

Where to Begin: Contact the Agency that Permits the Land

So you want to put on an outdoor special event in San Francisco? Terrific! This section is intended to provide tips and guidelines to get your event started on the right footing and to help you save time, money, and resources.

Regardless of size, every outdoor event using public property requires a permit or approval based on the location and planned activities, and will need to go through the permit process. Outdoor events taking place entirely on private, non-residential property will require a permit if there is an impact on public safety, security, traffic, sound level and other public considerations.

WHAT AGENCY PERMITS THE LAND?

The permit process is managed by the agency that has jurisdiction over the land. This agency may also be referred to as the "Land Authority." Some events may occur in multiple jurisdictions.

TIPS:

To search the List of Commonly Used Outdoor Public Properties for Special Events, [click here](#).

Looking for the owner of private property? Search the SF Property Information Map: <http://propertymap.sfplanning.org>

EVENTS ON CITY STREETS

These may include street fairs, athletic events, farmers markets, or other special events held on a public street.

Permitting Agency: [San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency \(SFMTA\)](#) and the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT).

Planning a Neighborhood Block Party? [Click here](#) and review the Neighborhood Block Party permit application, procedures, and fees.

For Parades, Marches, Rallies, Events on Park property, or Events on Port property, see below.

Contact: SpecialEvents@sfmta.com, (415) 646-2414

PARADES

For Parades that are in Multiple Police Jurisdictions: [Submit a Parade Permit Application](#) to:

Sgt. Frank Hagan, SFPD Traffic Division Event Coordinator
850 Bryant, Room 154, San Francisco, CA 94103
Frank.Hagan@sfgov.org, (415) 553-1929

For All Other Parades: [Submit a Parade Permit Application](#) to the Special Event Sergeant at the Local Police District Station where the parade

begins. To view the map of Police District Stations and contact information, [click here](#). In addition, contact any government agency that has jurisdiction over the land/property to share your plans -- e.g., SFMTA/ISCOTT; SF Recreation & Park; Port of SF.

For SF Recreation & Park Property: If you are planning to stage the start or the end of the parade on -- or adjacent to -- Recreation & Park property, you will need an additional permit from the [SF Recreation & Park Department](#).

Refer to Parades section for more information.

FIRST AMENDMENT ACTIVITY – MARCHES, RALLIES

Permitting Agency: [Local Police District Station](#) where the march or rally begins. Contact the station's Special Event Sergeant. In addition, notify the agency that has jurisdiction over the land -- e.g., SFMTA/ISCOTT; SF Recreation & Park; Port of SF. *Refer to First Amendment Activity Section.*

EVENTS ON PARK PROPERTY

(including City parks and plazas)

Permitting Agency: [San Francisco Recreation & Park Department, Permits & Reservations Division](#)

Examples of SF Recreation & Park locations:

- » Golden Gate Park
- » Jerry Garcia Amphitheatre at McLaren Park
- » Stern Grove
- » Civic Center Plaza
- » Union Square
- » United Nations Plaza
- » Japantown Peace Plaza
- » Embarcadero Plaza
- » Marina Green

EVENTS ON PORT PROPERTY

Permitting Agency: [Port of San Francisco](#)

The [Port of San Francisco](#) welcomes special events to help activate and enliven public use and enjoyment of the waterfront. If you are interested in applying for a Special Event, please see the Guidelines and Application for Special Events and visit the [Port's Special Events page](#).

Examples of Port Locations:

- » Ferry Building
- » Pier 27
- » Pier 30/32
- » Pier 35
- » Pier 39
- » Pier 48

Contacts:

Joyce Chan | (415) 274-0259 | joyce.chan@sfport.com
Jennifer Gee | (415) 274-0562 | jennifer.a.gee@sfport.com

To see a map of a Port property and boundaries, [click here](#). To view the list of Upcoming Special Events, [click here](#).

Other Jurisdictions

EVENTS ON U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROPERTY

Permitting Agency: [Golden Gate National Recreation Area](#)

Examples of locations:

- » Alcatraz Island
- » Baker Beach
- » Crissy Field
- » East Beach
- » Land's End
- » Ocean Beach
- » West Bluff

Permitting Agency: [SF Maritime National Historical Park](#)

Examples of locations:

- » Aquatic Park Cove
- » Aquatic Park Pier (Muni Pier)
- » Victorian Park

EVENTS THAT AFFECT A STATE HIGHWAY DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY

Permitting Agency: [Caltrans \(California Department of Transportation\)](#)

Recommended: Contact at least 2 months prior to the event.

EVENTS IN OR USING THE SF BAY, WITHIN 100 FEET OF SHORELINE, OR THAT MAY IMPACT PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SF BAY.

Permitting Agency: [SF Bay Conservation & Development Commission \(BCDC\)](#)

EVENTS ON THE WATER

Permitting Agency: [United States Coast Guard](#)
(415) 399-7440

Email: D11-SMB-SectorSF-WaterWaySafety@uscg.mil

ANGEL ISLAND

Permitting Agency: [California Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

Primary Contact: [Fort Mason Center for Arts and Culture](#)

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

Permitting Agency: [Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District](#)

THE PRESIDIO

Permitting Agency: [The Presidio Trust](#)

TREASURE ISLAND

Permitting Agency: [Treasure Island Development Authority](#)

YERBA BUENA GARDENS AND JESSIE SQUARE

Primary Contact: [Yerba Buena Gardens Festival](#)



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