

in the works

March 2020



Stay 6 feet apart

任何時候都要和人保持6英尺距離

Manténgase al menos 6 pies de distancia
el uno del otro a todo momento.

Manatili ng anim (6) talampakan ang distansya



[SF.gov/coronavirus](https://www.sfgov.gov/coronavirus)



Eamonn Kavanagh, who usually works on our street paving crew, posts a social distancing sign at Alamo Square Park.



**We pull through this
by pulling together.**

Focus on community needs.
Collaborate generously with colleagues.



**The coronavirus does not mean
we should not care.**

Treat others with respect.
Practice compassion.



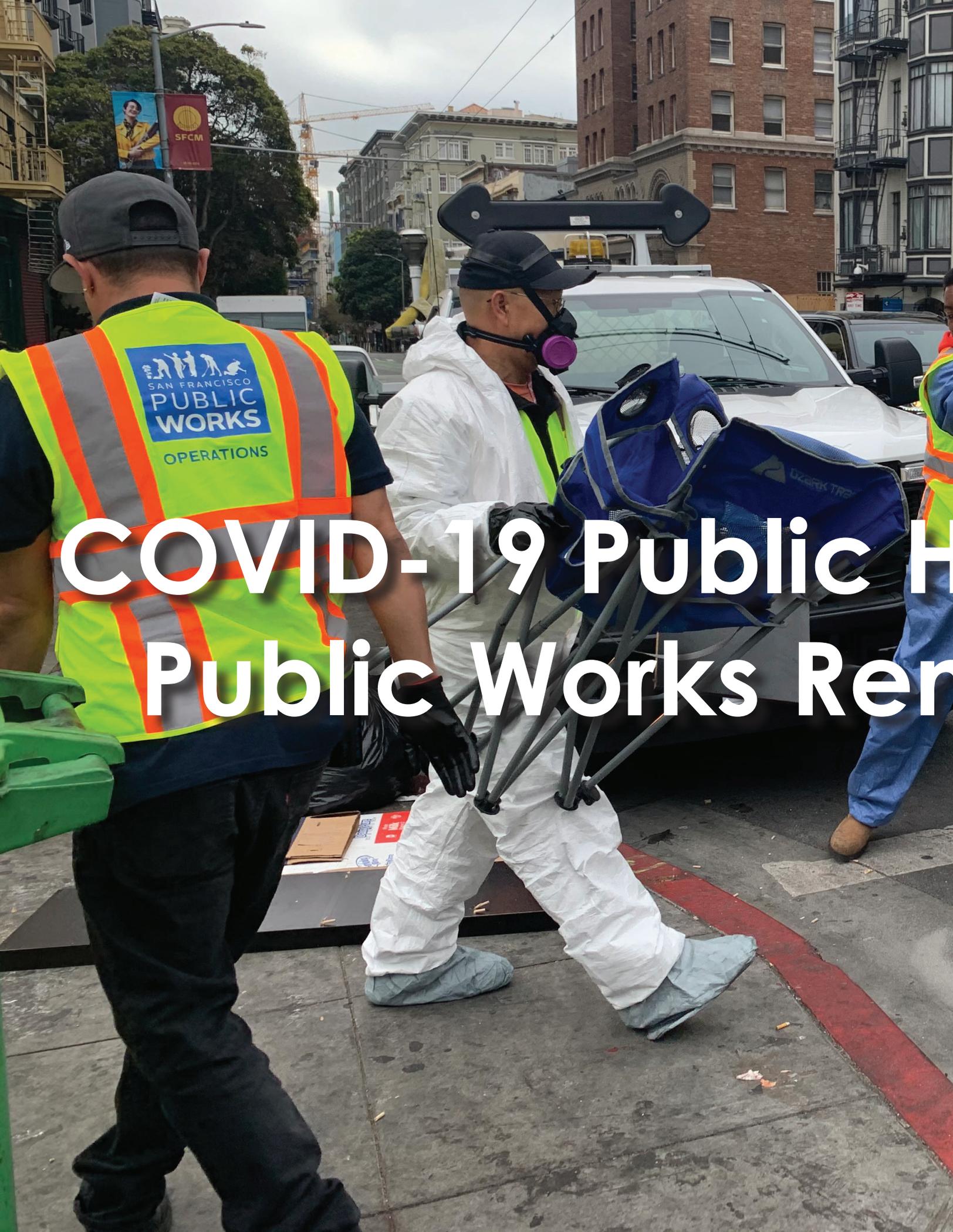
**Doesn't discriminate:
Doesn't either.**

with respect.
on and empathy.



**Our health depends on the health
of the people next to us.**

Stay home unless essential.
Practice physical distancing.



COVID-19 Public Health Public Works Response



Health Emergency: Remains on the Job

We are living in an unprecedented time. As individuals, families and as communities, we are being challenged and stretched by the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. ▶

A Public Works street cleaning crew picks up trash in the Tenderloin.



Eamonn Kavanagh, left, and John O'Driscoll, who normally pave streets, pivot their duties to post social distancing signs around town.



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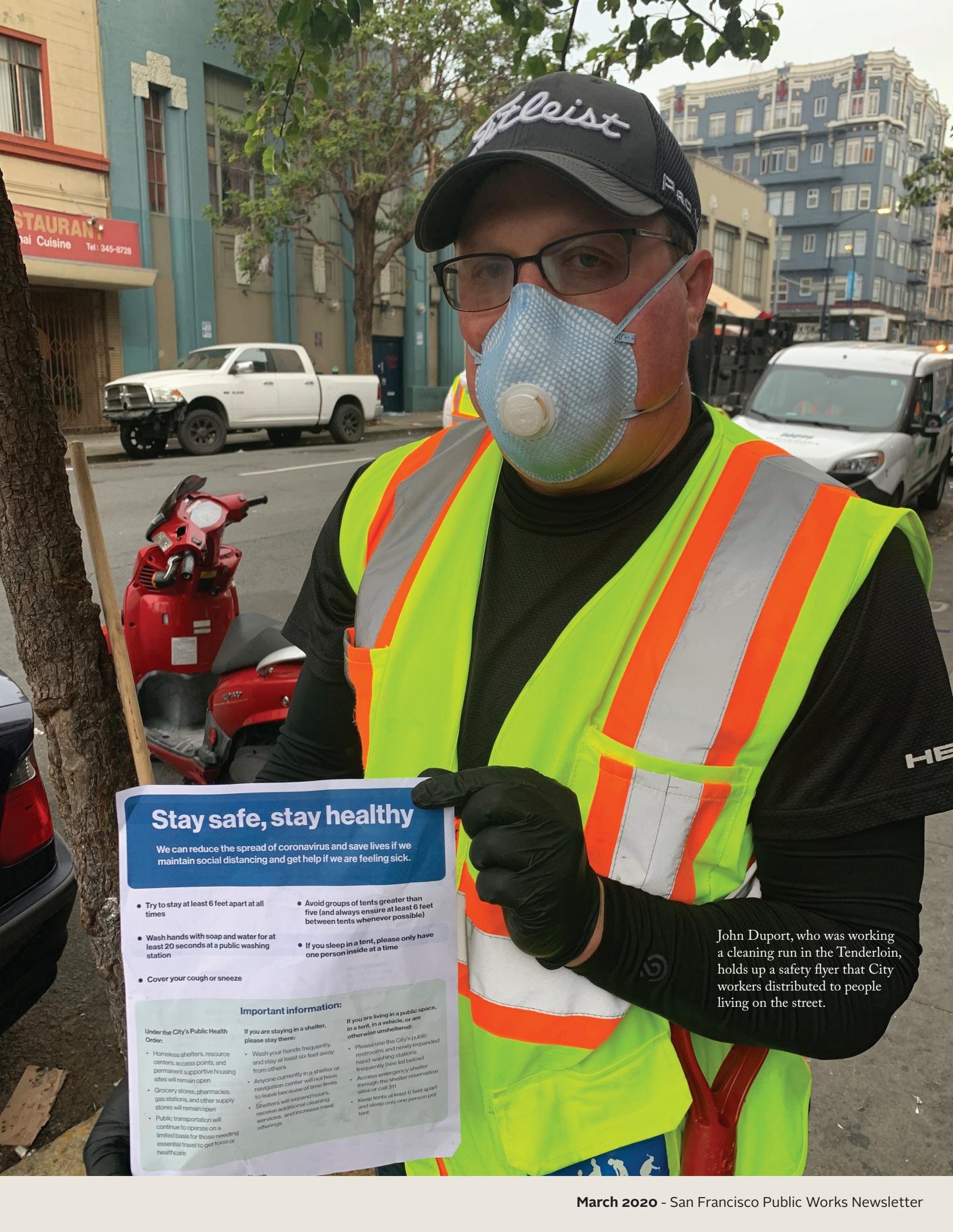
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sf.gov/coronavirus



Nicole De La Garza, picks up an illegally dumped mattress in Bayview-Hunters Point.



Stay safe, stay healthy

We can reduce the spread of coronavirus and save lives if we maintain social distancing and get help if we are feeling sick.

- Try to stay at least 6 feet apart at all times
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a public washing station
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Avoid groups of tents greater than five (and always ensure at least 6 feet between tents whenever possible)
- If you sleep in a tent, please only have one person inside at a time

Important information:

Under the City's Public Health Order:

- Homeless shelters, resource centers, access points, and permanent supportive housing sites will remain open
- Grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, and other supply stores will remain open
- Public transportation will continue to operate on a limited basis for those needing essential travel to get food or healthcare

If you are staying in a shelter, please stay there:

- Wash your hands frequently, and stay at least six feet away from others
- Anyone currently in a shelter or navigation center will not have to leave because of time limits
- Shelters will expand hours, receive additional cleaning services, and increase meal offerings

If you are living in a public space, in a tent, in a vehicle, or are otherwise unsheltered:

- Please use the City's public restrooms and newly expanded hand-washing stations frequently (see list below)
- Access emergency shelter sites or call 311
- Keep tents at least 6 feet apart and sleep only one person per tent

John Duport, who was working a cleaning run in the Tenderloin, holds up a safety flyer that City workers distributed to people living on the street.

COVID-19 PUBLIC H

Status of key Public Works services and



HEALTH EMERGENCY

programs during shelter in place order



CEMCO 3625162-54 ICC-E5 ESR-3016 ESR-4205 Intertek CCR-0224 CP60 50KSI U5780784



David Hernandez, a Public Works carpenter, works on a COVID-19 safety project at a City health facility.



In response to the public health emergency, we have social distanced our logo.

- ▶ The global crisis tests our resources and the bonds that connect us. It also reveals our resiliency.

The [shelter in place order](#), which went into effect March 17, carves out exceptions for much of the work that San Francisco Public Works performs.

Front-line staff remains on the job with essential services to keep our city safe, clean and resilient – from cleaning the streets and responding to tree emergencies to inspecting construction sites in the public right of way and revamping public health facilities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are humbled and grateful for their continued work.

In addition, many of us have been called to work at the City's Emergency Operations Center to help coordinate the crisis response and work collaboratively with other City departments. Among the priority projects are getting more public toilets and handwashing stations up and running and creating more safe shelters for the unhoused.

Our human resources staff also has been working diligently to help our employees navigate this unparalleled terrain.

Those who can are working remotely from home, among them architects, landscape architects, engineers, the permits team, analysts, finance, communications and IT staff. They continue to keep our important projects going, from the new Ambulance Deployment Facility and Maxine Hall Health Center renovations to the Haight Street and Jefferson Street streetscape improvement projects that will make the streets safer for people who walk and bike.

The IT team has been crucial in the transformation to teleworking; with patience and good humor, they've transitioned hundreds of us to video calls and remote workplaces.

The Public Works #LoveOurCity motto means even more now. Our organization, with some 1,600-plus employees, has responded to the emergency with creativity and flexibility. For a complete list of Public Works essential services, see our [website](#).

Our workers take pride in their responsiveness to community need. We will only get through this together, and we are a strong team!

Townsend Street Makeover Creates Safer Corridor

Earlier this month, Public Works took part in a celebration for the new safety improvements along a busy stretch of the Townsend Street corridor. ►





Our cement crews built the protected bike lane and bus boarding island on Townsend Street to create a safer corridor.



Mayor London Breed stands with Public Works staff who worked on the Townsend project. They were joined by Public Works Director Alaric Degrafinried, fourth from right, and SFMTA Director of Transportation Jeffrey Tumlin, third from right.



The new Townsend Street design keeps people who walk, drive and bike separated for added safety.





► [The project](#), on Townsend, between Fourth and Fifth streets, includes protected bicycle lanes, a pedestrian island to shorten the crossing distance from curb to curb, a new sidewalk, new curb ramps and bus loading islands. The block was resurfaced to make it smoother and safer for all users.

Mayor London Breed led a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the site on March 10.

This portion of Townsend Street, adjacent to the Caltrain Station and close to the ballpark, serves nearly every mode of transportation, including Muni, bikes, scooters, taxis, intercity buses and private vehicles.

The changes make the street less chaotic and easier to navigate. They dovetail into other Vision Zero safety improvements along Townsend Street.

Our crews from the Bureau of Urban Forestry Cement Shop and the Bureau of Street and Sewer Repair constructed the improvements. In all, they laid 1,300 tons of asphalt and 750 cubic yards of concrete.

Others at Public Works were involved with the planning, design, engineering and permitting.

Before the first shovel went into the ground, a lot of smart planning, design work, traffic routing and permitting happened in partnership with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency.



A Fun Family Oasis in the Tenderloin

The sounds of giggling, woo-hooing, screaming-in-delight kids drowned out the grownups as they gave remarks at the official dedication of the newly renovated the Turk-Hyde Mini Park in the heart of the Tenderloin. ►



One look at the giant smile on this boy's face says it all; the remade playground is a hit.



The Opening Day ceremony for the Turk-Hyde Mini Park draws a big crowd.





Kids waste no time in checking out the new play structures.

Turk-Hyde Mini Park, which is staffed daily by Tenderloin Community Benefit District stewards, offers a safe, clean and fun refuge for families.



► The joy springing from the children was palpable as they climbed the natural boulders, navigated a rope structure and slid down a zippy slide at the March 2 Opening Day festivities.

The neighborhood is one of the densest in the City with little open space and that is home to thousands of kids. The Recreation and Park Department's Turk-Hyde Mini Park, which is staffed daily by Tenderloin Community Benefit District stewards, offers a safe, clean and fun refuge for families. The landscaping includes colorful plants aimed to attract butterflies.

There's even a swinging bench for parents and other caregivers to enjoy as they keep watch over their young'uns.

Public Works landscape architecture and electrical engineering teams were involved in the design and delivery of the \$2.2 million project, funded in part by the voter-approved 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond.

Public Works street cleaning crews are in the Tenderloin every day, working hard to keep the neighborhood clean. This park project broadened our reach to improve the diverse neighborhood.

This reimagined park, developed by the City through a strong community partnership, brings a touch of nature to the heart of this compact urban environment.

Making Progress: A State-of-



the-Art Floating Fire Station

A construction worker hoists the last steel beam, affixed with an American flag, atop the new floating fire station.

A construction milestone took place earlier this month to celebrate the steel topping out for the future Fireboat Station 35, which will be a two-story, 15,000-plus square-foot structure behind the existing fireboat house located at Pier 22 ½ along The Embarcadero. ▶







Members of the floating fire station project team gather for the topping-out ceremony.

- ▶ The San Francisco Fire Department's floating station, which is on track for a spring 2021 completion, is being built atop a steel float and anchored by four guide piles, which will allow the structure to rise and fall with the natural tide of the Bay, king tides and anticipated sea-level rise.

The float arrived from Shanghai, China in late March and is temporarily located on Treasure Island. Public Works is managing construction – a joint venture between Swinerton Builders and Power Engineering and Construction.

The existing fireboat house is a beloved San Francisco landmark and will continue to function as Engine Company No. 35 when the floating station arrives from Treasure Island. The San Francisco Fire Department's existing three fireboats and rescue watercraft will be moored at the new facility, and the existing dilapidated Piers 22½ and 24, where they are currently docked, will be demolished and reconstructed to meet current seismic and safety standards.

The Fireboat Station 35 project is funded by the voter-approved 2014 Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response (ESER) bond. The ESER bond program, which addresses critical public safety needs in the City by improving seismically deficient first response facilities, was renewed for a third phase during the March 2020 election with 82 percent voter support.

To learn more about the bond program, visit sfearthquakesafety.org.



Mendell Plaza in the Bayview gets an extra deep cleaning.



SidewalkSpotlightSF Gives Neighborhoods a Cleaning Boost

SidewalkSpotlightSF, our focused operation to deep clean a different neighborhood corridor in San Francisco every week, continued this month in the Outer Richmond and the Bayview. ▶





A flusher truck washes down Balboa Street.

A steam cleaner removes grime from the sidewalk in the Outer Richmond.





A Public Works employee prepares to weed tree basins on 37th Avenue.



Crews scour the public trash cans along Balboa Street.



► In both neighborhoods, our crews picked up trash, steam cleaned the sidewalks and public trash cans, cleaned and weeded tree basins, removed graffiti and flushed down the streets. The difference in the look before and after was startling.

Jenny Lee, a Richmond District resident, stepped out of a Balboa Street bakery with her 2-year-old son and watched the Public Works crews in action. “It looks like a cleaning army out here,” she said, as her son pointed to the truck washing the roadway. “This is fantastic.”

Our staff also went door-to-door speaking with merchants and property owners about their responsibilities to keep their sidewalks clean and tidy. It takes a government-community partnership to keep San Francisco looking good.

The SidewalkSpotlightSF quality-of-life program began Feb. 13 in the Little Saigon neighborhood. That was followed by focused work on Irving

Street in the Sunset District and Castro Street and 18th Street in the Castro. The Bayview cleanup took place on Third Street between Palou and La Salle streets on March 5. The next week, on March 12, we were on Balboa Street between 34th and 39th avenues. Each neighborhood operation requires up to 20 staff working in tandem to get the job done.

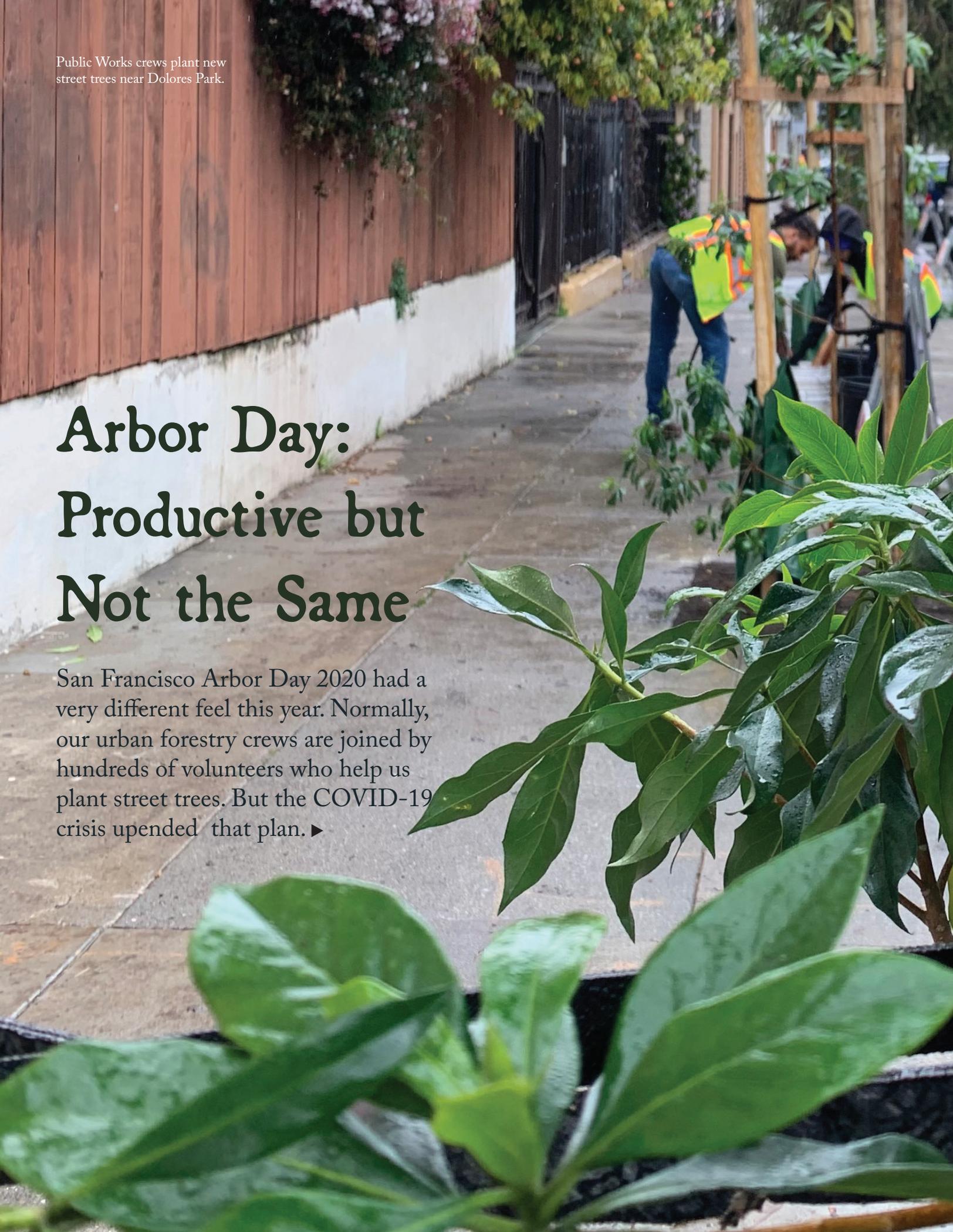
Among the other neighborhoods that had been on the schedule through the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends June 30, are West Portal, Hayes Valley, Excelsior, North Beach, Mission, Fillmore, Haight, Tenderloin, Ocean View, Western Addition and Visitacion Valley.

However, we have had to put the intensive cleanups on hold during the COVID-19 public health emergency so our available crews can concentrate on other street cleaning demands. We hope to start it up again once the shelter in place order is lifted and normal operations can resume.

Public Works crews plant new street trees near Dolores Park.

Arbor Day: Productive but Not the Same

San Francisco Arbor Day 2020 had a very different feel this year. Normally, our urban forestry crews are joined by hundreds of volunteers who help us plant street trees. But the COVID-19 crisis upended that plan. ►









The San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street median welcomes new trees.

Crews build wooden braces to support the saplings.







A Public Works employee checks out the new street trees he helped plant.



► With just a day's notice, and out of an abundance of caution, we canceled our annual Community Clean Team Arbor Day tree-planting volunteer event that had been set for March 14. It was just two days later that the City's Health Officer issued the shelter in place order prohibiting large gatherings.

We certainly missed our volunteers, but our landscape and arborist crews, along with Public Works staff from other bureaus nevertheless got the work done.

As stewards of the City's 124,000-plus street trees under our StreetTreeSF program, Public Works takes tremendous pride in our urban forest and is eager to see it thrive and grow.

We planted 100 magnolia, shoestring acacia, Victorian box and other tree species in Noe Valley, Duboce Triangle and near Dolores Park.

The rain that fell that Saturday morning provided a good start to their new life.

Our crews step up during the COVID-19 crisis to empty the garbage cans at Aquatic Park, part of the National Park Service, after federal authorities said they didn't have the staff on hand to get the job done.

