City & County of San Francisco

Park Maintenance Standards

Key Findings Fiscal Year 2025
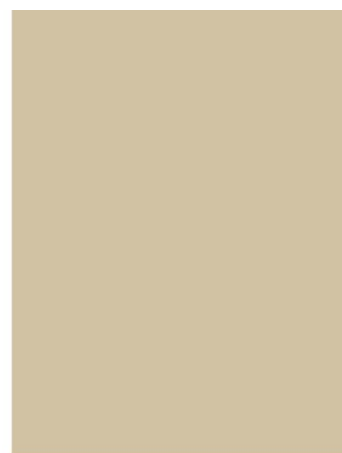
About the Controller's Office

The Controller is the chief financial officer and auditor for the City and County of San Francisco. We produce regular reports on the City's financial condition, economic condition, and the performance of City government. We are also responsible for key aspects of the City's financial operations — from processing payroll for City employees to processing and monitoring the City's budget.

Our team includes financial, tech, accounting, analytical and other professionals who work hard to secure the City's financial integrity and promote efficient, effective, and accountable government. We strive to be a model for good government and to make the City a better place to live and work.

About the City Performance Division

The City Performance team is part of the City Services Auditor (CSA) within the Controller's Office. CSA's mandate, shared with the Audits Division, is to monitor and improve the overall performance and efficiency of City Government. The team works with City departments across a range of subject areas, including transportation, public health, human services, homelessness, capital planning, and public safety.

City Performance Goals:

- Support departments in making transparent, data-driven decisions in policy development and operational management
- Guide departments in aligning programming with resources for greater efficiency and impact.
- Provide departments with the tools they need to innovate, test, and learn.

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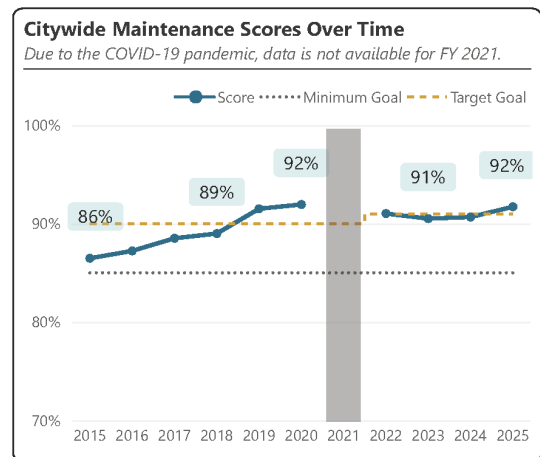Twitter

Executive Summary

City voters amended the City Charter in 2003 to establish standards for park maintenance and require that Controller's Office (CON) and Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) evaluate how well the City's parks meet those standards each year. This report presents the findings from evaluations conducted in fiscal year 2025 (FY25), from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Most City parks continue to meet their maintenance targets and generally show no significant difference in park maintenance across geographies or park groups.[1]

KEY RESULTS

The citywide score was slightly higher than last year. The citywide average park system score was 92%, meaning on average parks met standards 92% of the time. This was slightly higher than FY24's average score of 91%. This increase was statistically significant, meaning it was unlikely to be due to chance. The improvements appear to be system-wide, rather than in any specific grouping of parks. The average score was also above the minimum goal of 85%, which RPD establishes as the benchmark for a well-maintained park. Almost 90% of the 170 parks met or exceeded this threshold.

Citywide Maintenance Scores Over Time
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, data is not available for FY 2021.

While we reviewed park scores across various groups, there are few *statistically significant* differences, revealing these differences are not meaningful. This indicates that RPD seems to be maintaining the same level of maintenance and cleanliness across all various groupings.

Cleanliness and Graffiti Element Scores FY 2022-2025
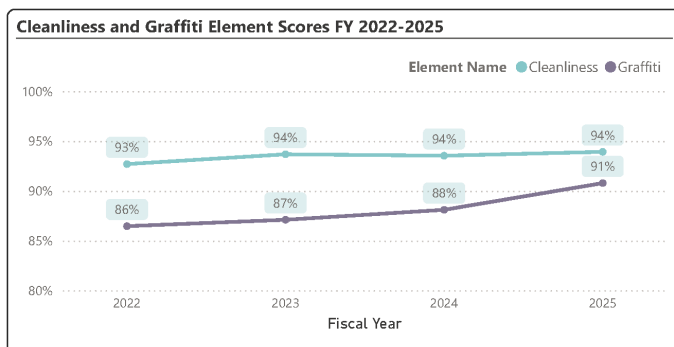
Graffiti scores improved while cleanliness stayed the same. The report highlights two highly visible park elements that contribute to the park scores: Cleanliness and Graffiti. Graffiti scores saw a statistically significant increase from last year, rising from 88% to 91%. The average scores for Cleanliness remained the similar to last year, around 94%.

Only 18 parks did not meet RPD's minimum goal score of 85%. These parks were relatively similar in character to parks across the City in terms of type, geographic distribution, and size. These parks scored the worst in the Children's Play Areas and had the greatest issues in their surfaces.
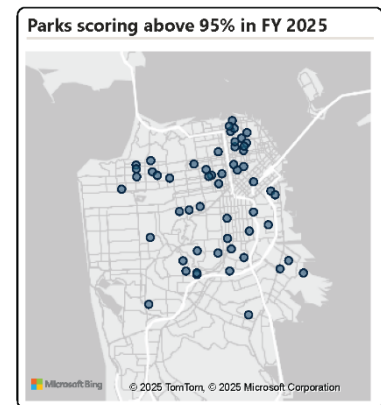
There was no statistically significant difference in scoring between parks in and outside of neighborhoods impacted by historical environmental health risks. Equity Zones, an RPD designation, are

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[1] For a discussion of significance testing, see Appendix 1.

neighborhoods impacted by historic environmental health risks. While having well-maintained parks does not undo the historic environmental harm, the data shows park maintenance quality was the same between parks inside and outside of the Equity Zones. The average score for both groups was around 92%.

More than a quarter of parks scored above 95%. RPD even exceeded its target goal of 91% for these parks, demonstrating strong performance in park maintenance and cleanliness. These parks were most common in the Northwest part of the City and least common in the Western side of the City. However, there are fewer total parks along the Western side. Among these high scoring parks, Corona Heights Park, Golden Gate and Steiner Mini Park, Joseph Lee Recreation Center, and Sergeant John Macaulay Park all had perfect scores in FY25.

Parks scoring above 95% in FY 2025

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To improve scores among the 18 lowest scoring parks, RPD could consider both short- and long-term fixes. As the surface issues were the most common among the parks scoring below 85%, RPD can focus there. RPD can consider capital improvements, such as resurfacing outdoor courts, but these are more time and cost intensive. In the short term, RPD can improve sand levels and address patchy grass. RPD can also make some immediate improvements to improve scores by addressing issues with trash or recycling.

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Introduction

BACKGROUND

Part of a 2003 voter-approved amendment, Appendix F of the City Charter requires the Controller's Office (CON) to work with the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) to establish objective and measurable park maintenance standards. Appendix F also requires the departments to annually assess the extent to which the City's parks meet those standards. Every three months, CON and RPD staff conduct close to 240 site evaluations across the City to assess the maintenance standards. Based on the results of evaluations through fiscal year 2024-2025 (FY25), this is the 18th annual report on the condition of the City's parks.

The results presented in this report are based on 821 evaluations conducted by RPD and CON staff over the fiscal year (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025). These evaluations covered 170 unique parks spread throughout the City.[2]

Parks have different sets of features the staff evaluate, including:

- Athletic Fields
- Buildings and General Amenities
- Children's Play Areas
- Dog Play Areas
- Greenspace
- Hardscape

- Lawns
- Ornamental Beds
- Outdoor Courts
- Restrooms
- Table Seating Areas
- Trees

FY 2025 Park Locations

FIGURE 1 – LOCATIONS OF FY25 PARKS

Park evaluations only focus on the defined maintenance standards. The evaluation does not consider how "nice" the park is or how many amenities it has compared to other parks. For example, a park with multiple creative play structures is not necessarily scored more highly than a park with only swings. Instead, the scores capture if the materials underfoot, such as sand, have weeds growing or spills beyond the boundaries. For more information on how scores are calculated, see *Appendix 2: Scoring Methodology*.

We can explore scores at the park, feature, or element level. All are shared as a percentage, which is the percentage of the standards met for that component. For example, if the Cleanliness element scores 100% that means that all the standards related to cleanliness are met. At the feature level, it is the percentage of the standards that were met in the component elements. The underlying elements (and then standards) differ by feature. For example, Children's Play Area features have 11 elements while Lawn features have only 4. Park
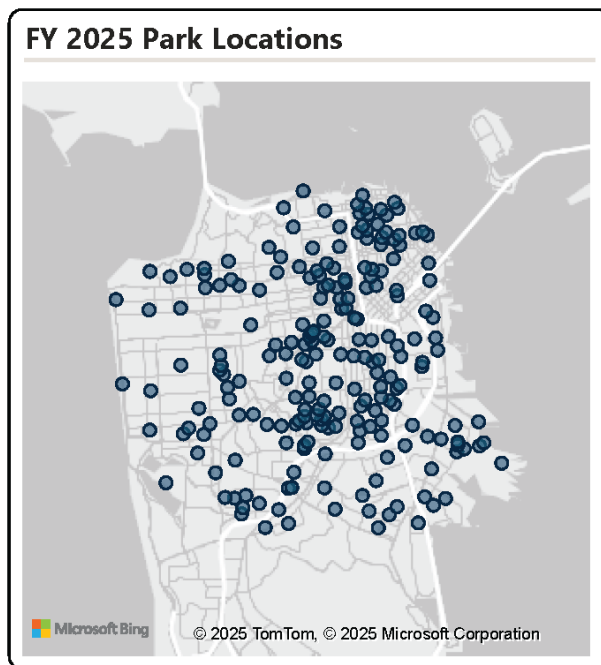
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[2] While one park (900 Innes) was added in FY25, both Japantown Peace Plaza and Eugene Friend Recreation Center were closed for maintenance.

scores are based on the percentage of standards met in the underlying features and their underlying elements at the relevant park.

GOALS OF THIS REPORT

This report aims to share the FY25 findings with the public, RPD, and other key stakeholders.[3] This report also considers how park conditions have changed in recent years. Where possible, we discuss potential drivers of changes in park conditions to help readers understand the causes of these trends or help inform RPD's operational decisions. As directed by the City Charter, the report also identifies the parks that do not meet the minimum goal and makes recommendations to improve their scores.

The Park Maintenance Evaluation Website provides additional data visualizations not included in this report, such as park-specific scores. It also allows users to interact directly with the evaluation data and select from various filters.

PARK TYPES

San Francisco has five types of parks, defined by RPD.

Mini Park: A mini park is typically half an acre or smaller, serving a neighborhood or part of a neighborhood. Often includes a landscaped area with few facilities such as a community garden, a children's play area, outdoor performance space, or a small natural area. For example, Muriel Leff Mini Park in the Inner Richmond is a mini park.

Neighborhood Park or Playground: A neighborhood park typically varies in size from half an acre to about 30 acres, serving a neighborhood or several neighborhoods. It could be a developed park, or playground with a range of facilities such as recreation center, clubhouse or swimming pool, or undeveloped open space. For example, Adam Rodgers Park in the Bayview is a neighborhood park.

Regional Park: A regional park is typically greater than 30 acres in size with a variety of park landscapes, facilities and programs or any park serving as a tourist destination of historical, cultural, or architectural significance. For example, Golden Gate Park is a regional park.

Parkway: A parkway is typically a landscaped area developed along a public right of way (i.e. roadway). It may have amenities such as restrooms. For example, the Presidio Parkway is a parkway.

Civic Plaza or Square: A civic plaza is an area that is designed to attract citywide and regional visitors. It may be a tourist destination, often entrenched in local culture and history. It also may be a gathering place for civic action, processions, and cultural events. It could have a landscaped area, a children's play area, a decorative fountain, an underground garage,

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[3] City stakeholders use these findings in other places as well. The citywide average park maintenance score is used as a performance indicator across several City publications. It is included in the Mayor's Budget Book and the Controller's Office Annual Performance Results and City Scorecards.

a concession or public art. For example, the Japantown Peace Plaza in the Western Addition is a civic plaza.

GOAL SCORES

Throughout the report, we refer to two different types of goal scores:

- **Minimum goal**: RPD set 85% as the minimum goal and considers parks that meet this to be well-maintained. The minimum goal has been the same since fiscal year 2015.
- **Target goal:** RPD set 91% as the current target goal, based on the performance and funding of parks in recent years. The target goal was 90% through fiscal year 2021 and has been at 91% since. This is the target for the citywide score as well as each individual park.

HOW DOES RPD USE THIS INFORMATION?

In addition to meeting the charter mandate, the park evaluations provide useful information to RPD. Since the first launch of the park evaluation program in 2004, it has evolved to allow for more consistent standards and more relevant outputs for RPD. Beyond this report, RPD also has an internal dashboard to explore specific aspects of the park evaluation data. Updated on a quarterly basis, the dashboard helps to improve efficiency for many RPD staff.

The park evaluation scores are one input to helping RPD make operational decisions. For example, they helped RPD make choices about fence repairs and court resurfacing. The operations project management team used park evaluation data to review parks that were consistently failing on the fence standards and prioritized those for repairs.

Additionally, Park Service Area (PSA) managers use scores to support resource allocation. For example, one PSA manager identified the parks with lower scores for Ornamental Beds. They adjusted the resources and in the following year, Ornamental Bed scores improved.

Some PSA managers use the internal dashboard to conduct a deep dive into specific parks. Sometimes the failed standards align with areas where the managers have already requested maintenance or has planned repairs. In other instances, the low scores can indicate that the PSA manager may need to work with a specific team to adjust their priorities.

For example, one PSA manager shared a recent case of a park scoring unexpectedly low. They used the internal dashboard to identify issues the maintenance team needed to focus on and worked with that team to improve the park conditions. They also put in new request for work to address aging elements in a Children's Play Area. This PSA manager shared that they see the park evaluation data as one tool in their larger performance management toolkit that helps them to make sure they and their teams are doing their jobs.

RPD also uses the park evaluations as a training tool. RPD managers shared that the apprenticeship program uses the park evaluations as a tool to help new staff understand the priorities for the department and how to maintain various aspects of each park.

Citywide Park Scores

CITYWIDE SCORES IMPROVED SLIGHTLY BETWEEN FY24 AND FY25

The park maintenance score for each park represents the percentage of maintenance standards successfully met. The score can have a value between 0% to 100%. A score of 0% means a park fails all the relevant standards, and 100% means it meets all standards.

Citywide Average Scores Over Time
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, data is not available for FY 2021.
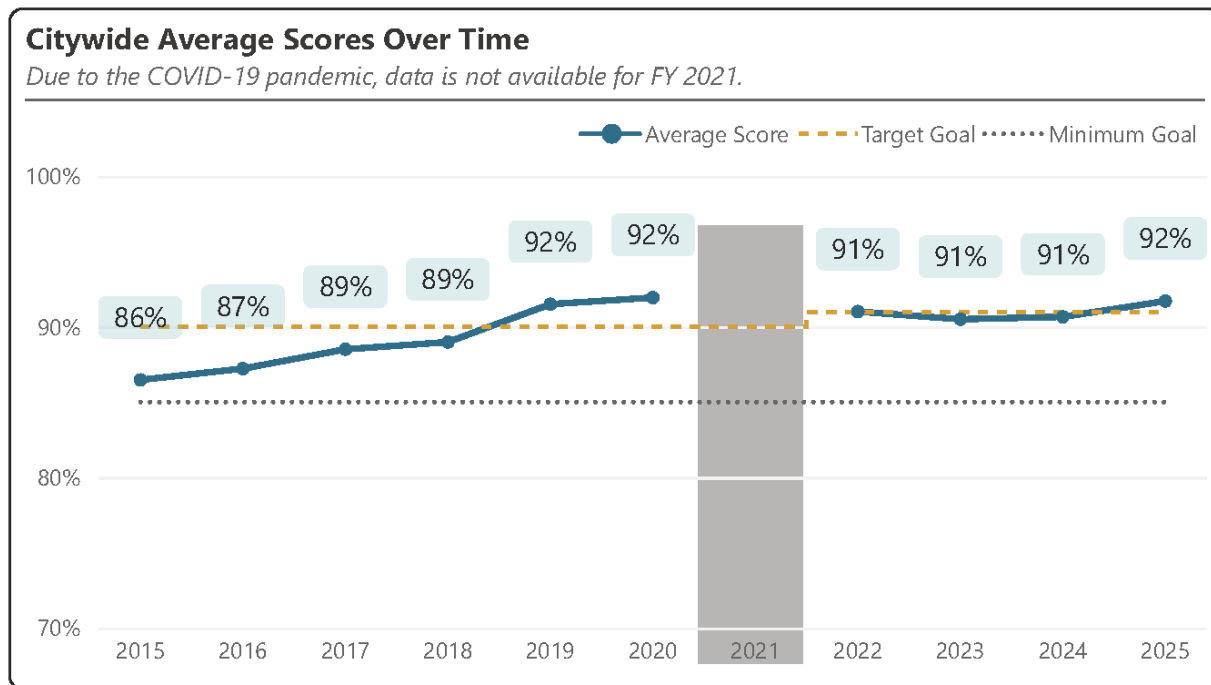
FIGURE 2 - CITYWIDE AVERAGE SCORES OVER TIME

The average park maintenance score for all parks evaluated in FY25 was 92%, meaning on average parks met standards 92% of the time. This was a small but statistically significant increase from last year's citywide score of 91%. Close to 90% of parks scored at or above the 85% minimum goal, meaning that the majority of parks across the City are well-maintained.

While there was some variation in park scores over the course of the year, scores did not fluctuate dramatically. In FY25, scores varied by no more than 1% across all four quarters.

PARK SCORES HAVE IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE FY15

Since the start of the current evaluation approach in FY15, citywide park scores have improved by six percentage points. They have increased from FY15's 86% to the current 92%, showing that across the City, parks are better maintained and cleaned than they used to be.

Citywide Feature Scores

FEATURE SCORES OVERVIEW

RPD and CON evaluate each park site based on the unique combination of features located at its site.[4] Sites may have any number of the following features:

- Features that occupy specific, discrete locations within a park
  - Athletic Fields
  - Outdoor Courts
  - Buildings & General Amenities
  - Restrooms
  - Table Seating Areas
  - Children's Play Areas (CPAs)
  - Dog Play Areas (DPAs)
- Features that are geographically dispersed throughout a park
  - Greenspace
  - Hardscape
  - Lawns
  - Ornamental Beds
  - Trees

Feature scores are the percentage of standards met for the elements in that feature. For example, a Lawn score of 90% means that across the four elements that make up a lawn feature, 90% of the standards were met.

Each feature has a different number of elements that make up its score. There also are a different number of features in each park. It is more useful to explore the scores within a specific feature rather than across features, as the features cannot be consistently compared.

Feature scores remain similar to FY24

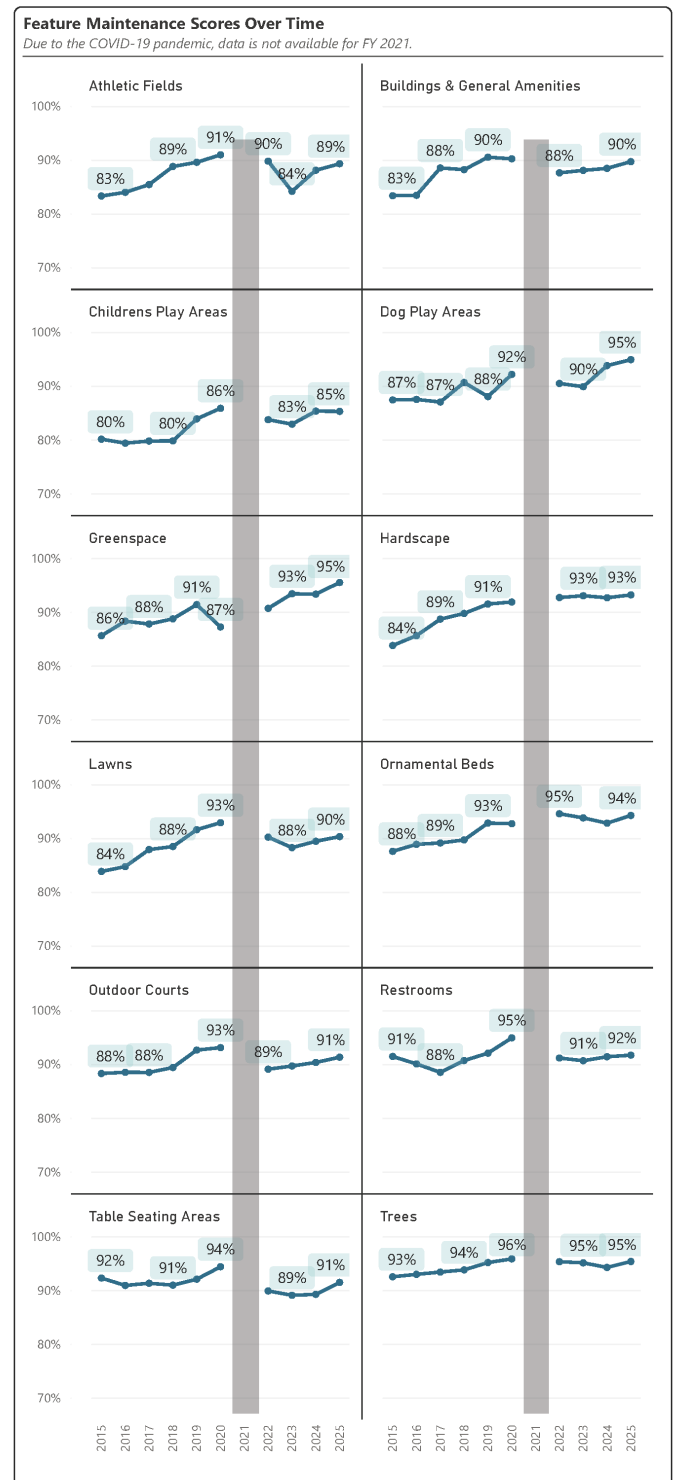Most citywide feature average scores remained the same from FY24 to FY25, as shown in Figure 19.

FIGURE 3 - CITYWIDE FEATURE SCORES OVER TIME

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[4] See Figure 29 in Appendix 2 for a table of the different features that an element appears in.

Similar to the citywide scores, average feature scores have largely shown a gradual increase from FY15 to today. Unlike the park scores, individual feature scores do not have any minimum scores or specific targets.

SPECIFIC FEATURES OF INTEREST REMAINED SIMILAR TO FY24

We highlight four park features that are often highly visible to the public: Athletic Fields, Children's Play Areas, Dog Play Areas, and Outdoor Courts. All of these are "active features" meaning that they are physically used by park visitors. Scores remained similar to FY24, with no statistically significant change.
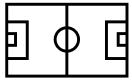
Athletic Fields

Athletic Fields maintained similar scores to FY24, at 89%.

Children's Play Areas

Average scores for Children's Play Areas (CPAs) stayed the same as FY24 at 85%.

Dog Play Areas

Average citywide scores for Dog Play Areas scored similar to FY24 at 94%.

Outdoor Courts

Outdoor Courts are spaces for sports such as tennis, pickleball, or basketball. The average scores for Outdoor Courts remained similar to FY24, at 91%.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN THERE IS NO STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANCE DIFFERENCE?

Throughout the report, we have many instances where there were no statistically significant differences between average group scores or no statically significant differences between years for a specific group's average score.

This means that any numerical differences we see may have been due to chance. It indicates that RPD seems to be maintaining the same level of maintenance and cleanliness across the relevant park groups.

We use a set of statistical tests to determine whether or not there was a statistically significant difference. For more information about significance testing, see Appendix 1.

Citywide Element Scores

GRAFFITI SCORES IMPROVED WHILE CLEANLINESS REMAINED THE SAME AS FY24

Features are made up of elements, and each feature has a different combination of elements.[5] Element scores are the percentage of standards that were met within that aspect of the park. The number of standards in each element varies.

Some elements occur more often than others. Graffiti and cleanliness are two elements that are common across most park features. We highlight these two elements due to their frequency and visibility to park visitors.

Citywide graffiti element scores in FY25 saw a statistically significant improvement from FY24, increasing from 88% to 91%. On average, 91% of the places in parks where evaluators checked were graffiti free. This does not mean that there were no instances of graffiti in FY25. It means that in each park either limited instances of graffiti were observed, or most graffiti was cleaned up. See the next section for a deeper exploration of this topic.

Trees were least likely to see graffiti (scoring 99%) and Building & General Amenities were most likely (scoring 84%). There was no relationship between any park groupings and graffiti scores.

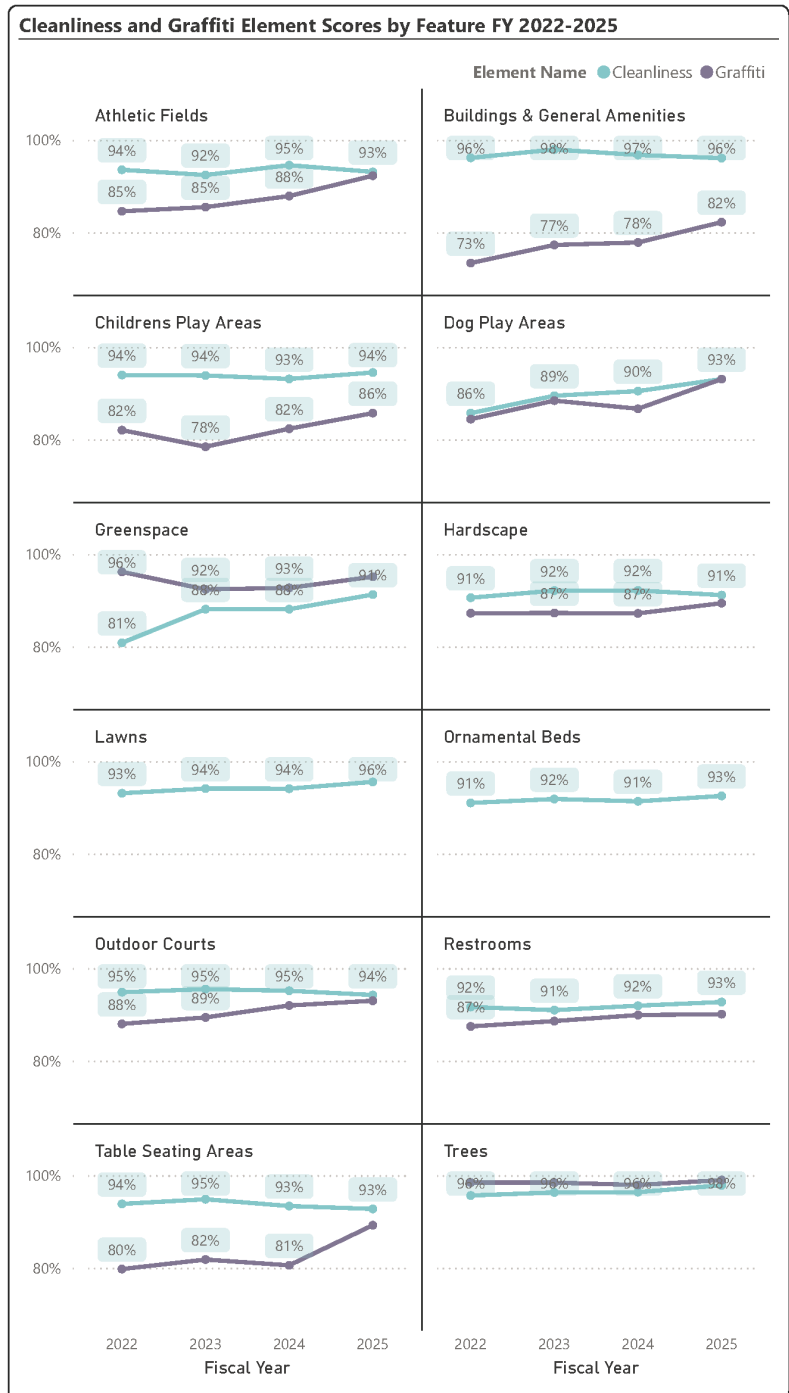**Cleanliness and Graffiti Element Scores by Feature FY 2022-2025**

FIGURE 4 – GRAFFITTI AND CLEANLINESS SCORES

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[5] See Figure 29 in Appendix 2 for a table of the different features that an element appears in.

Most parks performed well on cleanliness standards, which assess litter and other messes in parks. For FY25, cleanliness scores averaged 94%. This high score may be due to few people leaving messes behind or RPD effectively cleaning up litter and other messes. This was the same score as FY24.

Cleanliness issues are usually due to litter, except in Dog Play Areas, where the problems usually are due to dog feces or feces-filled bags. Buildings and General Amenities and Trees had the least litter or messes (scoring 96% and 98%, respectively). No feature had a cleanliness score below 90%.

There was no relationship between the number of graffiti work orders and the park's graffiti scores

In addition to exploring the graffiti element scores, we also explored RPD work orders for graffiti to see if there was any relationship. RPD uses work orders to track requests for work and actions that need to be completed. Work orders may cover multiple tasks, but for graffiti each work order is a unique task.

In FY25, there were over 3,500 work orders submitted to remove graffiti. This averages to more than 21 work orders per park. There was no statistically significant relationship between the number of graffiti work orders at a specific park and its graffiti score**.** There also was no statistically significant change in the number of graffiti work orders between FY24 and FY25. In this time, the citywide graffiti scores improved but the graffiti removal work orders remained the same. We will follow this trend moving forward to identify the cause.

We also explored the relationship between the graffiti work orders and various park groupings. There was no statistically significant difference in the average number of work orders to remove graffiti among Equity Zone and non-Equity Zone parks, indicating that RPD's efforts to remove graffiti appear to be the same across both groups. Nor is there any difference in the average number of graffiti work orders among supervisor districts.

We also explored the amount of time that it takes to complete a work order to see if graffiti scores were impacted by the time to remove graffiti. However, there is no relationship between time to complete the work orders and the park's graffiti scores. On average, it took around 3 days in both FY24 and FY25. There are no statistically significant differences in the amount of time it took to complete a work order among park groups.

We will continue to explore this topic in the future.

NEW PARKS IN 2025

RPD added one new park in the Bayview neighborhood in FY25: 900 Innes Park. RPD acquired the property in 2014 and completed a major remediation of a previously contaminated site. It is a part of the larger India Basin Waterfront Park project. For more information on how parks are added to San Francisco's park evaluation system, review *Appendix 4: How Parks Get Added to the Park Maintenance Standards Program*.

New Parks Evaluated in FY 2025

900 Innes
Type: Neighborhood Park
Neighborhood: Bayview
Size: 2.98 acres
Annual Park Score: 99%

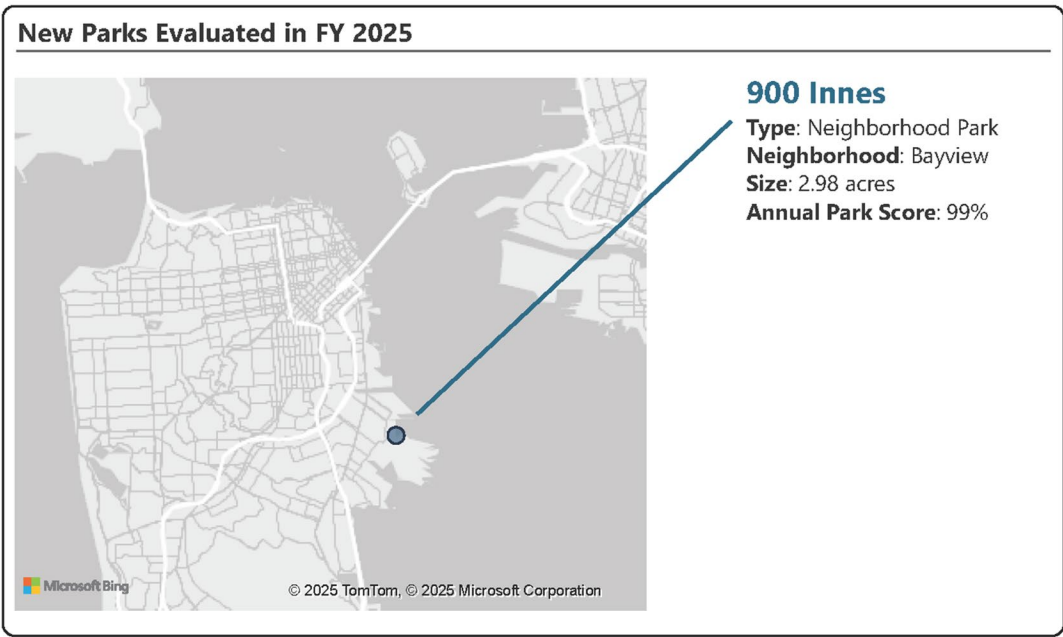© 2025 TomTom, © 2025 Microsoft Corporation

FIGURE 5- NEW PARKS IN 2025

Lowest Scoring Parks

The charter tasks City Performance with identifying parks that do not meet the standards, identifying the causes of failure, and making recommendations for future improvements. In this section, we explore the parks whose scores fell below the 85% minimum goal and identify the potential reasons for their low scores.

Only eighteen parks had scores under 85%, 11% of the total park system.

Parks that did not meet the minimum score in FY 2025

Park Name	Score
Adam Rodgers Park	71%
Buchanan Street Mall	74%
Aptos Playground	75%
Kid Power Park	77%
Park Presidio Blvd	78%
Koshland Park	78%
McCoppin Square	80%
Alioto Mini Park	81%
Selby & Palou Mini Park	82%
Embarcadero Plaza	82%
Mission Recreation Center	83%
Carl Larsen Park	83%
Excelsior Playground	83%
Allyne Park	83%
Portsmouth Square	83%
Gilman Playground	84%
Sue Bierman Park	84%
Garfield Square	84%

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FIGURE 6 – LOCATIONS OF PARKS SCORING UNDER 85%

LOW SCORES WERE DUE TO SURFACE, SAND, AND PATH ISSUES

Among these parks, Children's Play Areas saw the lowest feature scores at 70%. Koshland Park, Alioto Mini Park, McCoppin Square, Adam Rodgers Park, and Aptos Playground all had CPA scores under 65%. Aptos saw the most dramatic decline in its CPA score, dropping 20 percentage points to reach 47%.

The CPA's low scores appeared to come primarily from the surfaces (including sand) and the structures. Surface elements in these CPAs scored 40%, while Sand scored 56% and Structures scored 57%.

However, these issues are not only present in the CPAs. Across all 18 parks, Surface, Sand, and Path element scores were the lowest at 53%, 56%, and 57%, respectively.

FOUR PARKS DROPPED FROM ABOVE THE TARGET SCORE TO BELOW THE MINIMUM SCORE

Close to half of the lowest scoring parks also scored below 85% at least once in the past three fiscal years. Some of these lowest scoring parks consistently face difficult challenges that RPD is working to address. For example, Kid Power Park is near the 16th Street Mission BART station and frequently experiences issues such as overnight break-ins.

However, four parks dropped from meeting the target goal (91%) in FY24 to below the minimum goal (85%) in FY25. These included Carl Larsen Park, Excelsior Playground, Garfield Square, and Sue Bierman Park. Sue Bierman dropped the most, going from 98% to 84%. Within Sue Bierman Park, the feature with the largest change was Ornamental Beds, which dropped from 100% in FY24 to 75% in FY25.
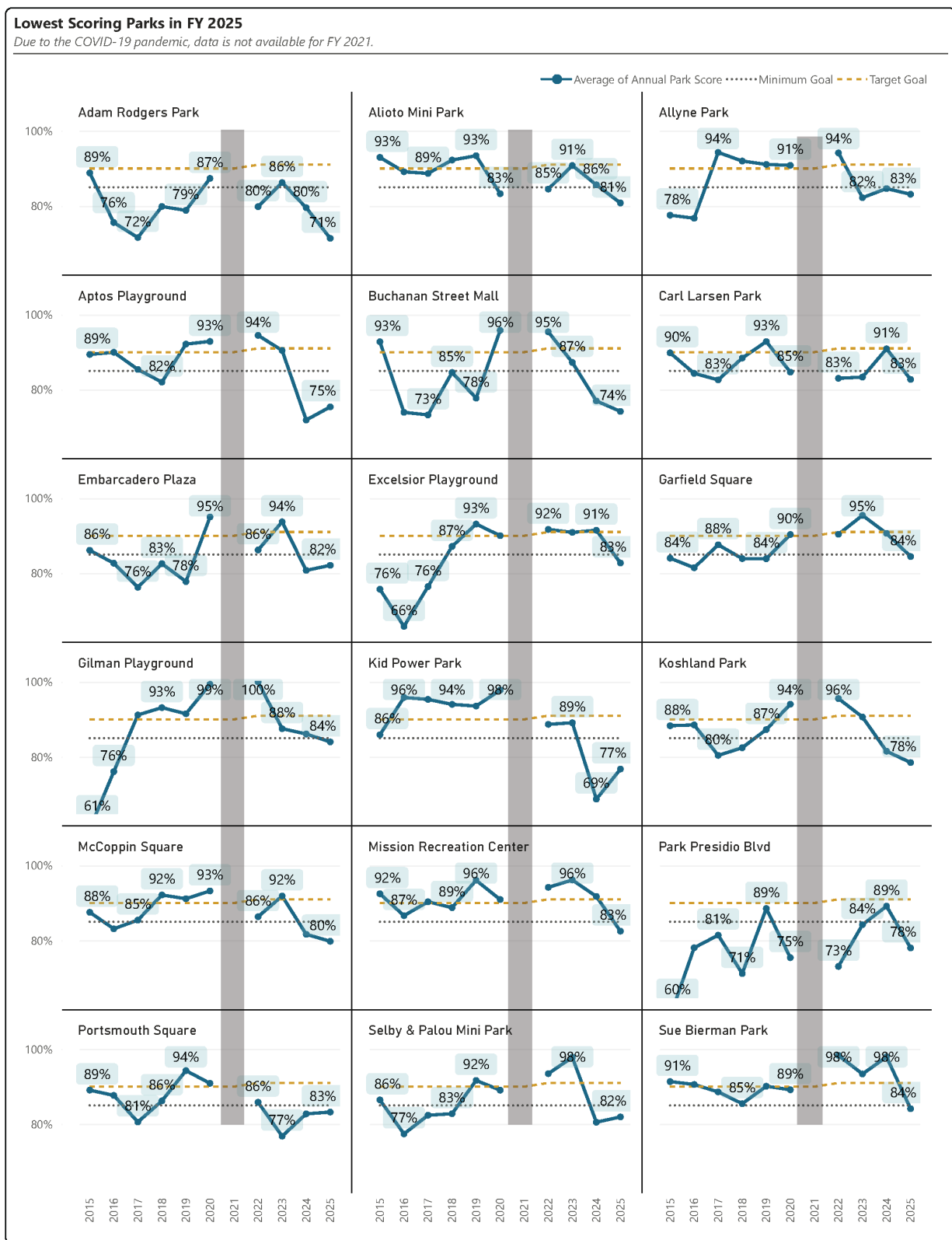
Lowest Scoring Parks in FY 2025
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, data is not available for FY 2021.

FIGURE 7 – LOWEST SCORING PARKS OVER TIME

THE LOWEST SCORING PARKS ARE RELATIVELY SIMILAR IN CHARACTER TO THE REST OF THE CITY

The lowest-scoring parks are primarily neighborhood parks and playgrounds, with only one mini park, civic plaza, and parkway. As will be discussed later in the report, around three-quarters of the City's parks are neighborhood parks, so this is not an unexpected ratio. Other than Park Presidio Blvd and Carl Larsen, the parks are all five acres or smaller, a relatively similar proportion to parks across the City.

Lowest Scoring Parks in FY 2025

Park Name ▲	Park Type	Acres
Adam Rodgers Park	Neighborhood Park	2.77
Alioto Mini Park	Neighborhood Park	0.21
Allyne Park	Neighborhood Park	0.88
Aptos Playground	Neighborhood Park	4.99
Buchanan Street Mall	Neighborhood Park	1.97
Carl Larsen Park	Neighborhood Park	7.34
Embarcadero Plaza	Civic Plaza	4.14
Excelsior Playground	Neighborhood Park	1.91
Garfield Square	Neighborhood Park	3.46
Gilman Playground	Neighborhood Park	4.86
Kid Power Park	Neighborhood Park	0.26
Koshland Park	Neighborhood Park	0.96
McCoppin Square	Neighborhood Park	7.91
Mission Recreation Center	Neighborhood Park	0.71
Park Presidio Blvd	Parkway	20.39
Portsmouth Square	Neighborhood Park	1.48
Selby & Palou Mini Park	Mini Park	0.42
Sue Bierman Park	Neighborhood Park	4.47

FIGURE 8 - LOWEST SCORING PARKS BY TYPE & ACRAGE

There were not any low-scoring parks in Supervisor Districts 6 and 8. Around 45% of the lowest scoring parks are in Equity Zones, which are regions that historically experienced environmental health risks. This is the same proportion as the Equity Zone parks in the City. We discuss Equity Zone parks in more depth later on.

Parks scoring below 85% in FY 2025

Park Name	Supervisor District	Equity Zone
Adam Rodgers Park	10	Yes
Alioto Mini Park	9	Yes
Allyne Park	2	No
Aptos Playground	7	No
Buchanan Street Mall	5	Yes
Carl Larsen Park	4	No
Embarcadero Plaza	3	No
Excelsior Playground	11	Yes
Garfield Square	9	Yes
Gilman Playground	10	Yes
Kid Power Park	9	Yes
Koshland Park	5	No
McCoppin Square	4	No
Mission Recreation Center	9	Yes
Park Presidio Blvd	1, 2	No
Portsmouth Square	3	Yes
Selby & Palou Mini Park	10	Yes
Sue Bierman Park	3	No

FIGURE 9 - LOWEST SCORING PARKS BY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT AND EQUITY ZONE

FY24'S LOW SCORING PARKS HAD VARIABLE PERFORMANCE IN FY25

In FY24, we explored the eight lowest-scoring parks. Four of these are among the parks that fell below the minimum score in FY25, including Adam Rodgers Park, Aptos Playground, Buchanan Street Mall, and Kid Power Park. However, Buchanan Street Mall is now closed for a complete renovation project. This may help to improve the scores in the future.

FY 2024 Low Scoring Parks in 2025

Park Name	2024	2025
Adam Rodgers Park	80%	71%
Aptos Playground	72%	75%
Brooks Park	75%	90%
Buchanan Street Mall	77%	74%
Kid Power Park	69%	77%
Laurel Hill Playground	80%	89%
Roosevelt & Henry Stairs	79%	90%
Visitacion Valley Greenway	79%	86%

FIGURE 10 – SCORES OF FY24'S LOWEST SCORING PARKS

In contrast, some of FY24's lowest scoring parks saw substantial improvement. Brooks Park increased from 75% to 90% and Roosevelt & Henry Stairs increased from 79% to 90%.

Roosevelt & Henry Stairs saw increases in the Ornamental Beds and the Trees. Brooks Park saw increases in nearly all features, with the most extreme increases in the Greenspace and Ornamental Beds. At Brooks Park, the improvement may be due in part to significant work by the park team to update and clean garden bed areas, as well as updating the maintenance schedule to support the health of the plants and trees.

Highest scoring parks

MORE THAN A QUARTER OF PARKS SCORED ABOVE 95%

We can look at the highest scores through a series of groupings to understand the proportions and trends. In FY25, close to two-thirds of parks scored above RPD's target score of 91%. More than a quarter of the parks scored above 95%, showing that RPD is meeting and exceeding its performance targets. FY24 saw similar results, indicating that RPD is likely continuing to follow good practices to maintain and clean its parks.

Geographically, we see the largest cluster in the Northeast part of the City. There are no parks that scored above 95% along the Western side of the City, though there are fewer total parks in this area. We will continue to explore this distribution in the future.

Parks scoring above 95% in FY 2025
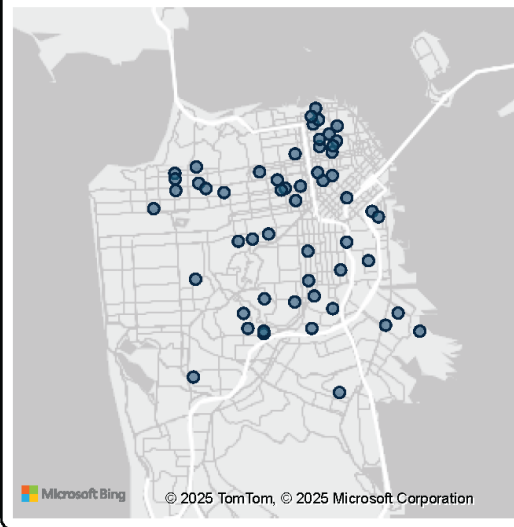
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FIGURE 11 – PARKS SCORING ABOVE 95% IN FY25

SEVERAL TOP TEN PARKS HAD SCORE INCREASES IN FY25 THROUGH SPECIFIC FEATURE IMPROVEMENTS

We traditionally explore the ten highest scoring parks as a case study into specific characteristics that may be shared by high-scoring parks. However, the cutoff to make the top ten in FY25 was less than half of a percentage point, so we can consider this a snapshot into the larger picture of high scoring parks.

Top Scoring Parks in FY 2025
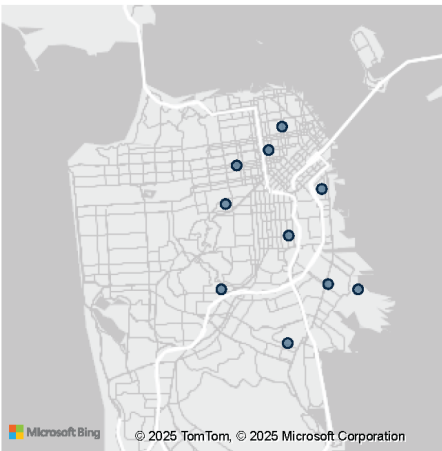
Park Name	Score
Corona Heights Park	100%
Golden Gate & Steiner Mini Park	100%
Joseph Lee Recreation Center	100%
Sergeant John Macaulay Park	100%
900 Innes	99%
24th & York Mini Park	99%
Mission Bay Park	99%
Joost & Baden Mini Park	99%
Betty Ann Ong Recreation Center	99%
Yik Oi Huang Peace & Friendship Park	99%

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FIGURE 12 – TOP SCORING PARKS IN FY25

The top ten highest-scoring parks in FY25 scored between 99% and 100%. These ten parks are dispersed primarily along the Eastern and Southern sides of the City.

As mentioned previously, 900 Innes is a new park as of FY25. Given that the park is newly built, its high score may be expected.

Betty Ann Ong Recreation Center was the only park that was in the top ten in both 2024 and 2025.

Seven of the ten highest-scoring parks are neighborhood parks or playgrounds, and the remaining are mini parks. Only two of the ten are larger than 5 acres (Corona Heights Park and Mission Bay).

Top Scoring Parks in FY 2025

Park Name ▲	Park Type	Acres
24th & York Mini Park	Neighborhood Park	0.13
900 Innes	Neighborhood Park	2.98
Betty Ann Ong Recreation Center	Neighborhood Park	0.75
Corona Heights Park	Neighborhood Park	13.25
Golden Gate & Steiner Mini Park	Mini Park	0.12
Joost & Baden Mini Park	Mini Park	0.14
Joseph Lee Recreation Center	Neighborhood Park	0.92
Mission Bay Park	Neighborhood Park	11.62
Sergeant John Macaulay Park	Mini Park	0.28
Yik Oi Huang Peace & Friendship Park	Neighborhood Park	2.31

FIGURE 13 – PARK TYPE AND ACREAGE FOR TOP SCORING PARKS

The majority of these parks have had relatively high scores (above 85%) in past years. Their scores have either stayed consistent or are on a slightly upward trend.
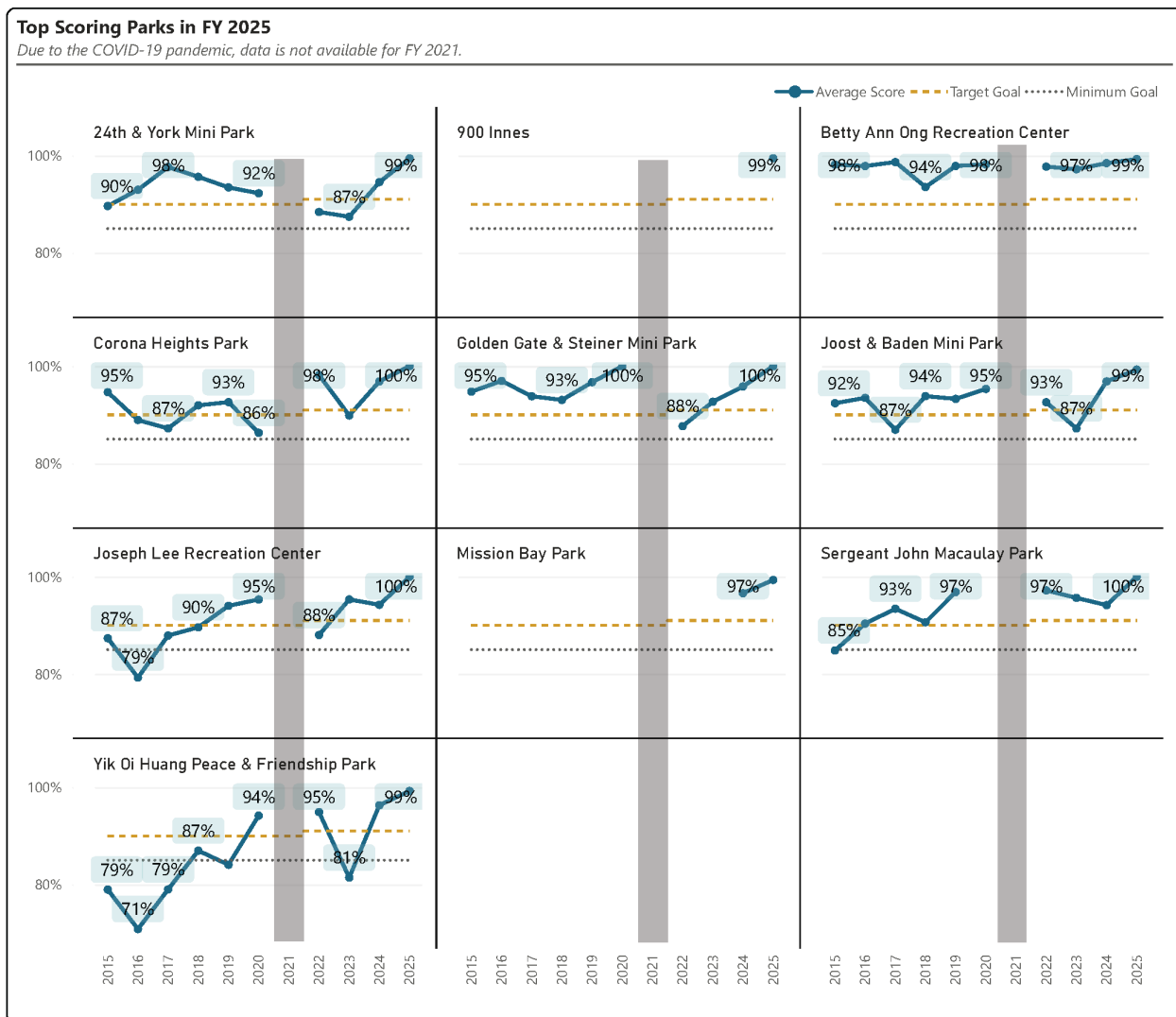
FIGURE 14 - TOP TEN SCORING PARKS OVER TIME

24th and York Mini Park, Golden Gate & Steiner Mini Park and Joost & Baden Mini Park have shown year-over-year score improvement. We can explore the features for these parks to understand where the score improvements may have come from:

- The 24th and York Mini Park saw the greatest continued improvement in its Children's Play Area, with its score increasing from 56% in 2022 to 97% in 2025. This may be due to major plumbing work RPD did on the water play feature in the park.
- Golden Gate & Steiner Mini Park saw the greatest continued improvement in its Greenspace. It has increased from 67% in 2022 to 100% in 2025. Over the past year, RPD replaced two dying trees in the park and added flowering perennials.
- Joost & Baden Mini Park saw the greatest continued improvement in its Building and General Amenities. It has increased from 82% in 2023 to 100% in 2025.

However, Yik Oi Huang Peace & Friendship Park saw more variation in scores, with a low of 71% in 2016, a high of 94% in 2020, and dropping to 81% again in 2023. The park saw turnover in its gardening staff, which may have contributed to the score changes. This year it scored 99%, showing that the issues are likely resolved.

Supervisor Districts 5, 8, and 10 all have two of the ten highest-scoring parks. Half of these ten highest scoring parks are in Equity Zones. This was more than double FY24, where only two of the highest scoring parks were in Equity Zones. In FY25, 15 Equity Zone parks scored above 95%, compared to 11 in FY24. In the same time period, the number of high-scoring parks outside of Equity Zones remained the same, with 30 each year. This may show that there is some improvement in maintenance and cleanliness among Equity Zone parks. However, given the lack of significant difference between average scores in Equity and Non-Equity groups overall, we will need to watch this area before reaching any conclusions.

Top Scoring Parks in FY 2025

Park Name ▲	Supervisor District	Equity Zone
24th & York Mini Park	9	Yes
900 Innes	10	No
Betty Ann Ong Recreation Center	3	No
Corona Heights Park	8	No
Golden Gate & Steiner Mini Park	5	Yes
Joost & Baden Mini Park	8	No
Joseph Lee Recreation Center	10	Yes
Mission Bay Park	6	No
Sergeant John Macaulay Park	5	Yes
Yik Oi Huang Peace & Friendship Park	10	Yes

FIGURE 15 - TOP SCORING PARKS BY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT AND EQUITY ZONE

We will continue to explore the highest scores and any themes among these parks in the future.

Most of FY24's high scoring parks scored above the target score in FY25

In FY24, we explored the eight highest scoring parks. Betty Ann Ong Recreation Center was the only one that was among the top ten parks in FY25. Many of the other top scoring parks from FY24 continued to score well in FY25, with the majority at or above 95%. However, Coso & Precita Mini Park and Kelloch & Velasco Mini Park dropped to 91%. This was still at the target goal, but lower than previous years.

Most notable was Sue Bierman Park, which dropped from 98% to 84%. As mentioned previously, Sue Bierman Park's feature with the largest drop was Ornamental Beds. The score decreased from 100% in FY24 to 75% in FY25.

FY 2024 High Scoring Parks in 2025

Park Name	2024	2025
Muriel Leff Mini Park	98%	99%
Richmond Playground	99%	98%
Fulton Playground	99%	96%
Potrero Hill Recreation Center	98%	95%
Cabrillo Playground	98%	94%
Coso & Precita Mini Park	99%	91%
Kelloch & Velasco Mini Park	98%	91%
Sue Bierman Park	98%	84%

FIGURE 16 – SCORES OF FY24'S HIGHEST SCORING PARKS

Scores by Geography

Given the large number of parks throughout the City, breaking down park scores into different geographic groups can be helpful. This section reviews park scores by supervisor district and Equity Zone. The number and composition of parks in each geographic group can vary.

SUPERVISOR DISTRICTS CONTINUE TO HAVE HIGH AVERAGE SCORES

All 11 supervisor districts had average park scores above the 85% minimum goal. There was a numerical difference in average scores among districts, but it was not statistically significant. There was also no significant difference between scores in FY24 and FY25 by supervisor district.

Supervisor District Maintenance Scores in FY 2025
If a park borders multiple districts, it is counted multiple times towards each district's average score

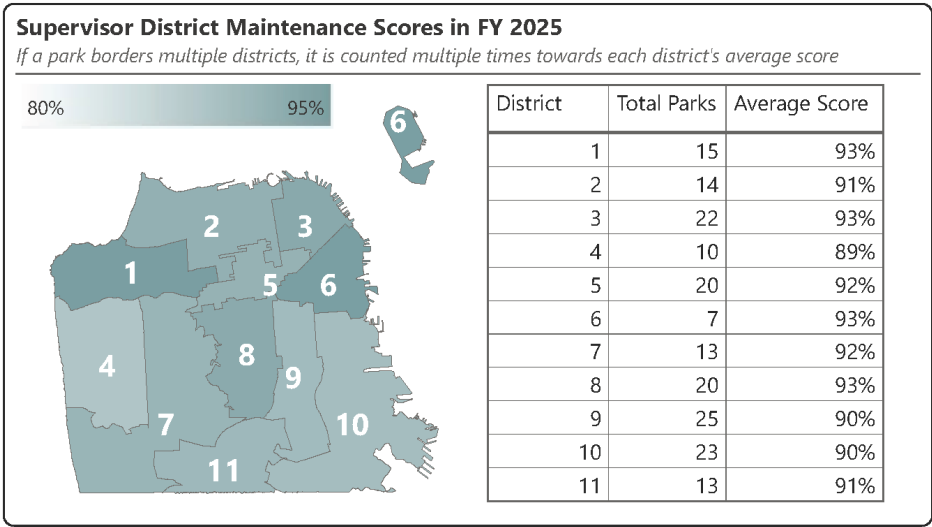| District	Total Parks	Average Score
1	15	93%
2	14	91%
3	22	93%
4	10	89%
5	20	92%
6	7	93%
7	13	92%
8	20	93%
9	25	90%
10	23	90%
11	13	91%

FIGURE 17 - SUPERVISOR DISTRICT MAINTENANCE SCORES IN FY25

Historically, scores by supervisor district generally trend similar to the citywide scores, as indicated in Figure 4. All supervisor district average scores have been in a generally upward trend since FY15. Most supervisor district average scores also stayed around the target score of 91% during the last four years.

As mentioned last year, District 6 had an unusually low average park score in FY23. Prior to FY24, District 6 only had five parks, which made its average scores more impacted by a few lower scores. In FY23, the scores were brought down by Eugene Friend Recreation Center (79%) and SOMA West Skate Park (79%). With the addition of three parks acquired from the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure in FY24, District 6 is now less impacted by each low-scoring park. In FY25, its average continues to perform above the minimum goal of 85%. As mentioned above, there also were not any individual parks that scored below 85% in District 6.
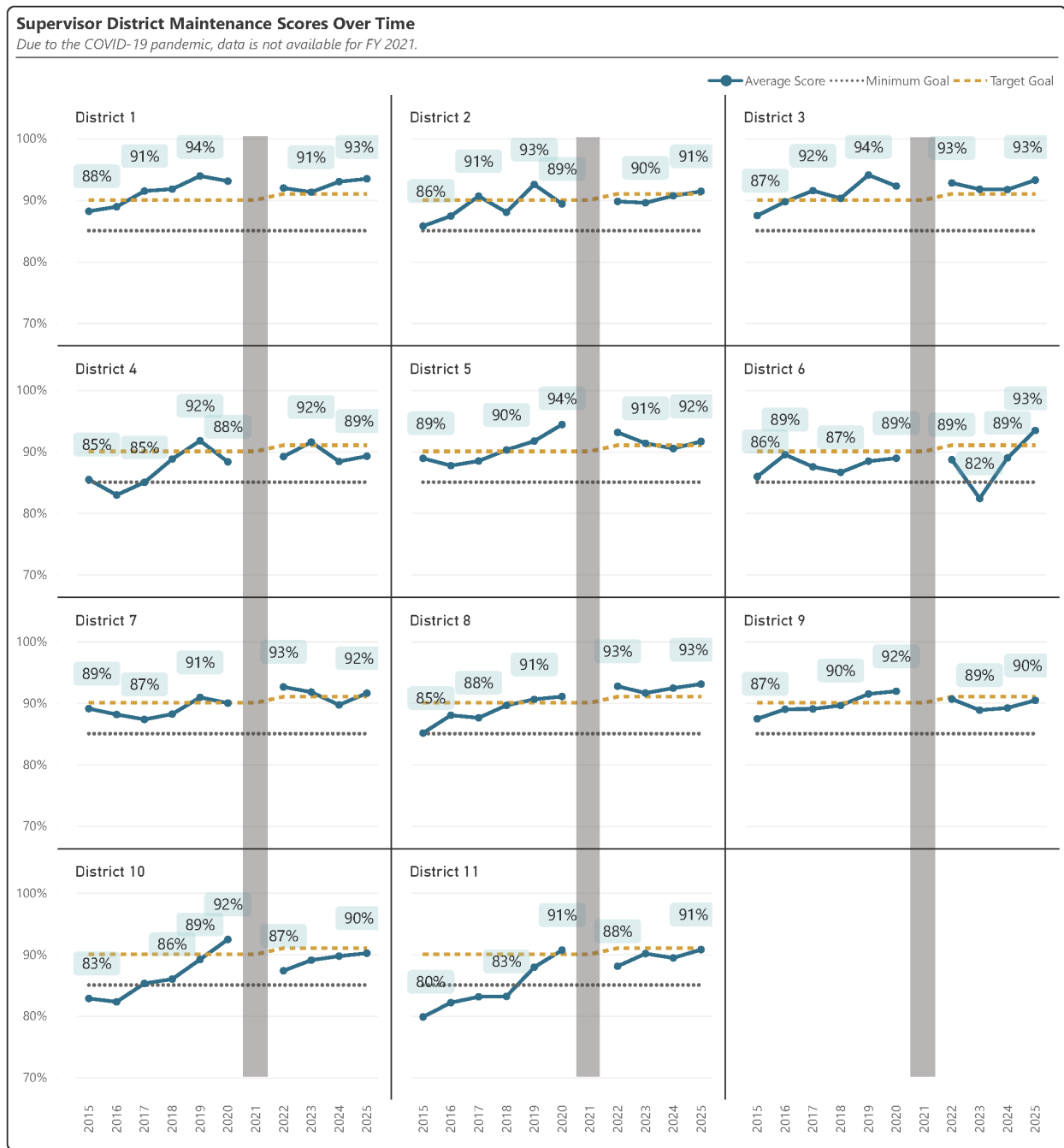
FIGURE 18 - SUPERVISOR DISTRICT MAINTENANCE SCORES OVER TIME

AVERAGE SCORES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE EQUITY ZONES ARE THE SAME

Equity Zones are neighborhoods impacted by historic environmental health risks, such as hazardous pollution. RPD defines these zones based on the Environmental Justice Communities Map developed by the SF Planning Department. Parks within these zones are known as "Equity Zone Parks".

While it does not undo the environmental harm the communities have experienced, RPD is committed to ensuring these communities have well-maintained parks. Reviewing the average scores for parks inside and outside of Equity Zones helps assess how well RPD meets this goal.

In FY25, 77 of the 170 parks in the Park Maintenance Standards Program were in Equity Zones. The count of Equity Zone Parks by neighborhood is as follows:

- Bayview Hunter's Point: 16
- Bernal Heights: 1
- Chinatown: 3
- Excelsior: 3
- Financial District/South Beach: 2
- Japantown: 2
- Lakeshore: 2
- McLaren: 1
- Mission: 14
- North Beach: 3
- Oceanview/Merced/Ingleside: 5
- Outer Mission: 6

FIGURE 19 - LOCATIONS OF PARKS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF EQUITY ZONES

- Portola: 1
- Potrero Hill: 2
- South of Market: 2
- Tenderloin: 5
- Visitacion Valley: 3
- Western Addition: 6

Across the supervisor districts there are the following numbers of Equity Zone Parks[6]:

Supervisor District	Parks inside Equity Zones	Parks outside Equity Zones
1	0	15
2	0	14
3	7	15
4	1	9
5	12	8
6	4	10
7	1	12
8	0	20
9	16	9
10	20	3
11	11	2

---

[6] As some parks span multiple supervisor districts, the total will be greater than the total number of parks.

There was no consistent distribution of Equity Zone Parks across the supervisor districts. Districts 1, 2, and 8 had no Equity Zone Parks. In contrast, Districts 5, 9, 10, and 11 had over half of their parks in Equity Zones.

Equity and Non-Equity Zone parks averaged close to 92%

Equity Zone Parks and non-Equity Zone parks both had average scores near 92% in FY25. The two groups have no statistically significant difference in average park scores. Similar to the overall park scores, scores for both Equity and Non-Equity Zones generally increased prior to COVID and have stabilized since.
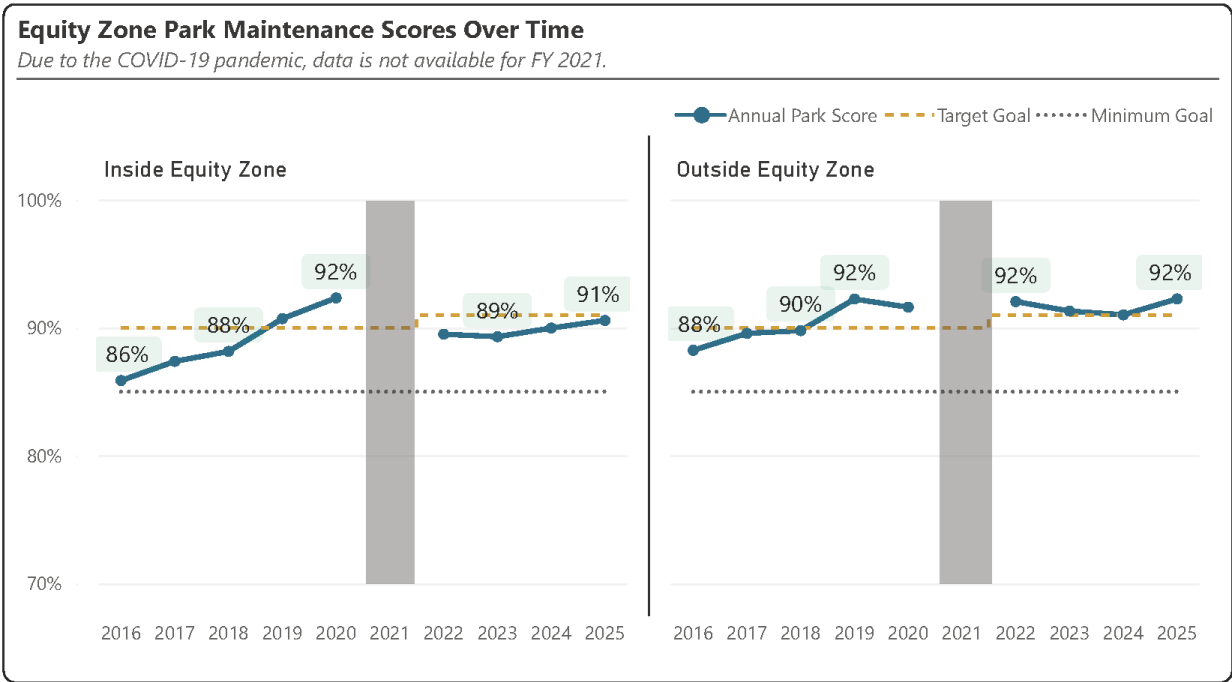

FIGURE 20 – EQUITY ZONE PARK MAINTENANCE SCORES OVER TIME

Park Groups

PARK TYPE HAD NO IMPACT ON AVERAGE SCORES, BUT MINI PARKS IMPROVED FROM FY24

Another way to explore categories of park scores is by park types. In FY25, RPD and CON evaluated a total of 170 parks, made up of 120 neighborhood parks, 31 mini parks, nine civic plazas, eight regional parks, and two parkways.

In FY25, all park types had average scores at or above 85% and any numeric differences in the averages were not statistically significant. This was similar to FY24, and indicates that on average across park type the maintenance and cleanliness are consistent.

Park Type Maintenance Scores in FY 2025

● Civic Plaza ● Mini Park ● Neighborhood Park ● Parkway ● Regional Park

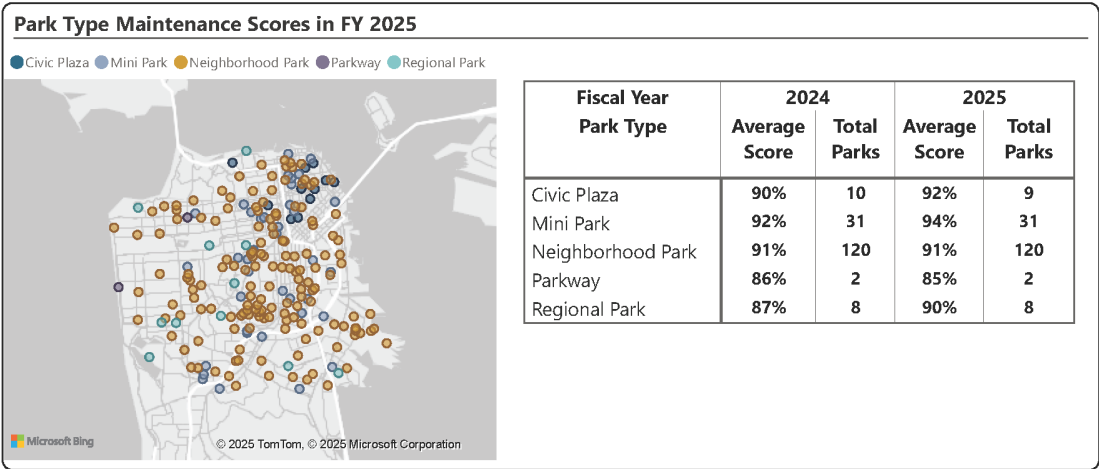| Fiscal Year	2024		2025	
Park Type	Average Score	Total Parks	Average Score	Total Parks
Civic Plaza	90%	10	92%	9
Mini Park	92%	31	94%	31
Neighborhood Park	91%	120	91%	120
Parkway	86%	2	85%	2
Regional Park	87%	8	90%	8

FIGURE 21 - PARK TYPE MAINTENANCE SCORES IN FY25

From FY24 to FY25, only Mini Parks had a statistically significant change, increasing from an average score of 92% to an average score of 94%. Some Mini Parks, such as Juri Commons Park, received improvements from RPD gardening staff that may have increased the scores. For example, the Ornamental Bed feature score for Juri Commons improved from 90% to 95% between FY24 and FY25.
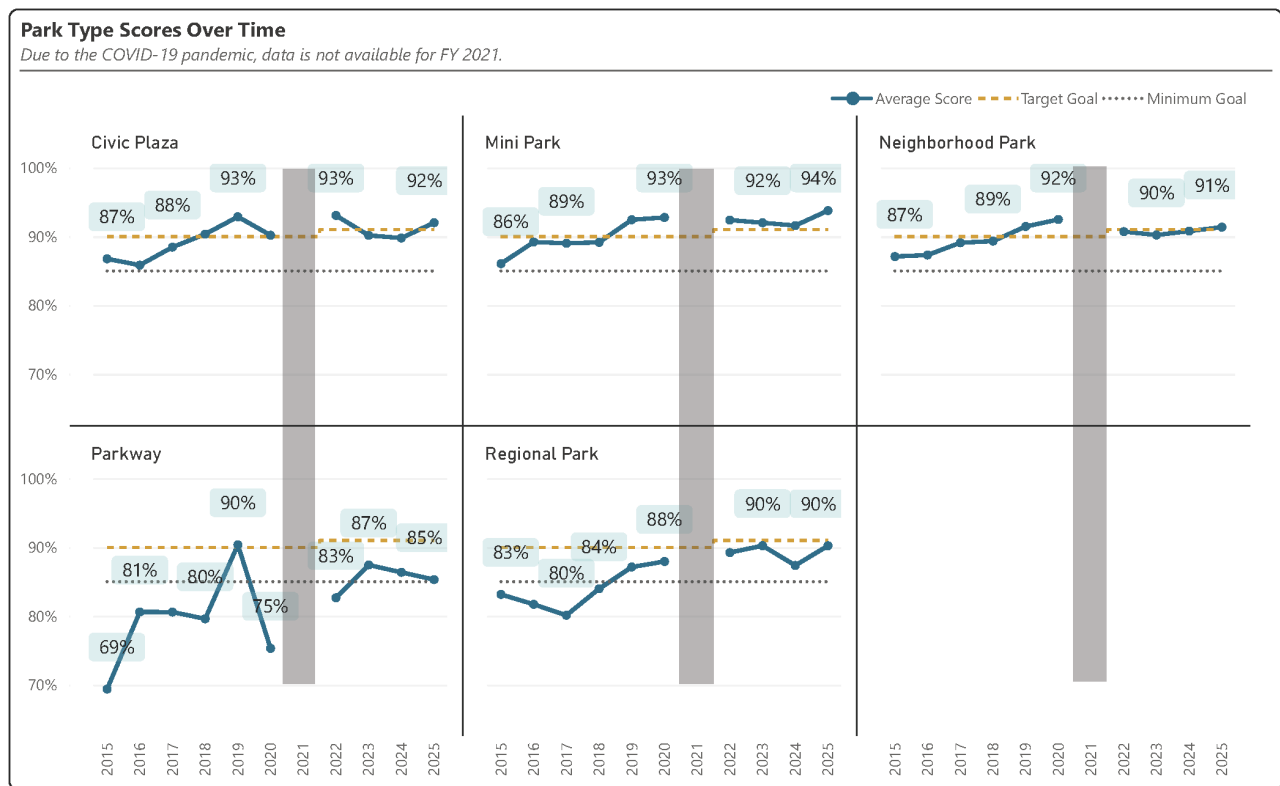
FIGURE 22 - PARK TYPE SCORES OVER TIME

PARKS OF ALL SIZES SCORED HIGHLY

FY25's average park size was 18 acres. When excluding the outlier of Golden Gate Park (more than 1,000 acres), the average was 14 acres. There were 65 parks (38%) under 1 acre, and 106 parks (62%) are one acre or larger. For comparison, a standard American football field is about 1.3 acres.

We group parks by sizes:

- Greater than 5 acres
- 1 to 5 acres
- 0.25 to 1 acre
- Less than 0.25 acres

There were 47 parks larger than 5 acres, 58 between 1 and 5 acres, 41 between 0.25 and 1 acre, and 24 under 0.25 acres. Unlike the park types, there was a more even distribution of park sizes across the system.
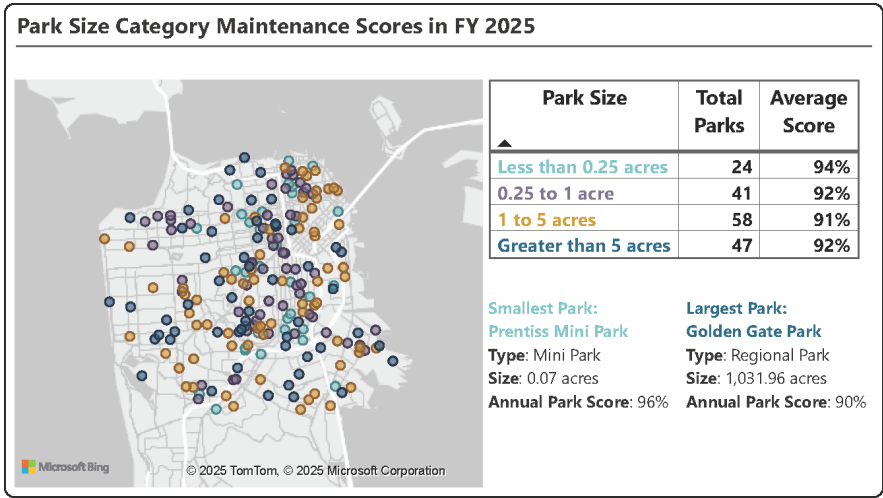
Park Size Category Maintenance Scores in FY 2025

Park Size	Total Parks	Average Score
Less than 0.25 acres	24	94%
0.25 to 1 acre	41	92%
1 to 5 acres	58	91%
Greater than 5 acres	47	92%

Smallest Park:
Prentiss Mini Park
Type: Mini Park
Size: 0.07 acres
Annual Park Score: 96%

Largest Park:
Golden Gate Park
Type: Regional Park
Size: 1,031.96 acres
Annual Park Score: 90%

FIGURE 23 - PARK SIZE MAINTENANCE SCORES IN FY25

All park size groups had average scores at or above 91% in FY25. Similar to FY24, there was no statistically significant difference between the average scores in park size groups. Scores for each group also saw no statistically significant change from FY24 to FY25.
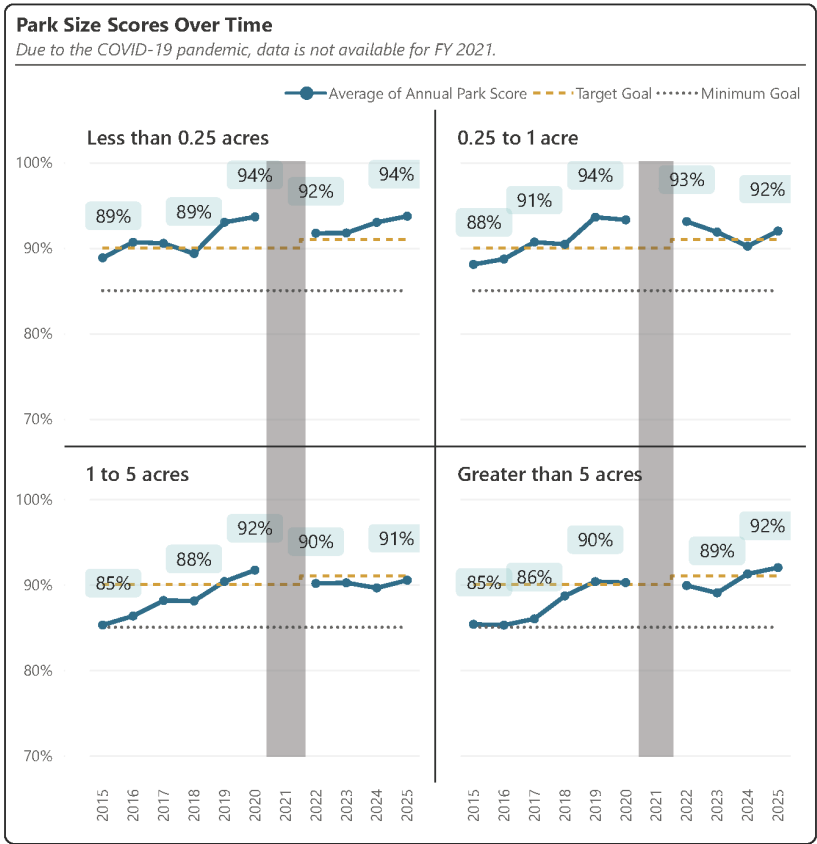

Park Size Scores Over Time
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, data is not available for FY 2021.

FIGURE 24 - PARK SIZE SCORES OVER TIME

Recommendations

The charter tasks City Performance with identifying parks that do not meet the standards, identifying the causes of failure, and making recommendations for future improvements. We already explored trends among the parks scoring under RPD's minimum goal (85%). In this section, we consider how RPD might improve the scores.

RPD COULD IMPROVE SCORES BY RESOLVING SURFACE ISSUES, BUT SOME FIXES REQUIRE GREATER RESOURCES

As mentioned earlier, low CPA scores were a common theme among the 18 parks with scores under 85%. RPD could improve this by focusing their maintenance efforts on CPAs at these sites, specifically the surfaces and the structures. However, some of the issues in these areas are beyond simple maintenance. For example, replacing a worn rubber surface or a deformed play structure may require specialized equipment or substantial resources. To improve these areas, RPD should consider the lifecycle of these facilities and see if they should be prioritized for updates sooner than originally planned. For a discussion of the types of maintenance issues, see the callout box below.

As explored previously, ground issues are common across all lowest scoring parks, with Surface, Sand, and Path elements as the lowest. As with the CPAs, some of the issues require more advanced capital resources for improvement, such as cracks in the Outdoor Courts or holes in the pavement paths. We recommend RPD explore opportunities for capital improvement in these areas. RPD can begin to make some improvements in the short term, however as some of the low element scores were due to bare areas in the lawns, tire ruts, or gopher mounds. While these may take substantial efforts and time to regrow, RPD could work to address them more immediately.

As mentioned previously, RPD has already planned maintenance to some of its lowest-performing parks address some of the larger capital needs. Among the 18 lowest scoring parks, six already have planned projects, including Alioto Mini Park, Buchanan Street Mall, Garfield Square, Koshland Park, McCoppin Square, and Portsmouth Square.

RPD COULD MAKE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NEAR TERM BY RESOLVING ISSUES WITH TRASH AND RECYCLING

There is one specific change that RPD could make today to improve the scores for these parks. Eleven of the 18 parks had problems with the trash or recycling cans. RPD can ensure that all sites have functional trash and recycling and can update its pickup schedule as needed to make sure they never overflow. While this may require some effort, it is likely the easiest change to make to improve the scores for this group of parks.

ROUTINE OR DEFERRED MAINTENANCE ISSUES REQUIRE DIFFERENT RESOURCES

The park maintenance scores are a composite of the parks feature, element, and standard scores. Parks sometimes have low scores due to routine needs, which can easily be addressed by the staff, or due to deferred needs, which are areas that have not been addressed in the past and often need more substantial resources to address. Routine maintenance or cleanliness include issues such as overgrown plants. Deferred maintenance includes failing infrastructure issues like cracking pathways. Each type of failure may indicate different challenges for RPD.

Routine issues may show that RPD staff members do not have the appropriate schedule to address the needs of a particular park. For example, a park with high rates of litter may need more frequent cleaning. However, it is possible the park was evaluated shortly before a cleaning.

In contrast, the deferred issues may show that RPD needs more substantial capital resources. These types of issues tend to take longer to resolve and may be likely to have the same failed standards over multiple years. Unlike routine issues, the timing of the evaluation would not impact the scores.

While some standards are clearly routine or deferred maintenance, others are ambiguous. For example, a park with issues in its wooden steps could be stemming from either reason. Due to the difficulty, we did not conduct any quantitative analysis in this area. However, when considering issues in the parks it is important to note that they could have a range of sources, and the approach to address them may vary in cost and complexity.

Conclusions and Next Steps

Based on the analysis, CON can conclude that RPD continues to meet its goal of providing high-quality parks across the City. The citywide park score was 92%, a small but statistically significant improvement over recent years. More than a quarter of parks scored above 95%.

The report highlights four park features that tend to interest park visitors: Children's Play Areas, Dog Play Areas, Outdoor Courts, and Athletic Fields. All scored similar to previous years, at 89%, 85%, 94%, and 91% respectively.

The report also highlights two park elements that are very visible to park visitors: Cleanliness and Graffiti. The average score for Cleanliness remained the same as FY24 at 94%. The average score for Graffiti showed a statistically significant increase, rising from 88 to 91%. This indicates that parks have less graffiti at the time of evaluations than they did in FY24.

Only 18 parks, or 11% of the park system, did not meet RPD's minimum goal. These parks saw the lowest scores in sand, surfaces, and path elements. The Children's Play Area was the lowest-scoring feature in this group, with particularly low sand and surface scores there.

In order to improve scores for these 18 parks, RPD can consider capital improvements, such as resurfacing outdoor courts. However, these are more time and cost intensive. In the short term, RPD can focus on improving sand levels and addressing patchy grass. RPD can also make some immediate improvements to improve scores by addressing issues with trash or recycling.

In the upcoming years, the Controller's Office will continue to produce annual reports and plans to conduct further analysis on the available data. We also hope to provide more internal tools for RPD. These could help RPD inform operations or support their work to help the public to have a deeper understanding of the park maintenance efforts.

Appendix 1: Statistical Testing

Where possible, we conducted tests for statistical significance. The test provides a degree of mathematical certainty if the difference between the averages from two groups is due to chance. If the difference is due to chance, the difference is not meaningful (statistically significant) and could be ignored. We discuss the findings of these tests in the report where applicable.

When not statistically significant, we may still present the scores across various groups, but the differences between them should not be considered as important. Instead, we are presenting the range of scores to help readers understand where those groups fall.

We conducted paired T-tests to determine differences between two year's scores, unpaired T-tests for differences between categories with two groups, and ANOVA tests for differences between categories with three or more groups. We used $p < 0.05$ for significance.

Appendix 2: Scoring Methodology

This section provides an overview of park maintenance score calculation. For a more thorough understanding, review the Park Standards Methodology Explainer.

At the most granular level, 200+ Park Maintenance Standards are assessed as either "Pass" or "Fail." For example, is a lamppost broken or is there litter on the ground? Similar *Standards* are categorized into common maintenance issues called **Elements** (such as Cleanliness, Equipment, or Lighting). Every park has **Features**, which are the amenities at parks that residents use or enjoy (like Athletic Fields, Restrooms, or Dog Play Areas). Each feature contains at least one element.

For example, the mowing element for athletic fields requires that the turf be less than 4.5 inches high. If an evaluator finds that a certain turf area is taller than 4.5 inches, the athletic field in question will fail to meet the mowing element. The elements and associated criteria that make up an evaluation cover a wide range of topics, including graffiti, paint, fencing, litter, plant condition, hardscape surface quality, and many more. Feature scores make up each park's maintenance score, which is aggregated to create the citywide average score.

In many cases, multiple instances of a feature exist at a park. For example, many parks have multiple restrooms, courts, or athletic fields, each of which are evaluated separately. Scores are then aggregated to calculate the scores for that feature at that park.

For ease of evaluation, several very large parks are subdivided into smaller evaluation sites. For example, Golden Gate Park is broken up into 38 sites.

An evaluator will check every applicable *Standard* for each *Feature* in a park. If a *Standard* fails inspection (e.g., a Lawn has too many gopher holes), then its entire *Element* (e.g., Turf Maintenance) would fail too. An *Element* can only pass if all its underlying *Standards* pass. If there are multiple **Instances** of a *Feature* (such as a basketball and tennis court—both part of the Outdoor Courts *Feature*), have their passing Elements summed together and are divided against their summed total Elements (which include the failing ones, too). An overall *Feature* score is calculated this way. Each *Feature* score is averaged together to create a **Park** score. Or if the

park is too large for a single evaluator to assess, it is first broken down into smaller, more manageable **Sites** before getting rolled up to a *Park* score. The average of all *Park* scores together creates the **Citywide** score.
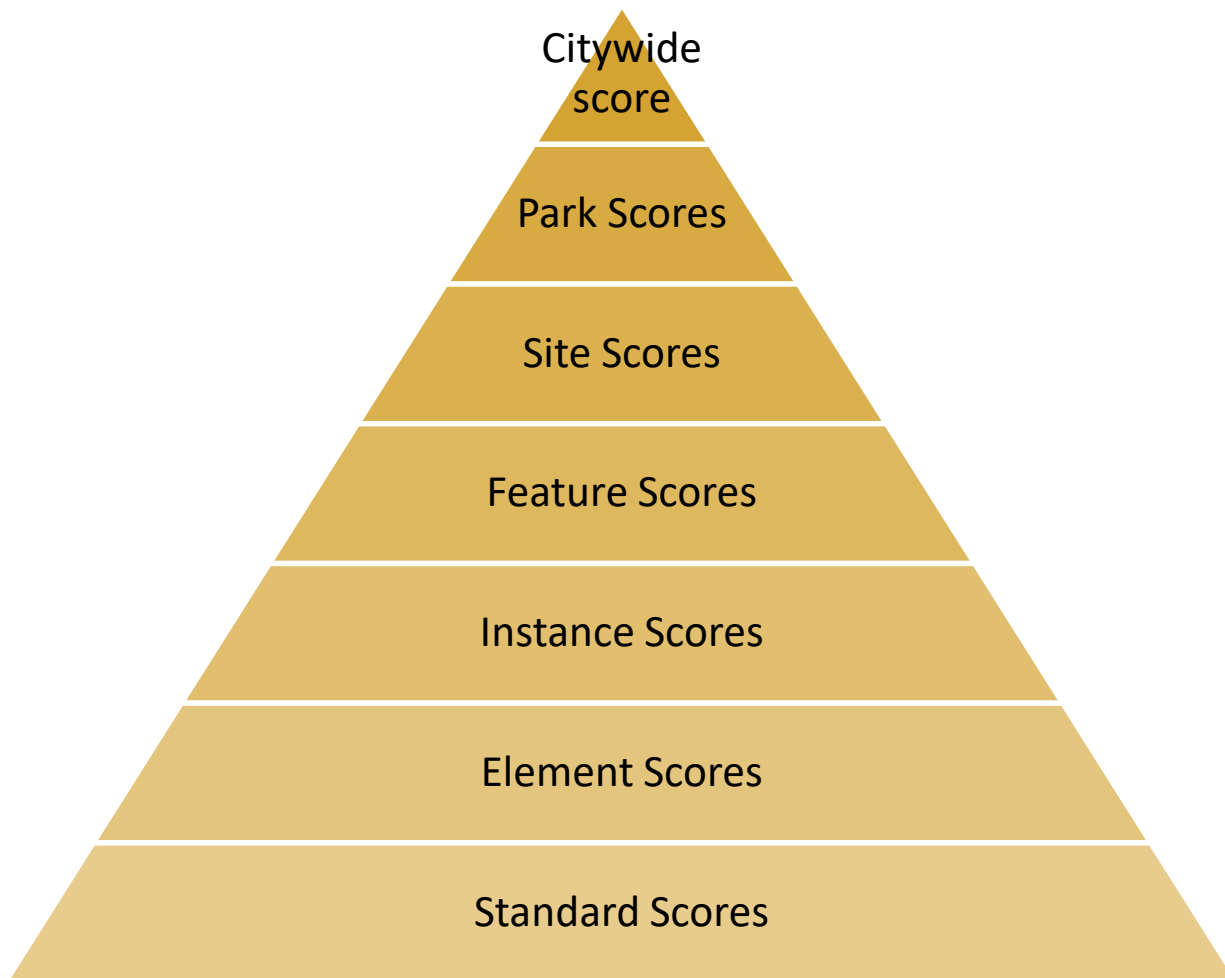
Citywide
score

Park Scores

Site Scores

Feature Scores

Instance Scores

Element Scores

Standard Scores

FIGURE 25 - PARK MAINTENANCE SCORING HIERACHY

CON and RPD strive to evaluate all the active parks once every three months ("quarterly"). Park scores are reported as annual averages, so each quarter's *Feature, Park, Citywide,* etc. scores get averaged by each quarter to make up the annual scores.

Parks may fail certain evaluation criteria due to standard maintenance issues or issues from deferred capital repairs. Deferred capital repairs, which can include things like major cracks in surfaces, could impact the overall park maintenance. These deferred repairs require more careful planning and budgeting. RPD maintenance team generally are unable to fix them quickly. As such, they are more likely to lead to repeated failures over multiple quarters.

Here is an example of a fictitious park site score calculation:

Park Maintenance Scoring Fictitious Example

Maintenance Standard	Evaluation Result	Element Score	Feature Score	Park Score
Hazardous litter	Pass →	Cleanliness	Greenspace 1/2 points = **50%** →	(50% + 100% + 33% + 67%) / 4 = **63%**
Large, abandoned item	Fail →	**0** points →		
Plants intrude on path	Pass →	Pruning		
Plants obstruct signage	Pass →	**1** point →		
Bulging chain link	Pass →		Buildings & Amenities 1/1 point = **100%** →	
Sharp fence edge	Pass →	Fencing **1** point →		
Gate cannot open	Pass →			
Pool of standing water	Fail →	Drainage **0** points →	Dog Play Areas 1/3 points = **33%** →	
Feces or bagged feces	Pass →	Cleanliness		
Large spot of litter	Fail →	**0** points →		
Broken dog bag dispenser	Pass →	Equipment **1** point →		
Light source is too dark	Pass →	Lighting	Restrooms 2/3 points = **67%** →	
Light source is broken	Pass →	**1** point →		
Chipping wall paint	Pass →	Paint		
Paint touch-up colors do not match	Pass →	**1** point →		
Gender or hours sign not posted	Fail →	Signage		
Sign text is illegible	Fail →	**0** points →		

A park maintenance score of 0% means every element failed (an element fails if one or more standards fail). A park maintenance score of 100% means that all standards under all elements passed. In this hypothetical example, the park received a score of 63% based on the Restrooms, Dog Play Areas, Buildings & Amenities, and Greenspace feature scores.

FIGURE 26 - PARK MAINTENANCE SCORING EXAMPLE

Elements are only present under certain features. Further, not all features are present at each park. A matrix of the elements included in the respective features (if present at the park) is shown below:

Elements (below) Features (right)	Athletic Fields	Buildings & General Amenities	Children's Play Areas	Dog Play Areas	Greenspace	Hardscape	Lawns	Ornamental Beds	Outdoor Courts	Restrooms	Table Seating Areas	Trees
Cleanliness	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Curbs						☑						
Drainage	☑			☑		☑	☑		☑			
Drinking		☑										
Equipment	☑			☑					☑	☑		
Fencing	☑	☑	☑	☑					☑			
Freestanding		☑										
Graffiti	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑
Grills											☑	
Lighting										☑		
Misc		☑										
No mow								☑				
Paint	☑	☑	☑			☑			☑	☑	☑	
Parking						☑						
Paths						☑						
Plants								☑				
Pruning					☑			☑				☑
Roads						☑						
Sand			☑									
Seating	☑	☑	☑	☑					☑		☑	
Signage	☑	☑	☑	☑					☑	☑		
Stairways						☑						
Structures	☑		☑						☑	☑		
Supplies										☑		
Surface	☑		☑	☑			☑		☑			
Tree condition												☑
Turf	☑						☑					
Walkway						☑						
Waste		☑									☑	
Water			☑									
Weeds	☑		☑			☑		☑	☑			☑

FIGURE 27 – FEATURES (COLUMNS) AND THEIR UNDERLYING ELEMENT COMPONENTS (ROWS)

Appendix 3: Park Maintenance Funding Sources

Proposition B (June 2016)

Through the passage of Proposition J in 1975, San Francisco voters established the Open Space Acquisition and Park Renovation Program, requiring that a portion of the City's property tax revenue be set aside each year to enhance the City's ability to acquire open space, and to develop and maintain recreational facilities. Over the years this program has been extended and expanded, and the current Park, Recreation, and Open Space Fund (Fund) now supports a vast array of services including property acquisition, after-school recreation programs, urban forestry, community gardens, volunteer programs, and natural area management.

With the passage of Proposition B in June 2016, voters again extended the Fund through 2046 and required the City to allocate to it a minimum amount from the City's General Fund each year starting in FY17. The department is working to balance the baseline funding among existing operational costs, inflationary increases and other uses. The goal is to carefully reallocate funding to help improve parks and park features that rank low in these evaluations due to deferred maintenance or other issues.

RPD has a history of prioritizing the maintenance of existing parks and facilities in the strategic plans, including: developing and posting annual park maintenance objectives for all RPD parks; and prioritizing deferred maintenance renewals and discretionary capital resources in equity zone parks with failing park scores.[7] The 2023-2027 update to the plan builds on this work, aiming to keep parks safe, clean, and fun as well as building the great parks of tomorrow.

Bond Funding for Park Improvements

In 2008, voters approved a $185 million general obligation bond, known as the 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond. Among other objectives, the purpose of the bond was to improve park restrooms citywide, renovate parks and playgrounds in poor physical condition, and replace dilapidated play fields. Most of the park improvements funded by the bond were completed by 2014, though construction on a few parks stretched into 2015 and 2016. The following parks were included in the 2008 Bond:

- Cabrillo Playground
- Cayuga Playground
- Chinese Recreation Center
- Fulton Playground
- Glen Canyon Park
- Lafayette Park
- McCoppin Square
- Mission Dolores Park
- Mission Playground
- Palega Recreation Center
- Raymond Kimbell Playground
- Sunset Playground

In 2012, voters again passed a $195 million general obligation bond aimed at capital repairs for park improvement, known as the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond. This bond continued investment in park infrastructure and most funds were specifically allocated to neighborhood park improvement. Of the

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[7] References from the 2019-2023 Update to the Strategic Plan and the 2020-2024 Update to the Strategic Plan.

15 neighborhood parks chosen for improvements, all 15 are complete and open to the public. The following parks were included in the 2012 Bond:

- Angelo J Rossi Playground
- Balboa Park
- Garfield Square
- George Christopher Playground
- Gilman Playground
- Glen Canyon Park
- Golden Gate Park
- Hyde & Turk Mini Park
- Joe DiMaggio Playground

- John McLaren Park
- Lake Merced Park
- Margaret S Hayward Playground
- Moscone Recreation Center
- Mountain Lake Park
- Potrero Hill Recreation Center
- South Park
- West Sunset Playground
- Willie "Woo Woo" Wong Playground

In 2020, voters passed the Health and Recovery Bond, which includes $239 million for park improvements. The bond also includes funding for treatment and supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness and with mental health needs, as well as funding for street and pedestrian improvements. This bond will support improvements to the following parks:

- Buchanan Street Mall
- Gene Friend Recreation Center
- Hertz Playground
- India Basin
- Japantown Peace Plaza

- Buena Vista
- Jackson Playground
- Portsmouth Square
- South Sunset Clubhouse

While the planning and some initial work has begun, none of the 2020 bond projects are complete. They will be monitored and discussed in future annual reports. The first phase of the India basin project has been completed, opening the 900 Innes Park. However, there are additional stages to the project before the India Basin bond work can be considered complete.

Appendix 4: How Parks are Added to the Park Maintenance Standards Program

The RPD Asset Management Unit (AMU) manages the Park Maintenance Standards Program for RPD. Park-specific data must be collected and entered into various AMU software systems and all necessary for a park to be a part of the evaluation.

AMU staff typically tours a brand-new park, where GIS staff use specialized equipment to collect spatial data such as type, location and boundaries of park features and enter this information into the GIS database. For a small park the GIS data entry might take a few hours; for larger parks, it can take several days to weeks.

From there, the park information is entered into the work order system, called the TMA. TMA staff that maintain the system review the work of the GIS staff to understand what new facilities and areas need to be created in TMA. A park property contains facilities, such as buildings, turf (a landscaped type) or volleyball courts (a hardscape type). These facilities, in turn, contain areas. A building might contain offices, restrooms, showers, a gym, closets, hallways and so on. Outdoor facilities, such as a landscaped area, may contain turf, paths, planted

beds and various public amenities such as drinking fountains and benches. The work of the GIS staff eventually produces a map, and the work of TMA staff produces a catalog of all assets present at a property.

Once confirmed as correct and the new park records are in GIS, AMU staff complete the process to allow the park to be assigned for a new evaluation. The site is then "on-line" and will be included in the next round of assignments that are sent out to our evaluators.

Courtesy of RPD's Asset Management Unit (AMU)

Additional Information

The following sections present information not covered in the report. These may be of most use for RPD internal purposes or readers of prior evaluation reports. This section includes:

- Park Service Area (PSA) Scores
- Site Scores
- FY24 Evaluations By the Numbers
- Trust for Public Land Ranking
- Additional Resources and Links

PARK SERVICE AREA (PSA) SCORES

RPD uses Park Service Areas (PSAs) to break the City's parks into administrative sections. While examining the PSA scores may not be the most relevant to the average San Francisco resident, this could be useful information for the RPD operation team.

When considered by PSA, all groups scored at or above 90%. There was no statistically significant difference between the PSA scores.

Park Service Area Maintenance Scores in FY 2025
Golden Gate Park (GGP) is given its own Park Service Area (PSA)

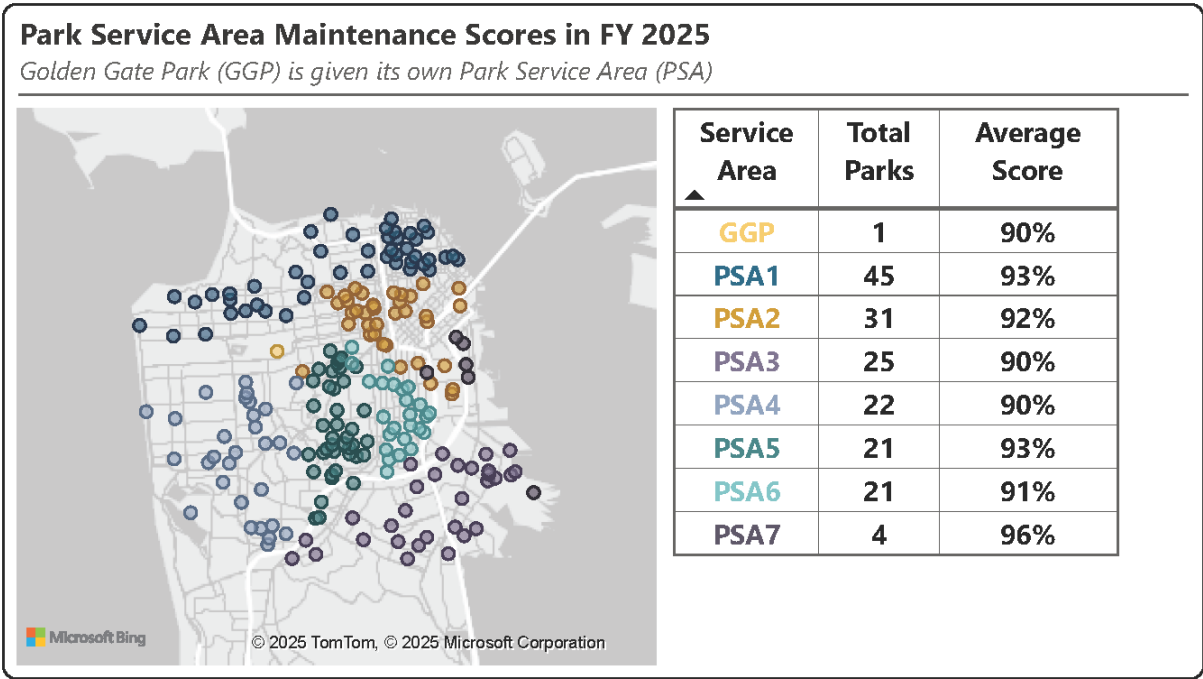| Service Area	Total Parks	Average Score
GGP	1	90%
PSA1	45	93%
PSA2	31	92%
PSA3	25	90%
PSA4	22	90%
PSA5	21	93%
PSA6	21	91%
PSA7	4	96%

FIGURE 28 - PARK SERVICE AREA SCORES IN FY25

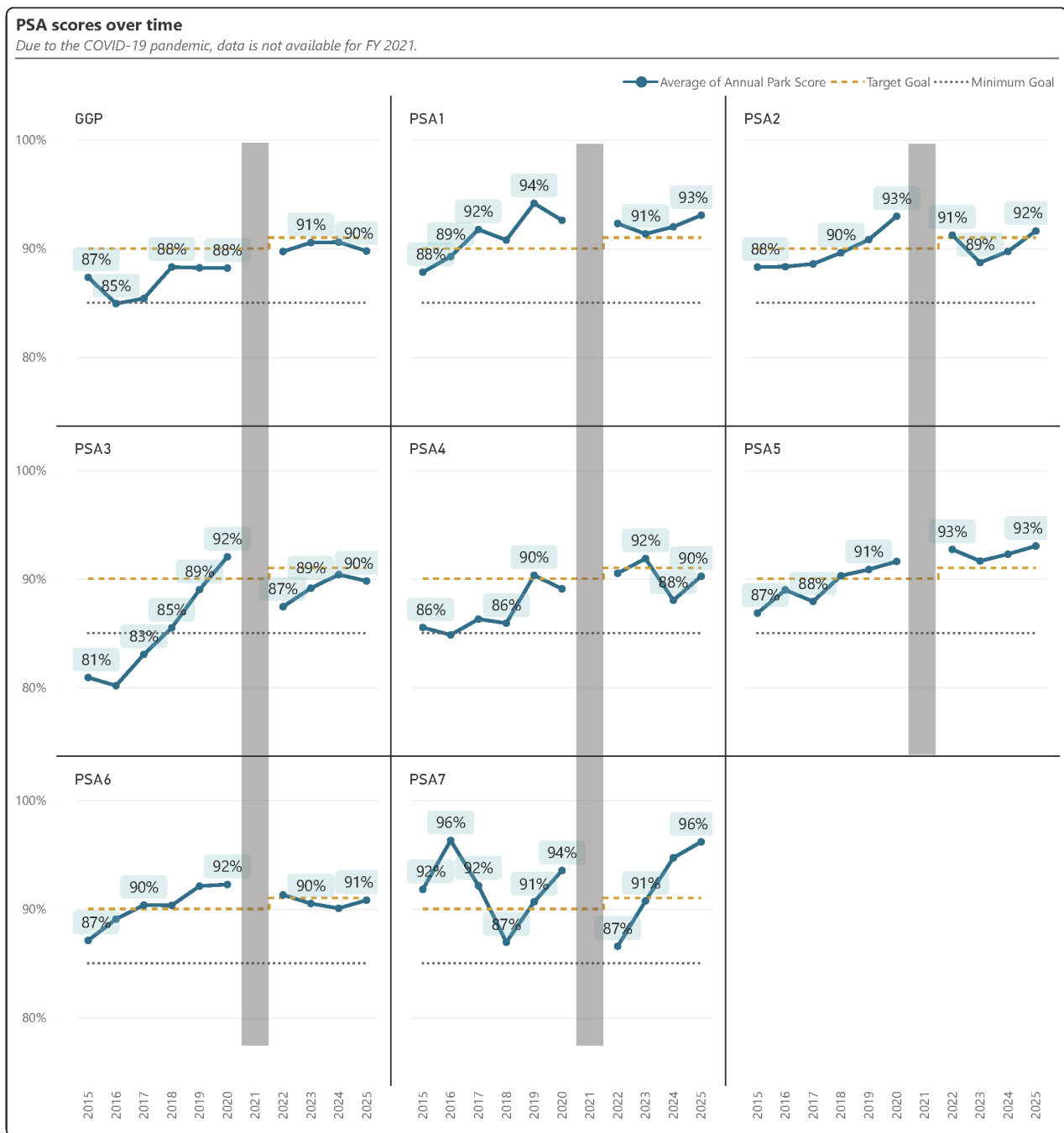There was no statistically significant change in PSA scores between FY24 and FY25.

FIGURE 29 - PARK SERVICE AREA SCORES OVER TIME

SITE SCORES

Sites are the key component of parks. For smaller parks, the site is the same as the park. For larger parks, such as Golden Gate Park or John McClaren Park, it may be broken into two or more sites for ease of evaluation. By looking at site scores, rather than just park scores, we can learn more about the maintenance of our parks at a smaller geographic level. Site level scores are only available since FY22.

All the highest-scoring sites are standalone parks. Among the ten lowest scoring parks, four are one of multiple sites in their park (see highlighted sites below). For these parks with multiple sites, lower-scoring sites may drive down a park score.

Highest and Lowest Scoring Sites in FY 2025

Highest Scoring Sites	Score ▼	Lowest Scoring Sites	Score ▲
Corona Heights Park	100%	Adam Rogers Park	71%
Golden Gate-Steiner Mini Park	100%	GGP - Section 6 (Murphy Windmill)	72%
Joseph Lee Recreation Center	100%	GGP - Section 1 (Panhandle)	72%
Sgt. John Macaulay Park	100%	Buchanan Street Mall	74%
900 Innes	99%	Park Presidio Boulevard (South of Geary)	76%
24th Street-York Mini Park	99%		
Mission Bay Park	99%	Aptos Playground	77%
Joost-Baden Mini Park	99%	Kid Power Park	77%
Betty Ann Ong Chinese Recreation Center	99%	GGP - Section 4 (Elk Glen Lake)	78%
		Koshland Park	78%
Yik Oi Huang Peace & Friendship Park	99%	McCoppin Square	80%

FIGURE 31 – HIGHEST AND LOWEST SITES IN FY25

Most of the highest-scoring sites have generally been performing well since 2022 and saw no major change from FY24.

In contrast, many of the lowest-scoring sites performed better in recent years. GGP Section 1 (Panhandle), GGP Section 4 (Elk Glen Lake), and Park Presidio Boulevard (South of Geary) all scored above 90% in FY24 and dropped to 72%, 78%, and 76%, respectively. For reference, GGP scored 90% overall and Park Presidio's other site scored 88%, bringing its overall score to 78%. GGP Section 1 (Panhandle)'s low scores may have been due to issues such as a sink hole in the playground and depleted sand.

Other sites, such as Aptos Playground and Kid Power Park, increased from FY24. Kid Power Park increased by eight percentage points to reach 77%. While these increases are notable, the current scores are still low. This may indicate some improvement in maintenance for sites that consistently face difficult conditions.
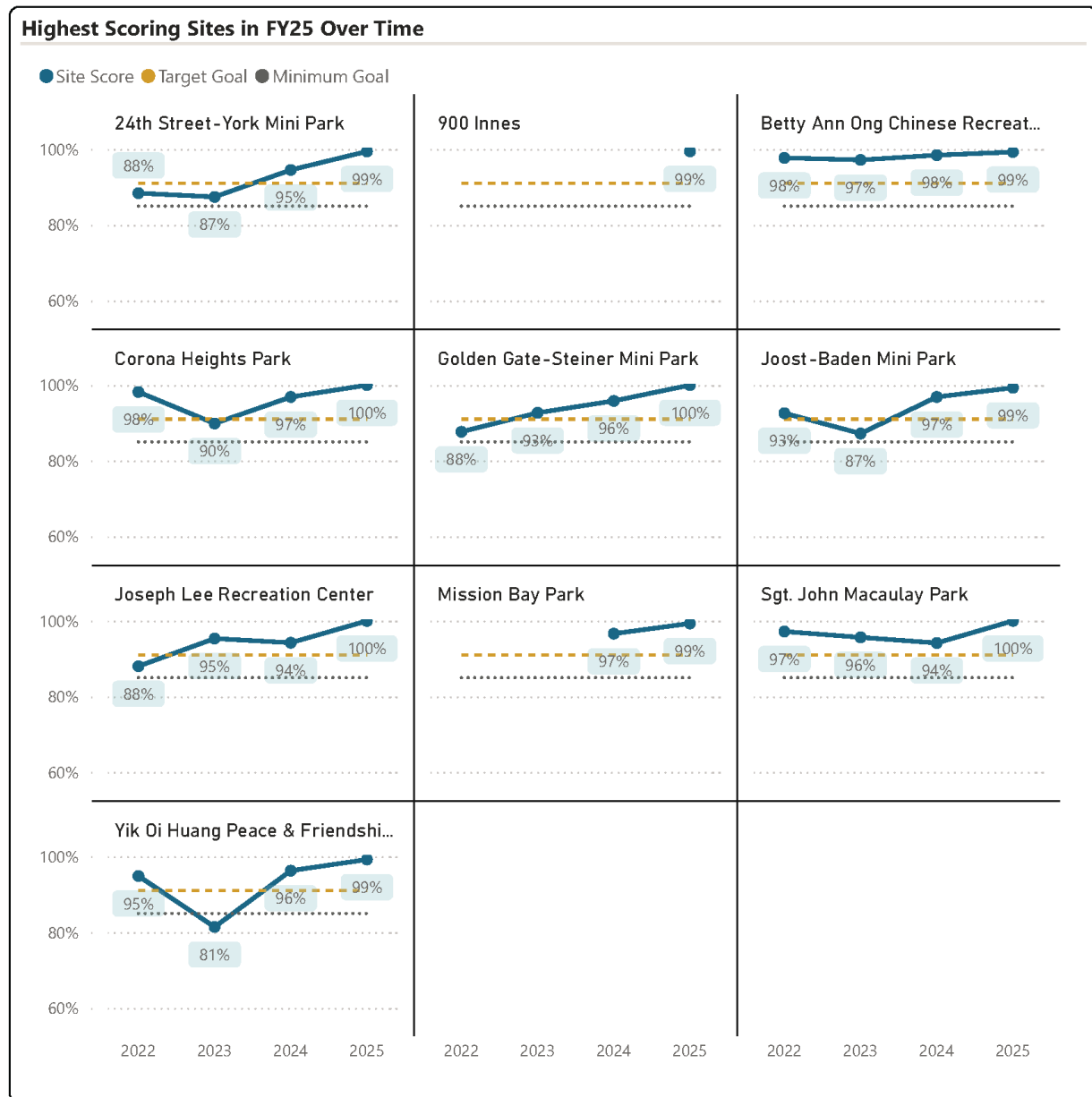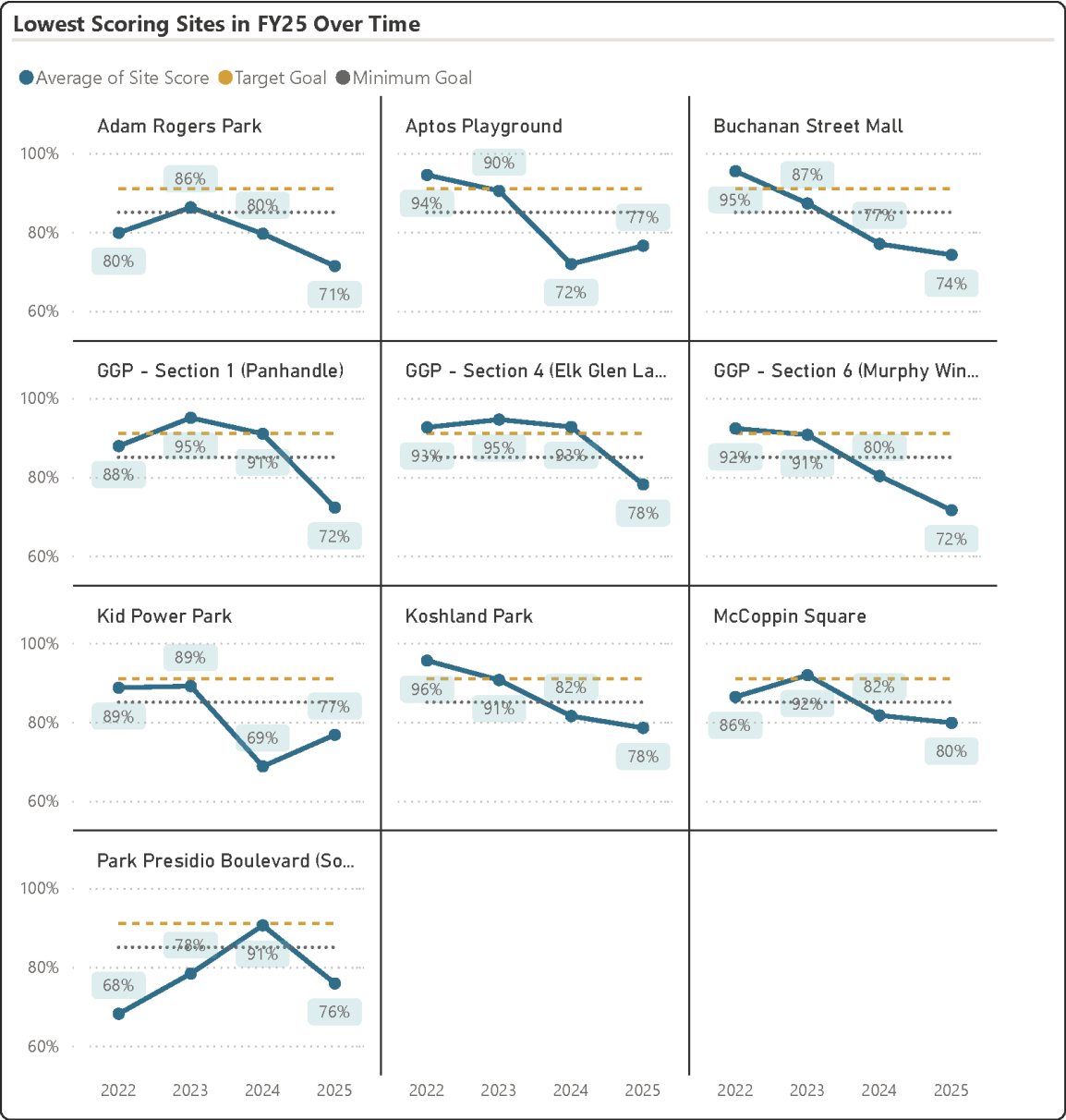
FIGURE 32 – HIGHEST SCORING SITES OVER TIME

FIGURE 33 – LOWEST SCORING SITES OVER TIME

FY25 EVALUATIONS BY THE NUMBERS

There are 295 unique park maintenance standards that evaluators use to assess the City's parks. Each park is evaluated using the standards relevant to the specific park. For example, Children's Play Area standards are included in a park's evaluation only if the park has a Children's Play Area.

In FY25, these standards were assessed via **821 site evaluations** conducted across **170 parks**. All these observations and measurements go into one **citywide score**. The chart below shows the number of site evaluations REC and CON conducted each quarter:

FIGURE 34 - NUMBER OF SITE EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN FY25

Park scores are a snapshot in time. While the four evaluations per site per year are intended to create an overall reflection, there are some limitations that cannot be avoided. Park scores may change from year to year due to differences in evaluators, construction projects, weather, and the month, day, or time each quarterly evaluation is completed.

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND RANKING

The Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit that creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. The organization works alongside communities across the country to create, protect, and steward quality parks and green spaces that are vital to human well-being.

As part of this effort, it maintains an annual ranking of cities' park systems through the ParkScore program. The ParkScore program helps policymakers, community organizers, and City planners to understand their local park system's assets and areas for improvement. While the Park Maintenance Standards Annual Report measures San Francisco's overall park maintenance, the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore provides a distinct measure of San Francisco's overall park quality based on five categories:

1. Access: the percentage of a City's residents that live within a 10-minute walk of a park.
2. Acreage: the proximity of large "destination" parks that provide health and environmental benefits.
3. Amenities: the availability of activities that are popular across a wide range of diverse user groups.
4. Equity: the distribution of parks evenly between neighborhoods regardless of race or income.
5. Investment: the assessment of a park system's financial health as measured by total spending.

In FY25, San Francisco was ranked 6th in the nation based on a ParkScore of 80.2. San Francisco rose from 7th, where it had been for the prior two years. In particular, the City scored 100 points out of the maximum 100 in the Access and Investment categories.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND LINKS

All information presented in this report is publicly accessible. To explore the data and trends highlighted in this report, visit the Park Maintenance Scores online dashboard under the **Dashboard** section below. The dashboard is an interactive web page with park maintenance data visualized and organized together for convenience and clarity. To view current and historic annual park maintenance scores, click on either of the links in the **Datasets** section. Use the links in the **Reports** section to see other previous annual reports, to read RPD's latest update to their Strategic Plan, or to learn more about Equity Zones and the FY22 transition to using *Environmental Justice Communities*. Explore the links in the **Standards** section to download a comprehensive list of park maintenance standards and to learn more about park maintenance scores.

Maintenance Scores Dashboard

- CON [Park Maintenance Evaluation Website](#)

Evaluation Datasets on the City's OpenData Portal

- [Annual Park Evaluation Scores, 2015-2025](#) (scores calculated using the current methodology)
- [Annual Park Evaluation Scores, 2005-2014](#) (scores calculated using an older methodology)

Park Evaluation and Related Reports

- [CON Park Maintenance Program – Historical Reports](#)
- [Controller's Office Report](#) Portal – Historical Reports
- [CON Citizen Survey – Park Ratings](#)
- [Environmental Justice Communities Framework](#)

Park Maintenance Standards

- [RPD Park Maintenance Standards](#)
- [RPD Park Maintenance Scores Website](#)
- [CON Park Standards Methodology Explainer](#)
- [RPD Facilities](#)

RPD Strategic Plan

- [RPD Strategic Plan 2023-2027 Update](#)