



Park Safety

San Francisco's parks are safely utilized throughout the year by thousands of pedestrians, runners and joggers, cyclists and motorists for the purpose of leisure and entertainment. Parks and public green spaces in the City vary from mini-parks, to squares, playgrounds, open spaces, and a few larger parks. Some parks have a range of environments within, and may even host large events. The natural surroundings that create beauty in parks can also reduce the range of visibility and provide opportunities for criminal activity. The following tips can improve your safety in the parks.

Plan for Safety

Think about the park area you want to visit and what you want to do there. Factors that affect your safety in a particular park include the local crime rate, the extent of visibility, the time of day, your intended activities there- alone or accompanied, and your degree of local familiarity.

- Consider going with a friend, especially if going to an area that is unfamiliar or not well populated with people engaged in safe activities.
- Always carry identification. Plan to bring minimal valuables. Choose a bag that will contain your items and that you can comfortably carry and hold during your outing.
- Dress in reflective or light colored outerwear.
- Remember that headphones reduce your awareness and ability to identify potential problems.
- Park where your vehicle will be safe for the duration of your stay, and your walk to and from the car will be safe as well.
- Avoid opening the trunk once parked. Gather all the items you will need into the passenger compartment before parking at your destination.
- Self defense classes can be a great way to increase your knowledge and confidence around street safety.

Be Actively Aware, Trust Your Instincts

- Be aware of anyone who appears to be monitoring the activities of others in a suspicious manner, such as to possibly take advantage of someone.
- If you intend to picnic or lounge in the park choose an area where it is safe to do so. Maintain possession of your important belongings and always carry a cell phone.
- Be very careful during storms and stay away from large trees that may break loose and fall.
- As you move through the park and time passes, notice changes in conditions and people around you. If you do not feel genuinely safe, move or change your course as the situation warrants.
- Be actively aware of your environment as part of enjoying the park. Know how to identify potential problems.
- If you feel threatened, take immediate action by running the opposite direction or calling out for help.

Excursions

- Your safety increases with numbers. Consider going with a friend, especially if going to an area that is unfamiliar or not well populated with people engaged in safe activities.
- Choose walking, running and biking routes that are well lighted and traveled. Be especially careful traveling on isolated routes, near bushes or in dense foliage.

Traveling Safely

Pedestrians, motorists and cyclists have responsibilities to abide by state and local laws in the parks. Please observe these rules and tips:

Pedestrians

- Always be visible to approaching traffic.
- Stepping suddenly into the street from between parked cars puts you at great risk.
- Look twice before crossing the street. Cross at controlled intersections.
- Pedestrians are not allowed in bicycle lanes, even while jogging or skating.

Cyclists

- Always ride with traffic.
- Observe stop signs and basic right of way rules. Yield to pedestrians.
- Use hand signals.
- Keep clear of the door zone.

Motorists

- Look for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Reduce speed and yield to pedestrians.
- Observe stop signs and basic right of way rules.
- Signal your intent to make turns.
- Drive with lights on for added visibility.

Resources and Important Numbers in San Francisco

Walk San Francisco	Pedestrian Safety	http://www.walksf.org	415-431-WALK
SF Bicycle Coalition	Bike Safety	http://www.sfbike.org	415-431-2459
SF Neighborhood Parks Council	Park Advocacy	http://www.sfnpc.org	415-621-3260

EMERGENCY

9-1-1

FROM CELL PHONE

415-553-8090

FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

415-553-0123

NON-EMERGENCY QUALITY OF LIFE SF CITY SERVICES

3-1-1

San Francisco SAFE, Inc. (Safety Awareness for Everyone) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that works in partnership with the San Francisco Police Department. We offer a variety of crime prevention and public safety awareness services.