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MAYOR NEWSOM LAUNCHES OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE

Task force to ensure that every San Francisco neighborhood has green spaces and recreation for residents

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Today, joined by some of the brightest minds in urban planning and development, Mayor Gavin Newsom launched his Open Space Task Force. Conceived and coordinated by the Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC), the task force is charged with creating a vision for the planning of San Francisco's open spaces in the 21st century.

"Preserving San Francisco's open spaces is vital to maintaining a healthy environment and promoting healthy neighborhoods for our residents," said Mayor Newsom. "Drawing upon the creativity and experience of experts in our community, we hope to develop far-reaching recommendations to address the needs of our changing urban landscape."

San Francisco has over 200 neighborhood parks that are enjoyed by thousands of local residents and visitors. In creating the Open Space Task Force, the Mayor aims to develop a comprehensive plan for acquiring and maintaining the city's open spaces.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to seize the advantages that open spaces provide San Francisco, and really create a world class city for the next 30 years and beyond," said Isabel Wade, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Parks Council.

The task force will seek to improve park maintenance, support environmental sustainability, and secure capital funding. Working with community input, the task force will also forge partnerships with local non-profits and volunteers to best meet the needs of the community.

Today's launch included a keynote address from renowned urban planning expert Gordon Price. Director of the City Program at Simon Fraser University, Price is a preeminent writer and consultant on urban development, and has served five terms as the City Councillor of Vancouver. In addition, the University of California at San Francisco presented grant checks to GreenTrust and Friends of Esprit Park in support of their efforts.

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