



SOUTH
SAN FRANCISCO
INDUSTRIAL CITY

Newsletter Issue No.31 Summer 2023

South San Francisco

WE PROUDLY REMAIN *THE INDUSTRIAL CITY*

Let's Talk Sustainability!

In June, we celebrate *World Environment Day*, which puts a global spotlight on the pressing environmental challenges of our times. This United Nations international day has become the largest global platform for environmental outreach, where millions of people from more than 150 countries engage to protect the planet and celebrate environmental action to create a more sustainable world.

We also celebrate *World Oceans Day*, which raises awareness of the importance of our ocean and marine ecosystems. The ocean is one of our most important natural carbon sinks, but as levels of CO₂ in our atmosphere increase, they're becoming acidic. This affects the biodiversity and productivity of marine ecosystems, not to mention other issues like oil spills or overfishing.



Why is Sustainability So Important?

Sustainability is critical to maintaining our quality of life, the diversity of life on earth, and the health of earth's resource-rich ecosystems. Sustainable environmental practices improve water and air quality, reduce landfills, and increase renewable energy sources in the long term. These changes guarantee cleaner and healthier living conditions for all people, particularly those in lower-income communities. Ask yourself this question: What can *you* do *today* that will make the world we live in a better place for your future generations to live in?

We are doing that in South San Francisco by walking the talk and have implemented a **Climate Action Plan**. The City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) is the City's strategic planning document that outlines current and projected greenhouse gas emissions, greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, strategies, and actions for reducing emissions, and projected changes to natural hazards from climate change. The CAP is reflective of South San Francisco's unique environment and community, and it reaffirms the City's environmental leadership in the region. For a list of all the Master Plans, including our Climate Action Plan, please visit www.ssf.net/MasterPlans.

In this issue you'll read about how the City treats over 1,500 acres of stormwater runoff, reduces our trash load to the Bay and ocean by 91 percent from 2005 baseline levels, how we're going electric with our City fleet, what reach codes are and why they are important, our environmental sustainability efforts at the Oyster Point Marina, the Colma Creek Restoration and Adaptation Project, how we are walking the talk with sustainability when it comes to our new Community Civic Campus and future Aquatic Center, and more!

Upcoming Events

2023 SUMMER LEARNING CHALLENGE (SLC)

- June 1 – August 31, 2023
Main Library and Grand Ave Library
Questions? (650) 829-3860
ssfyouth@plsinfo.org
<https://www.ssf.net/departments/library/kids/summer-learning>

SENIOR HEALTH FAIR

- Friday, June 30, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Municipal Services Building
33 Arroyo Drive
Questions? (650) 829-3800
web-rec@ssf.net

PUPPET ART THEATER PRESENTS THE BILLY GOATS GRUFF

- Saturday, July 8, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Grand Ave. Library, 306 Walnut Ave.
Questions? (650) 877-8530
ssfyouth@plsinfo.org

MOVIE NIGHT & FIELD DAY

- *Turning Red*
Friday, July 21, 2023
5:30 p.m.
Orange Memorial Park Field
Questions? (650) 829-3800
web-rec@ssf.net

BUGS OF POKÉMON: MEET AND LEARN ABOUT THE REAL BUGS THAT INSPIRED YOUR FAVORITE POKÉMON CREATURES

- Saturday, July 29, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Grand Ave. Library, 306 Walnut Ave.
Questions? (650) 877-8530
ssfyouth@plsinfo.org

MOVIE NIGHT

- *Super Mario Bros.*
Friday, August 18, 2023
sundown
Martin Elementary School Ball Field
Questions? (650) 829-3800
web-rec@ssf.net



CITY NEWS YOU CAN USE

SSF is Doing its Part to Keep our Bay and Ocean Clean



Understanding that all the area's stormwater flows directly to the Bay and ocean, the City of South San Francisco works diligently every day to help keep our ocean as clean and safe as possible. The City has installed over 350 full trash capture devices in stormwater catch basins throughout the city, designed to screen trash as small as cigarette butts from the storm drain system, treating over 1,500 acres of stormwater runoff and keeping all of that trash and litter out of our ocean.

Along with these full trash capture devices, regular street sweeping, cleaning, and additional actions have resulted in South San Francisco reducing our trash load to the Bay and ocean by 91% from 2005 baseline levels, continuing to exceed the goals and requirements of the Water Resources Control Board.

Additionally, City staff and invaluable volunteers perform two to three annual creek cleanups each year, collecting an average of 1,600 gallons of trash and debris from each event – keeping over 8,000 gallons of trash from entering the Bay and ocean over the most recent five-year span.

The South San Francisco City Council enacted commercial single-use plastic bag and polystyrene bans in 2012, working to eliminate plastic and Styrofoam litter from reaching the ocean, which has become heavily impacted by such pollutants that do not break down quickly over time.

Finally, required green infrastructure treatment installations as part of public and private new and redevelopment projects, mimicking natural stormwater treatment, help us in keeping metals, organics, and other harmful pollutants from the bay and ocean by treating over 400 acres of stormwater runoff...and counting!



CITY NEWS YOU CAN USE

Street Sweeping Goes Electric

Street sweepers play a critical role in keeping our streets clean and safe. As part of the City’s goal of transitioning its fleet to alternative fueled vehicles, the City of South San Francisco’s Public Works Department recently purchased two all-electric (EV) street sweepers.

The 100 percent plug-in electric high-speed heavy duty EV mechanical street sweepers offer several advantages to the previous diesel models. In addition to the 50.9 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions reduction per sweeper, the sweepers are expected to save approximately \$42,000 annually in maintenance and fuel costs. Even better is that the EV sweepers are substantially quieter than the previous diesels. The 16-decibel reduction in noise enables our sweepers to perform with less disturbance to our community, and healthier working conditions for our vehicle operators.



We’re Also Going Electric When It Comes to our City Fleet

The City of South San Francisco Public Works Department has finalized a master plan for implementation of electric vehicles for our City fleet and the infrastructure necessary to support city and public vehicles. As such, the City has coordinated with PG&E to install 31 electrical chargers at our Maintenance Services Building, and 13 at the Miller Avenue Parking Garage. There are also four high-speed Level 3 chargers through EVGO in the garage currently. Depending on charging demand and funding opportunities, subsequent implementation phases could add chargers at other City-owned facilities including fire stations, parks, and other sites in the City.

The City is transitioning its fleet to electric where feasible. We currently have two Chevy Bolts, 10 Ford Lightning pickups on order for public works and parks, and a mini-electric street sweeper on order.

Lastly, the Public Works Department administers *Getaround* vehicle share in the Miller Garage, which is an online car sharing or peer-to-peer carsharing service that connects drivers who need to reserve cars with owners who share their cars in exchange for payment. And don’t forget about our **Free South City Shuttle** to serve the public! More information on our shuttle can be found at www.ssf.net/shuttle.



Oyster Point Marina Park

Oyster Point Marina Park – Keeping our Environment Sustainable

The rehabilitated South San Francisco Oyster Point Marina Park, improved under the project management of the Public Works Department, and now managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, serves as an inspiration for ecological restoration and recreation. First envisioned in 2011, the City of South San Francisco and development partners created 30 acres of improved parkland along the San Francisco Bay. This area features a rehabilitated beach, a trail raised to address sea level rise, new state-of-the-art restroom facilities, open space areas, a large turf field, picnic and gathering areas, and a plaza – along with space to park!

This area was once tidal marshlands, rich with diverse species of plants and animals. In the 1950s and 1960s, this pristine marshland was used as a dump for residential and industrial waste. The landfill was closed by repairing the clay cap to stop landfill waste from entering the San Francisco Bay, and it was converted to a park and marina many years ago.

WHAT THE CITY HAS DONE

- Marshland lush with pickleweed and other native plants was restored along the site's northern shore.
- The irrigation is set up for future recycled water connections using purple pipes in anticipation of non-potable water being brought to the site.
- Plant materials were selected to be low-water intensive with native grasses, wildflowers, and climate-adapted plant species to reduce the amount of water needed for irrigation.
- Hundreds of new trees were planted to provide shade, sequester carbon, and filter stormwater.
- Biofiltration landscaped areas were installed to capture and treat stormwater.



This project also incorporates sea level rise improvements for the entire site. The Bay Trail was raised from the previous elevation about six feet to accommodate anticipated sea level rise. In addition, building areas have been elevated to meet 2100 sea level rise projections.

Come and enjoy the new Oyster Point Marina Park where over a mile of new trails have been constructed along the San Francisco Bay to provide residents and visitors with places to recreate. The restored beach provides spaces for residents to windsurf, paddleboard, and kayak. A new three-acre open space area provides spaces for active and passive recreation activities and events and our picnic areas provide spaces for families and groups to gather and build community!



Colma Creek Restoration and Adaptation Project

Colma Creek Restoration and Adaptation Project

Running from San Bruno Mountain to the Bay, much of Colma Creek's channel is concrete, bordered by flood control walls. With limited public access, it's little more than a barrier to the surrounding community, while sea-level rise projections tell us it will flood more often unless we start mitigation work.

But the corridor has enormous potential to connect people with the creek and the Bay. Both a Priority Conservation Area and a key link to the Bay Trail, the creek could be restored to bring back wildlife and create healthy, public open spaces for people to enjoy.



This project, which began five years ago, is known as the *Colma Creek Connector*, and its goal is to have an urban waterway in South San Francisco, using storytelling to engage future residents and visitors who enjoy this area. Working with **Resilient by Design**, together we want to address the impact of rising sea levels in the Bay Area and ultimately manage flooding, restore ecology and access to the water, and build environmental stewardship. The project aims to reshape the banks of tidal reaches of Colma Creek and the Bay shoreline to restore and expand tidal marshes and critical habitat for the Ridgway's trail and other wildlife.

The project consists only of planning and design, with a significant focus on community engagement in the design process. In addition, to plan for community involvement in the future restoration work, the project includes creation of a test plant nursery and community education on restoration planting using that nursery. In 2022, the project team conducted a site survey and built hydraulic/hydrologic models to maximize habitat creation while reducing flood impacts in the lower Colma Creek reach. The team also held several volunteer planting and weeding days throughout the year. To learn more about the *Colma Creek Connector* project, visit <https://www.sfbayrestore.org/projects/colma-creek-restoration-and-adaptation-project>.

Reach Codes – What Are They and Why Did the City Adopt Them?

Every three years, cities and counties across California adopt new Building Standards Code (Standards) or Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Cities can also choose to adopt local reach codes.

A reach code is a local building energy code that “reaches” beyond the state minimum requirements for energy use in building design and construction, creating opportunities for local governments to lead the way on clean air, climate solutions, and the renewable energy economy. Reach codes aim to reduce greenhouse gas emission (GHGs), and address climate change, clean air, and renewable energy solutions.

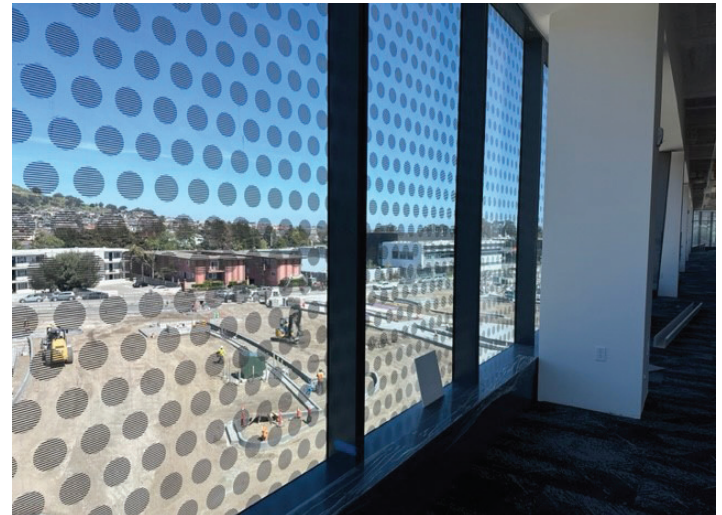
The City has a longstanding priority to promote sustainability and reduce greenhouse gases. On June 9, 2021, Council approved South San Francisco's first all-electric reach code targeting all new residential construction. The City is currently developing reach codes that will apply to new commercial construction.



Sustainable New Infrastructures

The City Walks the Talk with Sustainable New Infrastructure

The new Library and Park and Recreation Center is taking shape, but there are a lot of things going on behind-the-scenes that is important to point out when it comes to building for the future. Below highlights the ways the City of South San Francisco is ensuring sustainable practices in all that we do.



TRANSPORTATION

- **Transit Connectivity & Bicycle Infrastructure:** The project design and open space plan built on the site's proximity to the Centennial Way bicycle trail will enhance connections to BART and incentivize bicycle access to the civic campus.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging:** Two percent of project parking spaces will include electric vehicle supply equipment to charge plug-in electric vehicles.

WATER MANAGEMENT

- **Water fixtures:** Low-flow, efficient indoor water fixtures are installed throughout the project to reduce potable water consumption.
- **Stormwater Management:** The site design incorporates low-impact development strategies such as bioswales, which is a landscape feature that collects polluted stormwater runoff, soaks it into the ground, and filters out the pollution. Bioswales are like rain gardens but are designed to capture much more runoff coming from larger areas like streets and parking lots.

HVAC AND LIGHTING

- **Heat Island Reduction:** A highly reflective roof and hardscape material palette was used to reduce the urban heat island effect and provide thermally comfortable outdoor civic spaces. Light-colored surfaces return a large part of the sunrays back to the atmosphere.
- **High-performance exterior:** The glazing system includes ceramic frit (dot) patterns. The density of the dots is optimized to reduce solar heat gain inside the building. This results in reduction of the building's energy consumption for heating and cooling the interior space.



Sustainable New Infrastructures

New Sustainable Aquatic Center is Coming to South San Francisco

The City will soon start the development of a new 24,000-square foot Aquatic Center, which will include two new pools, an outdoor ten-lane/25-yard cool water lap pool, and a separate seven-lane indoor warm water recreation pool. In addition, there will be a swimmer's lounge, rentable multi-use/party room, and locker rooms. This new facility will be designed to be ADA accessible, environmentally healthy, energy efficient, sustainably designed, architecturally inviting, and seismically safe. During the development of this facility, the original pool at Orange Memorial Park will stay open. It's anticipated the new pool will be open in 2025.



This new all-electric building and pool heating reduces greenhouse gas emissions and utilizes clean energy, in addition to access to natural light and daylighting for the wellbeing of our participants. In addition, a high albedo roof and paving, which is specifically designed to reduce internal building temperature by reflecting the sun's UV rays, will be installed. This project also utilizes sustainable materials including a composite wood material which is manufactured predominantly from natural wood waste, and will also utilize low-emitting materials which will limit those that use the pool to low volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

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La Ciudad de South San Francisco ofrece boletines de noticias en español en nuestro sitio web. Puede encontrar una copia electrónica en www.ssf.net/Newsletter



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Learn More about the City's Bigbelly Trash Cans

South San Francisco currently has 20 Bigbelly trash cans located throughout the City. These solar-powered, high capacity, self-compacting units are installed downtown along Grand, Linden, and Baden Avenues; as well as in the Brentwood Shopping area on Hazelwood Drive and Kenwood Way. These dual-receptable units have replaced existing single receptable trash cans to help reduce litter in our public spaces and improve sorting practices. By utilizing Bigbelly trash cans, the City is reducing its carbon footprint and CO2 emissions with fewer trucks, fuel consumption, and air pollution.



Did You Know? Recycling Organic Waste is Now the Law for Everyone in California!

To reduce the disposal of organic waste and the production of harmful greenhouse gases like methane in our California landfills, South San Francisco residents and businesses are required to subscribe for organics recycling service through SSF Scavenger or apply for a waiver (*businesses and multi-family properties only*), per California Senate Bill 1383. Please visit www.ssf.net/SB1383 for more information or call (650) 877-8550. To **subscribe for organics recycling service**, contact SSF Scavenger Co., Inc. at (650) 589-4020 or to **apply for an SB 1383 waiver**, visit www.ssf.net/recyclingwaiver.