

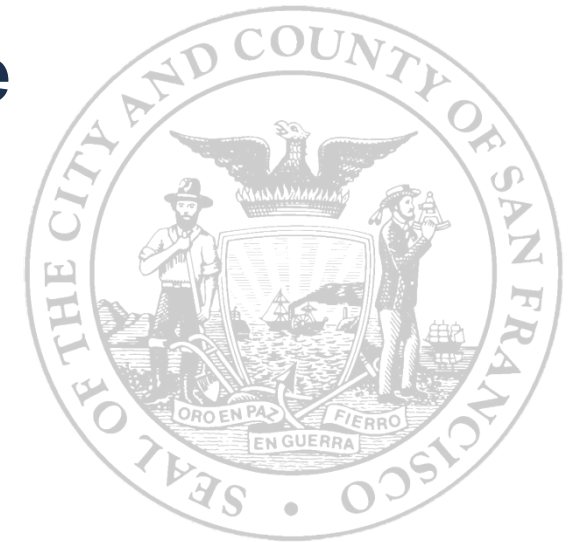


A Path of Least Resistance

Accessible Wayfinding Project for Golden Gate Park

San Francisco Fellows 22-23 Cohort

Kristin Avenis, Graham Galloway, Lillian Saunders, Rory O'Toole, Tess Bartlett, and David Edelman



Who are the SF Fellows?

The SF Fellowship is a 12-month full-time work experience. Fellows are placed in various departments throughout the City and work on various programs and projects that have a direct impact on City operations involving analysis, planning, and program development.

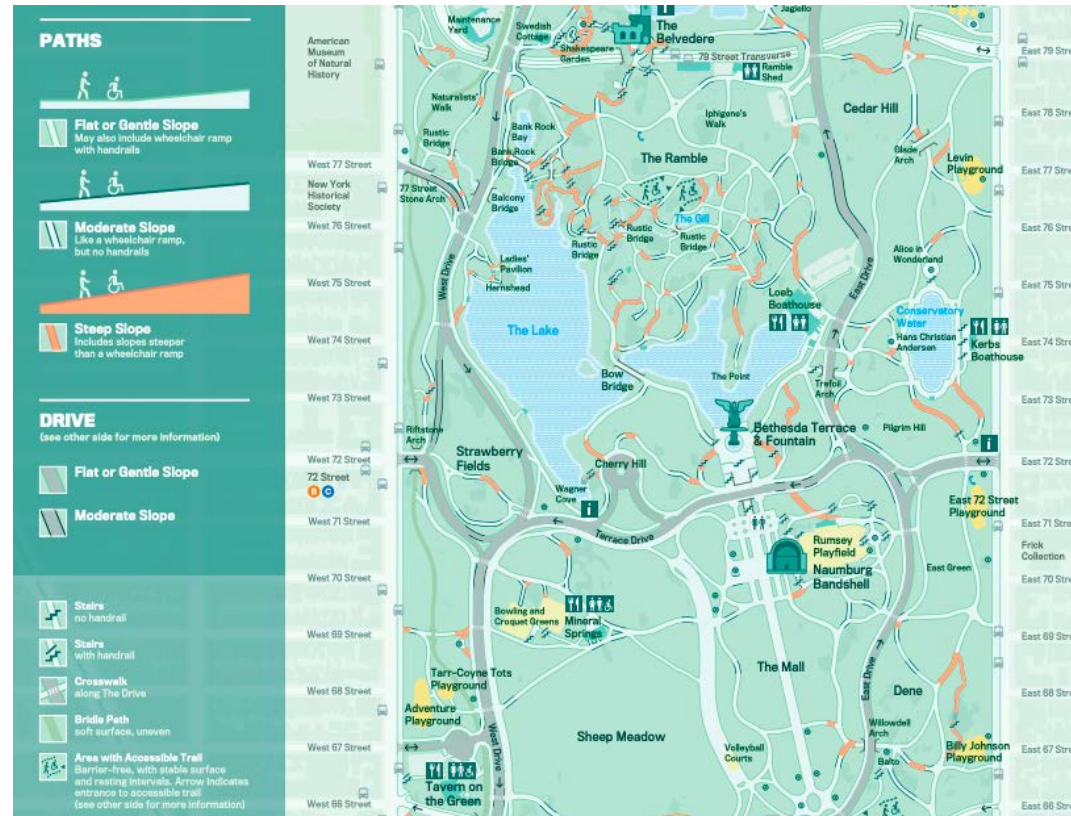
Fellows also have the opportunity to participate in a ten-week group project for four hours each week with other city departments



Scope of the Project

- Project Lead and Support:
 - The Mayor's Office on Disability was identified as the project lead, with support from the Recreation and Parks Department
- Action:
 - Fellows surveyed paths around the eastern section of Golden Gate Park (from McLaren Lodge to the Botanical Garden) and engaged with members of the disability community to receive feedback.
- Project Goals and Deliverables
 - (1) to provide the public with information on which pathways are accessible for people with disabilities
 - (2) to compile a report of the findings, recommendations, and interactive map.
 - (3) develop recommendations as to improve accessibility in the Park for MOD and the Mayor's Disability Council to consider providing to RPD

Central Park Access Map



Destination Routing

- Analysis focused on high-usage destinations near JFK Promenade and recommending routes to them
- These destinations include
 - a. The Music Concourse and surrounding destinations
 - i. Japanese Tea Garden
 - ii. de Young Museum
 - iii. California Academy of Sciences
 - b. The Botanical Gardens
 - c. The Conservatory of Flowers
 - d. The Koret Children's Quarter and Carousel



Method

Surveying:

- Fellows were trained by MOD building inspectors on how to assess pathways in the eastern end of Golden Gate Park based on state and Federal accessibility practices.
 - Focused on calculating pathways' **linear and cross slopes**
 - Highlighted areas with **deficiencies and protrusions**, including branches, changes of level, gaps, potholes, etc.
- Data compilation categorized pathways as “usable,” “highly recommended,” and “non recommended”



Method

Community Member Feedback:

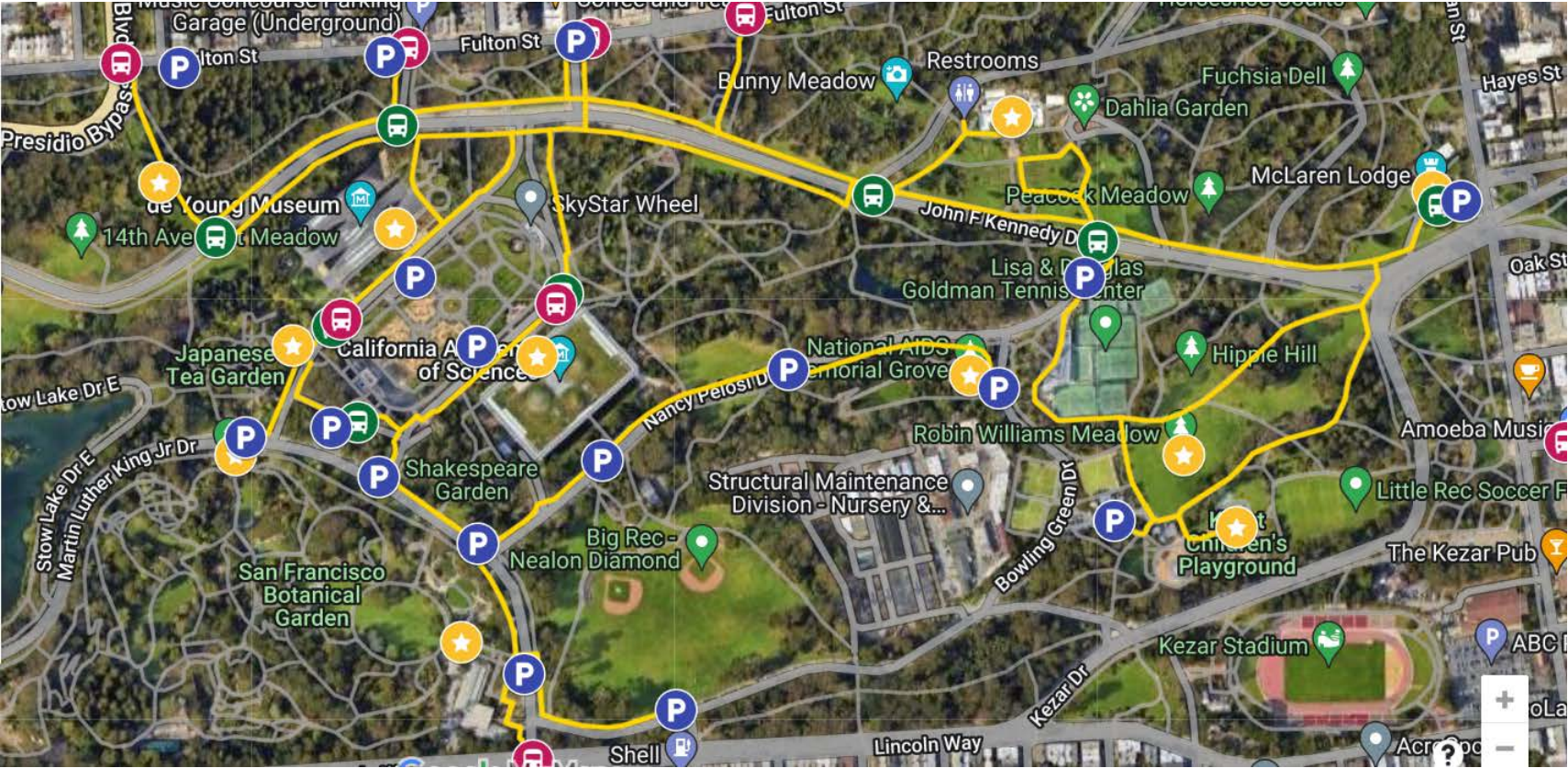
- Members of the disability community who are frequent users of Golden Gate Park were invited to provide feedback on the usability of the pathways we were surveying.
- Two feedback sessions: March 8th and March 22nd with a total of 12 in-person and virtual participants
- Together, we took the shuttle and navigated pathways near the Conservatory of Flowers and the Music Concourse.
- Afterwards we reconvened at McLaren Lodge to discuss wayfinding and accessibility recommendations



Accessible Wayfinding Map

- After completing the field assessment, our team used the data we gathered to create a map of recommended pathways for people with disabilities to use to access the identified destinations.
- We used Google My Maps to create our map of recommended routes.
- We made note of the conditions of these pathways and used start points such as accessible parking spaces and transit stops for guidance.

Accessible Wayfinding Map



Key Findings

- Conservatory of Flowers
 - The accessibility signage does not clearly direct towards the entrance
 - It is not clear which shuttle stop is most convenient to access the Conservatory
- Museums and Music Concourse
 - The entrances connecting Fulton St to the museums and Music Concourse need signage and lighting improvements
 - The ramps connecting the upper level to the Concourse are not clearly marked



Key Findings

- Path quality
 - Many paths need maintenance and contain obstructions, bumps, or potholes that are difficult to navigate for people using mobility devices and for people who are blind or low-vision
- Shuttle
 - Community members requested shelters, clearer stop signage, and real-time arrival information
 - Community members requested visual and audio stop announcements on board the shuttle



Recommendations

- Wayfinding and signage
 - Clear signage and maps featuring recommended routes and path usability information should be placed at high traffic areas near popular destination
 - Should include raised line and tactile maps available in park
 - These should be informed and reviewed by members of the disability community and follow accessibility standards
- Path quality
 - High-traffic paths connecting popular destinations should be prioritized for path repair to ensure usability and accessibility (such as examples below):
 - Gaps on pathway from 9th and Lincoln (Muni access) to Botanical Gardens
 - Rough pavement and narrow path at intersection of Nancy Pelosi Dr and Bowling Green Dr, connecting accessible parking and AIDS Memorial Grove to JFK Promenade

Recommendations Cont.

- Accessibility fact sheet
 - SF Rec and Park and the Mayor's Office on Disability should work together to create an online fact sheet with accessibility information and recommended routes for popular destinations within the park
- Advisory Council
 - An advisory council consisting of members of the disability community should be formed to continue to develop recommendations for increased park accessibility
- Other Parks
 - Similar projects should be undertaken at other San Francisco parks, with emphasis on larger parks such as McLaren Park where streets have been closed to cars

Recommendations Cont.

- Promotion
 - SF Rec and Park should increase promotion of accessibility features in the park to ensure visitors with disabilities are welcome in the park and destinations are easily navigable.
- Shuttle
 - RPD should construct covered shelters at shuttle stops with real time arrival times visually and audibly announced
 - Visible and audible announcements for upcoming stops on board the shuttle

Final Recommendation

- MOD and MDC should work together to provide these recommendations to RPD



A Special Thank You to Our Project Sponsors

Nicole Bohn

Director, Mayor's Office on Disability

Lucas Tobin

ADA Coordinator for Programmatic Access, SF Recreation and Parks

Brian Stokle

Planner, SF Recreation and Parks

Thank you!