Days of San Francisco Children & Nature

1,095
Building castles at City Kids Family Day in the Mission, presented by Children’s Council of San Francisco

6,930 people engaged in hands-on nature programming (includes create-with-nature community programs, nature play days, and activation days at Nature Exploration Areas)

2018: 670
2019: 6,260
2,450 preschoolers and 1,420 youth (6-18) engaged in hands-on nature programming.
Nature Play Days for preschoolers piloted in Equity Zone Parks

SF Rec & Park, First 5 SF, OECE SFUSD, Cal Academy, Botanical Gardens, Lif, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, National Park Service, Presidio Trust, SF Public Library, Tandem Partners in Early Learning, Children’s Council of San Francisco Healthy Apple Program, Randall Museum, Bay Area Children in Nature, YMCA, Department of Public Health, Department of the Environment, Planet Bee Foundation

2018: 0
2019: 3

Lettuce learn to transplant greens with Brenda, Rec & Park’s, Youth Volunteer Services Manager at the McLaren Park Community Garden Nature Play Day
Preschoolers hosted at pilot Nature Play Days

“Nature Day was a huge success! Our students, staff, and parents loved it! It was so organized, fun, and perfect for our preschoolers! We look forward to attending more of these events!” - Amanda Lee, St. Francis Site Coordinator, Stonestown Family YMCA Preschool

“Many of our kids didn’t know this park existed. Now they have a place they can come back to with their families.” - Ms. Nicole Scott, Principal, John McLaren School
Educators and Parents participated in Nature Play Days

Nature Play Days were intentionally designed with hands-on replicable activities to build confidence and inspire educators to embed nature into their everyday programming.

“We had the best time. Thanks so much for enriching our children’s outdoor exploration and connecting them deeper to nature-inspired play. Taking many ideas from today to enhance nature exploration at our childcare program.” - Teacher from Carabao Kids Family Childcare

Brilliant Kids teachers and preschoolers make discoveries at a McLaren Park Community Garden scavenger hunt
Create-with-Nature programming brings nature play to spaces across the city where families, and kids of all ages are invited to explore and create while connecting with the natural world and with each other.

2018: 15
2019: 29 | 93%
Activation Events at

2
Pilot Nature Exploration Areas: Rolph Nicol Park and Presidio Main Post Pop-up

Something for every age at the Presidio Main Post pop-up Nature Exploration Area
SF State Recreation, Parks & Tourism students assemble Create-with-Nature kits.
First 5 SF and OECE host Connecting Children to Nature Training for ECE teachers and administrators at the SF Botanical Gardens. 9 workshops hosted through, First 5 SF, OECE and SFUSD, Cal Academy, Botanical Gardens, Zach Pine, Liff, Green Schoolyards America.

2018: 110
2019: 166

276 educators trained in nature-based education
Workshops included collaborations with local experts

First 5 SF, OECE and SFUSD, Cal Academy, Botanical Gardens, Zach Pine, Liif, Green Schoolyards America

Zach Pine demonstrates how to use a memory camera at the Loose Parts Nature Play Workshop
...and global leaders in the field.

Susan Humphries, recognized as one of the founders of the green schoolyards movement from her work at the Coombes School in England, presents workshop on Experiential Outdoor Learning in Early Childhood Workshop.

First 5 SF, OECE, SFUSD, Liif, Green Schoolyards America, SF Rec & Park

“It is only once all the senses are engaged that we can begin to immerse children in learning.” — Susan Humphries
Adam Bienenstock presents Nature Play Design/Build workshop with support from SF Children & Nature, Presidio Trust, SF Rec & Park
Wooden Stumps repurposed for nature play in early childhood centers and school sites

Presidio Trust Forestry, SF Rec & Park Forestry, First 5 SF, OECE and SFUSD

2017: 100
2018: 316
2019: 558
Youth Participated in the Youth Nature Survey

Initial findings of survey conducted February - April 2019 by San Francisco Children & Nature work group members to 1) establish a baseline of youth nature connection in San Francisco 2) hear from youth 3) understand barriers and opportunities, and 4) influence key policy and decision-makers.

21% of youth RARELY visit nature

Family outings (70%) and school events/field trips (56%) are the ways youth most often experience nature. After-school programs (19%) are also important.

12% of youth do not feel safe in nature
Work Group Members

2017: 25
2018: 48
2019: 66

Work Groups
Community & Youth Engagement
Early Childhood Education
Nature Connection Design
Playspaces Enhanced for Nature Connection
First 5 SF, OECE Quality Connections Program
1,348 kids impacted
30
SF Children & Nature participating organizations
Cities in the national Cities Connecting Children to Nature Initiative

(Children & Nature Network & National League of Cities)

2017: 7
2018: 7
2019: 20
Ilaria Salvadori, SF Planning opens our October Work Groups Meeting with an introduction to Playland at 43rd
Equity Neighborhoods Identified

Bayview/Hunters Point
Chinatown
Excelsior
Ingleside
Ingleside Terraces
Lakeshore
Merced Heights
Mission
Ocean View
Outer Mission
Portola
SOMA
Tenderloin
Treasure Island
Visitacion Valley
Western Addition
Executive Council Chairs
Presidio Trust | Jean Fraser, CEO
SF Recreation & Parks Department | Phil Ginsburg, General Manager
YMCA of San Francisco | Chuck Collins, President & CEO

Executive Council Representatives
California Academy of Science | Elizabeth Babcock, Dean of Education
DCYF | Maria Su, Executive Director
First 5 of San Francisco | Theresa Zighera, Interim Executive Director
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy | Christy Rocca, Associate Vice-President
Golden Gate National Recreation Area | Michelle Gee, Chief of Interpretation and Education
Office of Early Childhood Education | Ingrid Mezquita, Executive Director
Presidio Trust | Jean Fraser, CEO
SF Department of Public Health | Curtis Chan, Medical Director, MCAH
SF Parks Alliance | Drew Betcher, CEO
SF Recreation & Parks Department | Phil Ginsburg, General Manager
SFUSD Sustainability | Nik Kaestern, Director
YMCA of San Francisco | Chuck Collins, President & CEO
Youth Outside | Kim Bailey, Executive Director
Presentations at National Gatherings and Webinars

Children & Nature Network Conference, Greater Greener Conference, CCCN national Convenings, topic based pod calls and webinars

Damien Raffa, Presidio Trust, Anthony Khalil, LEJ, Lisa Lee, First 5 SF, Wendy Meluch, YMCA SF and Maria Durana, SFCN/SF Rec & Park lead workshop on strategies for equitable nature connection at the 2019 Children & Nature Network Conference, Oakland
SAN FRANCISCO CHILDREN’S OUTDOOR BILL OF RIGHTS

In which EVERY CHILD has the right to:
Feel welcome, safe and protected outdoors
Explore all the wild places in the city
Harvest and eat a fruit or vegetable
Plant a seed and watch it grow
Visit and care for a local park
Splash in the ocean or bay
Play in the sand & mud
Discover urban wildlife
Sleep under the stars
Climb a tree
Ride a bike
Steering Committee Members

7

Work Group Chairs

4
Core Values

1. Equity
2. Nearby Nature
3. Children’s Needs
Resolutions Supported

Child and Youth Friendly City Initiative to develop a citywide action plan that leads San Francisco to achieving the UNICEF Child-Friendly City designation.

San Francisco Biodiversity Policy, Resolution Establishing Local Biodiversity as a Citywide Priority, with a Framework for Interagency Collaboration for Nature-Based Initiatives, including connecting the next generation to the outdoors.

Serena Unger speaks at the 11/19 Board of Supervisors meeting in support of the Child Friendly City Resolution
Shared Vision

Nature Connection for Every Child, Every Day
Countless
relationships
built
Thank You for being a part of our collective movement.
Plant a seed and watch it grow.
- San Francisco Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights

For more information please contact: Maria.Durana@sfgov.org