meet project goals. The specific award levels (sapphire, ruby, diamond) will be revealed at an awards ceremony on May 17 at the Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront.



SFPUBLICWORKS.ORG





THANK YOU

For the past couple of days, Caselli Avenue has been undergoing repaving work as the result of the sewer repairs done earlier last year. At this time, I would like to express my gratitude for the fine work done by Daniel Brugmann of your infrastructure construction management team and for his follow-through on a request I made to him during the course of an earlier conversation.

Too often, folks are very quick to criticize City employees and slow to offer up praise. I am hopeful that my brief correspondence will let you know that I, for one, realize what a great asset Public Works employees are to the City and how they add to the quality of life for all of us who live in San Francisco. A small gesture, like the one evidenced by Mr. Brugmann, makes a huge difference!

Michael B.

I would like to be sure you are aware of the excellent responses I have received from Steven Duong, the corridors program manager. I asked Steve if the area at the top of the Lombard Hill, often littered with visitors' snack wrappers, drink cups, as well as shattered auto window glass, could be addressed. He

has agreed to do so. I am always pleased when Public Works employees not only respond but respond positively to residents' concerns within the scope of their responsibilities. In this way, employees and residents together can partner to make the City one in which people enjoy living and/or working.

Please commend Steve for his work and extend my thanks to him.

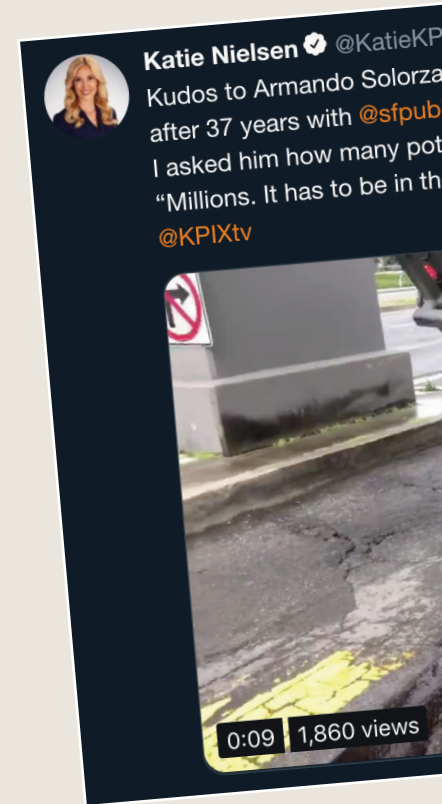
Phoebe D.

I'd like to thank you for sending two very nice guys from the Bureau of Building Repair. They were prompt, they were pleasant and they were fast. But that's how Public Works rolls. In all sincerity, thank you so much.

Malika A.

The paving project at Northern station looks amazing.

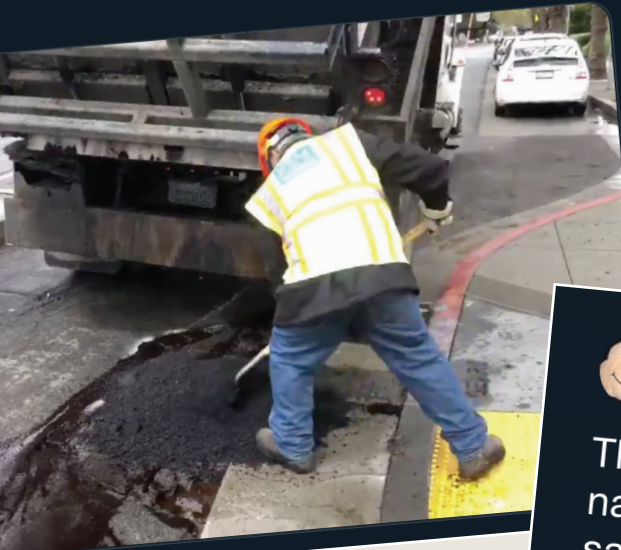
Vivian G.





SOCIAL MEDIA

IX · Mar 9
no, the foreman of this crew. He's retiring next week
icworks!
holes he's filled. He laughed & with a smile said,
e millions." Think of the impact he's made on SF.



Terrence L. Blackwell, Esq.
@TBlackwe85

Follow

The pothole repair blitz is sweeping 🚧 the nation making a perfect ride smoother and say goodbye to the bumping and grinding



SF Public Works @sfpublicworks

Pothole-repair blitz continues — Geary in the Western Addition #SF. This crew filled 200+ already today in three neighborhoods. Other crews on job today, too.

6:20 PM - 9 Mar 2019

ghtsBooks · Mar 18
e sunny side of the street. Thank you

cworks
our annual signature tree honoring
#LawrenceFerlinghetti 10 am, 576
yLightsBooks @AaronPeskin



Malcolm Young @MalcolmYoung · Mar 18

"I am waiting for my case to come up
and I am waiting
for a rebirth of wonder
and I am waiting for someone
to really discover America..."
#Ferlinghetti
I love this city that honors the poets.
Thank you #SanFrancisco.

SF Public Works @sfpublicworks

🌲 A tree grows in North Beach: The City's annual signature tree planted this morning in North Beach to honor poet, publisher and activist Lawrence Ferlinghetti. #ferlinghetti 🇮🇹 🇩🇪 🇫🇷





Bureau of Urban Forestry workers prepare to uncrate the Ferlinghetti olive tree.

PUBLIC WORKS



SIGN UP



EPISODE 0049

A Tree for Ferlinghetti

We planted the City's annual signature tree in honor of Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Our urban foresters give you a quick glimpse into his life and legacy.

The Public Works
Bureau of Building
Repair's carpentry shop
crafted this handsome
signature tree plaque.

How Poetic: A Street Tree +





We planted the City's annual signature tree this month in honor of celebrated poet, publisher and activist Lawrence Ferlinghetti, as part of the San Francisco Arbor Day 2019 celebrations. ▶

Honors Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Signature Trees



The community joins in the signature tree planting.





Public Works Urban Forester Chris Buck was instrumental in getting this year's signature tree dedicated to Lawrence Ferlinghetti whose photo portrait joined us at the tree planting.

VIA FER

The Lawrence Ferlinghetti signature tree is a



► Ferlinghetti, who turned 100 years old March 24, played a prominent role in the literary renaissance of the 1950s. He was named San Francisco’s first Poet Laureate in 1998, a role he served in for two years. He co-founded City Lights in 1953 and the North Beach bookstore quickly became a cultural hub for poets, painters and social activists. Two years later, he launched City Lights Publishers, providing a new platform for poets to share their work.

We planted the tree on March 18 under sunny blue skies. Joining us were District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin; Lorenzo Ortona, Italy’s consul general in San Francisco; former Board of Supervisors President Angela Alioto; Alice Waters, the chef, restaurant owner and food activist; Ferlinghetti’s son, Lorenzo, who is an arborist; and Mauro Aprile Zanetti, Ferlinghetti’s longtime assistant. Zanetti said Ferlinghetti, an environmentalist, is happy that the City is planting a signature in his honor. “He likes the idea that it’s a breathing monument.”

The Lawrence Ferlinghetti signature tree is an olive tree, a symbol of peace and friendship.

Planted in front of 576 Union St., across from Via Ferlinghetti, the signature tree is one of the 125,000-plus street trees in San Francisco under the stewardship of Public Works.

This marks the 14th year of Public Works’ signature tree program, which, during the annual Arbor Day season, honors civic, cultural, social and political leaders with a living tribute.

“The tradition of planting trees to honor people who bring positive and transformative change to our communities is a wonderful way to celebrate their contributions,” said San Francisco Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru. “We are proud to honor Lawrence Ferlinghetti’s decades-long influence at the intersection of art and activism.”

Past signature tree honorees include Dr. Espanola Jackson; Irene Crescio; the iconic Brown twin sisters, Marian and Vivian; Nelson Mandela; Sandra Cuadra; Wangari Maathai; Charlie Starbuck; Rosa Parks; Cesar Chavez; Ruth Asawa; Dr. Ellen Wolf; Dana Woldow, Rose Pak and Mayor Edwin Mah Lee. ■

an olive tree, a symbol of peace and friendship.

Volunteers help
plant 284 trees
at our annual
Arbor Day event.



Hello New Street



Trees!

San Francisco's urban forest grew by nearly 200 trees in just one morning, thanks to a huge contingent of volunteers that came out for our annual Community Clean Team Arbor Day workday event. ►

Tall wooden stakes are installed to support the young street trees.



In addition to planting street trees, volunteers spruced up sidewalk landscaping.



One of the most popular activities at the Arbor Day Eco Fair lets people build planter boxes and fill them with herbs and flowers.







Bucket truck rides, hosted by our arborists, give visitors at the Eco Fair a real lift.



People-friendly farm animals, including piglets, goats and ducks, delighted all who met them.







Supervisor Ahsha Safai, left, and his two children join Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru in expanding our urban forest.



The volunteer force, more than 400 strong, w



- ▶ The volunteer force, more than 400 strong, worked alongside our crews to plant 184 trees in the Excelsior, Ingleside and other District 11 neighborhoods on March 16. Supervisor Ahsha Safai aspires to plant at least 500 trees a year in his district and is on track to meet that goal.

San Francisco has 125,000-plus street trees, which Public Works cares for under [StreetTreeSF](#), the voter-approved program that sets aside \$19 million a year for tree maintenance and tree-related sidewalk repair.

Every year around Arbor Day, Public Works organizes a one-day massive tree planting, in partnership with the nonprofit Friends of the Urban Forest.

We held the kickoff at Denman Middle School. It was there, on the schoolyard blacktop, that we also hosted our annual family-friendly Arbor Day Eco Fair. We offered free bucket truck rides,

planter box building and face painting. Folks also could power a blender by pedaling a bike and pet a friendly menagerie of piglets, goats and ducks.

In addition, a variety of nonprofit organizations and sister City agencies were on hand to talk to neighbors about their programs and services.

We had a great time celebrating Arbor Day and we can't wait for next year. ■



worked alongside our crews to plant 184 trees.

New plants grace a spruced-up Dewey Circle.



© MING FU

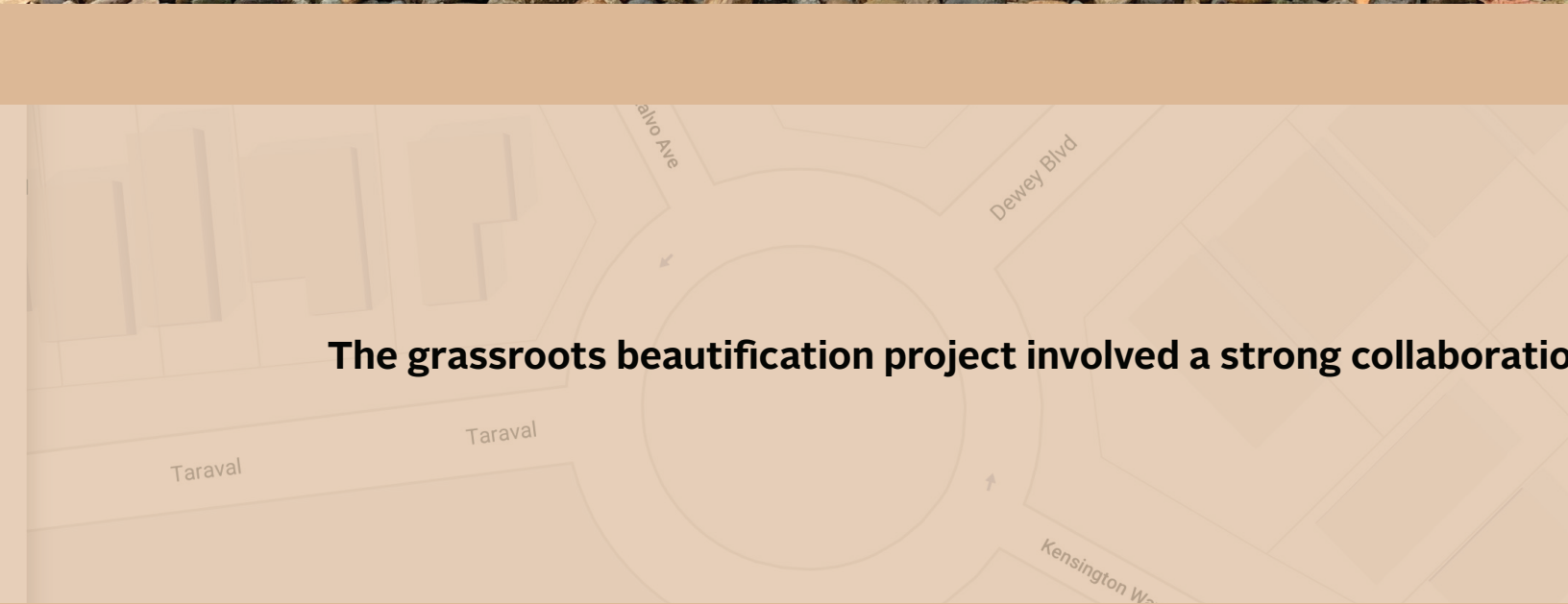


OLL CIRCLE





It took a strong partnership among Public Works, Board of Supervisors President Norman Yee and neighbors to improve the public space.



The grassroots beautification project involved a strong collaboration



Dewey Circle neighbors sure know how to throw a party!

A wonderful community celebration took place on March 2 to mark the progress made restoring Dewey Circle, a large landscaped traffic circle West of Twin Peaks where five streets converge: Dewey Boulevard, Montalvo Avenue, Taraval Street, Claremont Boulevard and Kensington Way.

The festivities included an energetic lion dance troupe from West Portal Elementary School, a sumptuous offering of food donated by West Portal restaurants, a live jazz band and crowd-pleasing speeches.

The grassroots beautification project involved a strong collaboration involving Public Works and West Portal and Forest Hill neighbors. Together, we decided on the project scope, design and the landscape palette, which includes a wonderful mix of drought-tolerant California and Mediterranean plants. The design ensures that drivers and pedestrians traveling through

the intersection don't have obstructed views, and the plant selection is easy on the eyes and environmentally sustainable.

Our plumbing, cement and landscape teams worked on the Dewey Circle improvements. Neighbors have agreed to help maintain the site and also raised money to replace the decorative planters and to help pay the water bill.

The Dewey Circle project showcases what's possible when City agencies work in partnership with community groups to improve our neighborhoods and bolster civic pride.

on involving Public Works and West Portal and Forest Hill neighbors.

Merced Ave


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Gar



Glen Park residents attend the Glen Park Greenway sign unveiling ceremony.

More than a half-century ago, activists successfully stopped a planned highway from cutting through Glen Park, resulting in a ribbon of undeveloped parcels of land that had been set aside for the hated highway. ►

A Revolt Give

GLEN PARK GREENWAY

is a green corridor that connects Glen Park's transit hub and urban village to the many recreation opportunities in Glen Canyon Park. The Greenway links a growing system of nature trails in the Bay Area, including the Crosstown Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail, that connect to Twin Peaks, Golden Gate Park, the Presidio and beyond. It was begun by the Glen Park Association in 2012 and is designated as a Street Park, a community land stewardship program co-managed by San Francisco Public Works and the San Francisco Parks Alliance. People who live and work in the surrounding neighborhoods have come together to revive this valuable resource. The Greenway is supported by scores of volunteers and by funding from the San Francisco Community Challenge Grant, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the office of the District 8 supervisor, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, individuals and foundations.

For information on the Street Parks Program, please see www.sfpublishworks.org/streetparks
For information on the Greenway, see www.glenparkassociation.org/greenway



Native oak trees have been planted as the first step toward restoring more of the natural ecosystem. Oak woodlands have higher levels of biodiversity than any other habitat in California.



es Birth to a New Greenway

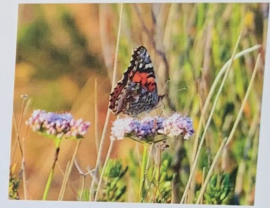


Jan Cornish and his canine companion Gracie stroll through the Glen Park Greenway.

TAKE TO THE TRAIL


GLEN PARK GREENWAY

is a link in San Francisco's Green Connections Network. This provides green pathways for exploring the city on foot, as well as corridors of natural habitat that allow wildlife to move between the city's open spaces. So, take to the trail and explore!



Credits: DESIGN: Laura Lovett | MAPS: Daniel Clarke | ILLUSTRATIONS: SurfaceDesign | PHOTOS: William Follette, Pete Veilleux

The new map shows how the Glen Park Greenway connects to the Bay Area Ridge Trail..



Volunteers planted more than 50 trees and 100 shrubs in the public open space.

**"With its creation, residents of Glen Park can bathe in nature
or to schools, shops or transit." Bob**



► Running parallel to Bosworth Street between Brompton and Burnside streets, the parcels have a patchwork of owners, with Public Works owning about 75 percent and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the Archdiocese of San Francisco owning the remainder.

Today, that land has been transformed into the Glen Park Greenway, which when complete will connect downtown Glen Park to Glen Canyon Park via a landscaped pathway.

The Glen Park Association spearheaded the project, and on March 23, the organization hosted a small but festive gathering to dedicate a new Glen Park Greenway marker sign and map and to celebrate the work completed so far. Volunteers have logged 1,800 hours over the past 16 months clearing brush, pulling weeds and planting more than 50 trees and 100 shrubs.

“In the grand scheme of trails, we have to be honest with each other,” Bob Siegel of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council told the crowd. “The Glen Park Greenway is in the micro-category. But we should not underestimate this little guy. With its creation, residents of Glen Park

can bathe in nature on their way to the Glen Park [Recreation] Center, or to schools, shops or transit, and others can hop off of BART and, a minute later, be on a wonderful greenway that connects to Glen Canyon, the Ridge Trail, Twin peaks, Mt. Sutro, Golden Gate Park and beyond. Urban hikes can’t get much better.”

Public Works involvement: our Bureau of Urban Forestry team cleared dead and dying trees, our plumbing and cement shops installed new equipment for irrigation and our mapping section prepared a boundary survey. Our crews also will continue to assist volunteers on workdays.

In addition to neighborhood residents, other collaborators include the San Francisco Parks Alliance, Friends of the Urban Forest and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Funding has come from a variety of sources, including City funds, foundation grants and private donations.

It is projects like the Glen Park Greenway that are particularly meaningful to Public Works because at the end of the day, building and nurturing community partnerships is a key to the continued improvement of our city. ■

**nature on their way to the Glen Park Recreation Center,
Siegel, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council**

Crews get to work fixing the rutted roadway on Vermont Street.

POT HOLE REPAIR





REPAIR BLITZ

The relentless rains have been keeping our street crews exceptionally busy over the winter and into the spring, filling more than 7,500 potholes since December. ►



Public Works patches about 350 potholes during a ty



► Public Works patches about 350 potholes during a typical dry month; the number balloons when it rains. In the first three weeks of March, for example, crews from our Bureau of Street and Sewer Repair filled 2,722. At one point, we were running up to four crews a day, seven days a week, during a pothole-repair blitz to catch up in meeting our 72-hour response rate goal.

San Francisco is not alone in dealing with a proliferation of potholes. City streets and highways across the rain-soaked west have been pummeled by potholes. The culprit? Water, and lots of it. If water gets through a crack in the asphalt, it can start to soften up the road's base. When a lot of traffic, and especially heavy trucks and buses, pass over, the cracks get bigger and eventually form potholes.

While we have proactive pothole repairs, we also rely on the public to report them through the City's [311 customer service center](#) so we can get out and smooth the road. ■

typical dry month; the number balloons when it rains.

Geary Rapid Proj



Artist rendering of what Geary will look like after the improvement project is completed.

ect Gets Moving



The City broke ground this month on the Geary Rapid Project that aims to bring pedestrian safety and transit improvements to the busy corridor between Stanyan and Market streets. ►



Artist rendering of what Geary will look like after the improvement project is completed.

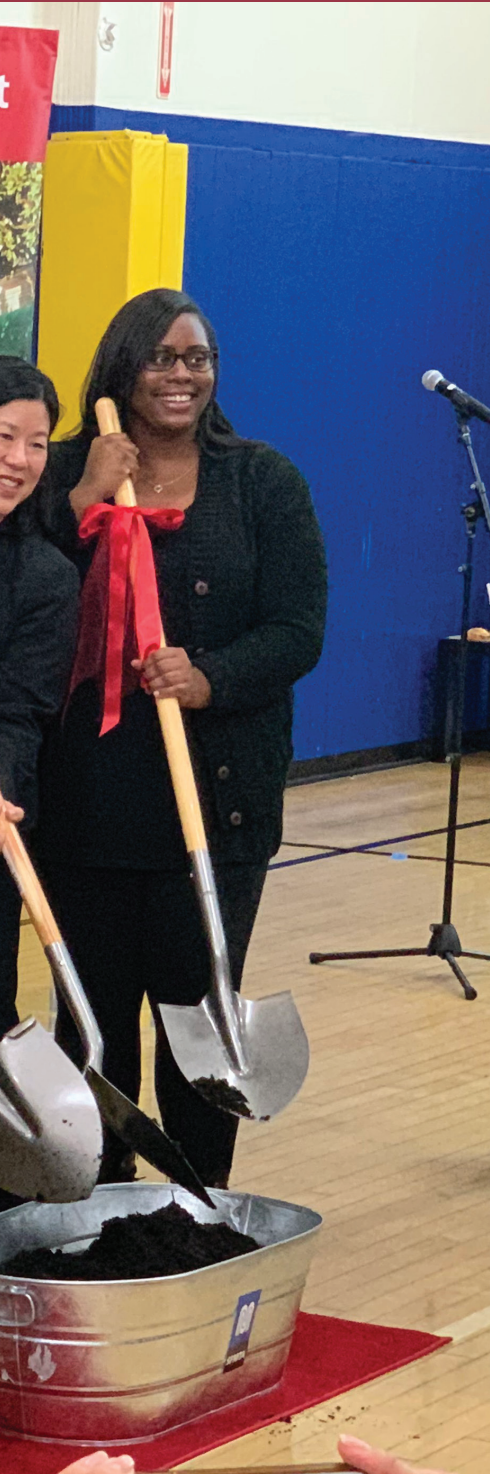




Mayor London Breed, center, and other City and community leaders partake in a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Geary Rapid Project.



The Geary project will provide safer crossings, m and a design to slow traffic along on



► The stretch has been designated a high-injury corridor, making it a top priority for safety improvements under the City's Vision Zero goal to eliminate all traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 2024.

The Geary Rapid Project will add more pedestrian countdown signals and bulb-outs to shorten the crossing distance for people walking across Geary. Plans also call for decreasing the number of traffic lanes between Gough and Scott streets as a means to calm traffic. In addition, the pedestrian bridge at Geary Boulevard and Steiner Street, which currently is not ADA-compliant, will be removed and replaced with surface-level crosswalks and medians.

The project also includes improvements to make travel on Muni's Geary bus lines more efficient, with bus-only lanes, traffic signal prioritization for transit and improved bus stops.

The Geary project will provide safer crossings, more visibility between motorists and pedestrians and a design to slow traffic along one of the busiest corridors in our city.

As the population continues to climb in San Francisco and the City

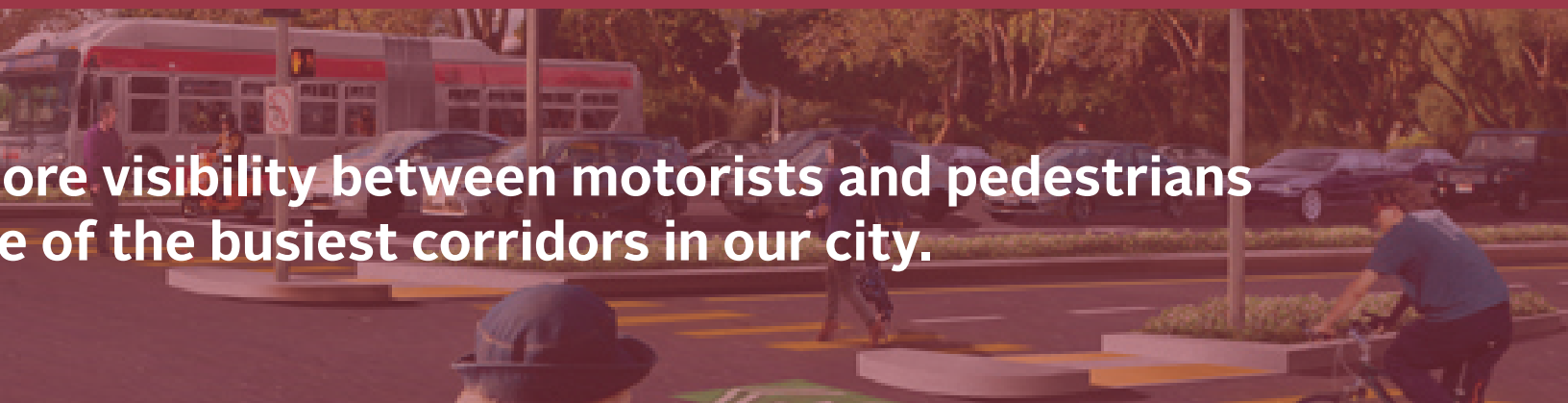
gets more congested, we have to double down on our efforts to make our streets safer and to improve our transportation infrastructure.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency is the lead in the multi-agency initiative, with Public Works involved in most aspects, including the traffic signal upgrades, the pedestrian bulb-outs, landscaping, removal of the bridge and final paving to make the road smoother for all users.

Underground water and sewer lines will be upgraded along the corridor. We'll also be repaving a significant stretch of the roadway to provide users with a smoother, safer experience.

This is the first phase of the planned Geary Rapid Project construction, which is expected to be completed in spring 2021. The second phase of improvements would bring similar transit and safety improvements west of Stanyan to 34th Avenue.


More information on the project can be found at the [SFMTA project page](#). ■



A photograph of a city street intersection. In the foreground, a wide, light-colored concrete sidewalk runs along a low, rustic stone retaining wall. Behind the wall is a landscaped area with brown mulch and some small green plants. In the background, a paved road with white lane markings has two dark-colored cars driving. The road is lined with tall, leafy green trees under a clear blue sky.

Making Good at

Newly completed streetscape improvements at the intersection of Geary Boulevard and Park Presidio Boulevard – one of the busiest crossroads in the City – offer a safer and more inviting environment for Muni riders, pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. ►



New sitting wall and landscaping enhance the public realm experience at Geary Boulevard and Park Presidio Boulevard in the Richmond District.

the Crossroads



The transformation has turned a mundane urban corner into a vibrant public space, featuring seating walls and lighting, as well as a garden area.



- ▶ The transformation has turned a mundane urban corner into a welcoming setting with beautiful plantings, seating walls and lighting, as well as new sidewalk and curb ramps. The \$300,000 makeover was one of the last improvement projects funded by voters through the 2011 Road Repaving and Street Safety Bond.

Public Works designed, managed and built the project, with landscaping work done by the Recreation and Park Department.

Geary is a highly traveled corridor, used by people moving between Ocean Beach and downtown. Park Presidio Boulevard connects 19th Avenue in the Sunset District to the Golden Gate Bridge.

The new features reflect the needs of the community and reinforce neighborhood identity. Public Works received input for the design from neighbors, advocacy groups and District 1 Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer.

“I want to thank the residents for their input for a better design and to Public Works for coming out to D1 and giving us some love!” said Fewer. ■

**er into a welcoming setting with beautiful plantings,
as new sidewalk and curb ramps.**



All Hail Breaks Loose

A surprising hail storm came down on San Francisco neighborhoods March 10, leaving behind little balls of ice on this sidewalk garden succulent.

