Read some of the testimonials submitted by de Young Museum patrons about how the ongoing JFK Drive East closure affects their ability to visit Golden Gate Park and the de Young museum.

Please note: these testimonials are unedited, except in some cases where names are redacted.

San Francisco needs safe, inclusive, joyous public spaces for everyone, now more than ever. Golden Gate Park has been INACCESSIBLE for myself, my family and my 16 yr old dog!!! My husband and I are now in our seventies with severe arthritis (probably exacerbated from many years of jogging in park) and other issues. My dog is 16 and we are all disabled.

We are unable to access the Conservatory and the walkways. I cannot take my young Grandchildren to the tree fern grove, fuschia dell, the quiet meadows or any of the places in the eastern area of the park. We have been paying our taxes, contributing money, volunteering for over 50 years and now cannot access our park!! We live on upper Masonic Ave- which has become either a raceway or a bumper to bumper traffic jam- a big hill- and cannot walk or bike to the park at our age.

We cannot take the 3 year old twins and their 7 yr old brother, nor the dogs! The park is supposed to be our green space- but we cannot access with JFK closed. You have turned the Haight into a nightmare of traffic with all the “slow streets”- Page St, lack of parking, lack of loading zones, and bus stops that flare out instead of in. We NEED to be able to be in Nature in the park.

GIVE US BACK OUR CITY AND OUR PARK!!!

Sincerely,
Dr & Mrs Scott Anderson
I would love to renew my membership however without being able to park inside the park I am unable to visit the museum. I am physically unable to walk more than one or two blocks without sitting for a rest due to my knee disability. Paying for parking is not an option for me. My hope is that JFK Drive will be opened for cars and parking again so that I am able to renew my membership and visit the museum and the park.

Best,
Felicia Valmonte
1/1

Hi - As an SF resident and member of both the de Young museum and Academy of Sciences I want to make you aware of the consequences of your possible permanent closure of JFK Drive from Stanyon to 10th Street in Golden Gate Park. My husband and I are in our early 80s and my husband has COPD. We had previously enjoyed visiting the House of Flowers, the de Young museum, and the Academy of Sciences. However, with the closing of JFK Drive, we can no longer easily visit these SF amenities. I understand the value of closing JFK Drive; however, it would be helpful and more equitable for SF seniors if JFK Blvd were open a couple of week days so that seniors like us could easily visit these places. By the way, my husband feels it's silly to build a road with all the reasons for building it and then close it.

Joanne Stack
1/1
Now that the DeYoung has opened I'm interested in what's being done, if anything, to resume weekday vehicular traffic and on-street parking on JFK Drive.

As a Marin resident the $7.00+ Golden Gate bridge toll plus garage parking will force a reconsideration of membership renewal as too expensive and inconvenient.

Thank you for your e-response.

Sincerely,
[Name redacted]

My husband and I have been members of the SF Fine Arts Museums for many years and before Covid were visiting several times a year. We live in Santa Rosa and are retired but [HAVING] a day out, so to speak, it takes some planning to do so, especially at our ages. My husband has walking issues thus he has a disabled placard. We have always been lucky to find a disabled parking place on John F. Kennedy Drive near the side entrance to the de Young Museum which is close enough for him to walk in albeit slowly.

I recently made a reservation to view the Frida Kahlo exhibit which will be our first visit to San Francisco in over a year! However, I noticed that John F. Kennedy Drive is now closed to automobile traffic. Upon looking into this and reviewing our options, I find I have to cancel our ticketed reservations for next Tuesday April 20th. This is quite a disappointment for us both but we really need the easier access to the de Young Museum that those disabled parking spots on John F. Kennedy Drive give us.
We do hope that this parking situation can be rectified so we are able to visit the museum together again.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warm Regards,
Janis Oatham

This letter is a Request to both dismiss parking violation PD 34395841 issued on March 23 2021 at 11:21 am. by Ranger badge number 19 (cannot read his signature) and have Access parking returned to sites that should be used and improve access information. We visited the de Young on that date. My wife and I have been living in CA for more than 60 years. We are both in early 80’s. We have been and are members of de Young, Fine Arts Museums, Legion of Honor plus that of local museums and State Universities. We tried to cautiously visit.

We both, as many others have been confined due to Covids. We completed our second vaccine shots and waited 15 days, as recommended by our Dr’s, to travel and visit open facilities. We contacted de Young to renew membership and obtain tickets to view the Frieda Kahlo Exhibit. It was great. Thank you de Young.

Before going we had contacted the museum, by phone, to both renew membership and obtain tickets plus request information regarding handicap parking. They provided us with a web site access@famsf.org which we downloaded. We also printed a map of handicap parking. See attachments.
I am a survivor of open heart, aortic valve replacement followed by contraction of Guillain Barre Syndrome 7 days after surgery. Spent 40 days in hospital intensive care with 17 days of intubation, another 40 days in intensive rehabilitation to send brain signals for swallow, breath, move commands, etc. Another 10 days in the Valley Med John Sobrato intensive rehab center to further rebuild lost muscle and retrain brain to activate muscle signals, learn how to safely get out of bed, use a wheel chair, use a walker, get up after a fall etc. We are all so appreciative of that facility. Spent 6 more months in home therapy. Met and went to other classes Kaiser sponsored by UAL that had others that will never be able to walk or even move without caregivers. Changed my whole perspective on life and that of handicapped. Others worse than me. I feel blessed. I can walk on level smooth ground, swallow, dress, feed, clean. Eyes still go out of focus occasionally and legs sometimes need a reboot/move signal. Point is I am limited to visit places that have access parking near entries, flat smooth spaces with resting points to sit or lean both on the way, inside and back. I must research for all travel which we thought we did.

When arriving off of Martin Luther King there were none of the 6 open Handicap/Access parking spaces at Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive which is one way down = Do not enter. Next street up is Concourse Drive which leads to 21 spaces. Stopped when we saw Ranger 19 and asked if he knew current info of open Access parking spaces. He did not know and said maybe garage. We were advised earlier that if any they were not free and were limited plus limited/no transit to de Young. I would not be able to walk from garage to museum. We drove up to park as shown on the access Parking Map attached with a circle of where I believe we parked. THE SPACES WERE NOT HOODED AS NON OP. THERE WERE NO SIGNS NOT TO USE OR WHERE TO GO. We did not have to turn right, left or make a U turn but simply drove straight through to spaces. Made sure we were in lines marked on pavement. Exited car and looked for any signs saying closed/road under repair/skate boards only /special event etc. We saw several skate
boards with one electric. Did we park in a Skate board only zone? Walked slowly and rested along way.

Upon exiting de Young we found the attached ticket. Officer 19 came over to tell us that this part of drive and parking has been temporarily closed for over a year. Sounds like the word temporarily should be changed to INDEFINATE. Why is it closed? Why so long? Why are the posts not hooded and signs posted “Closed” and where to go? Why is it not used for Access parking? How many other handicap people have been ticketed here? How is this area of the park, and all of the park, going to be able to provide legal Federal and State mandated handicap access to parking? Why are your web sites not up to date with maps and info? Why do Rangers not know where nearby free access parking is? Lots more Whys?

Request and Suggestions
Please dismiss this ticket and all others sent to people like myself with Placards. Please answer all the “WHYS”. Open and expand that area to Access parking until you have a plan that accommodates the legal numbers of Access parking spaces required by the State. Looks like 60% plus spaces are no longer available. If area cannot be used for Access Parking find equal nearby area till whatever is causing closure is resolved. Update and maintain info on web site. Strongly consider free Valet parking for all members including handicapped. We have that at all of our local Kaiser Hospitals. We are an aging population and numbers will increase. Provide your Rangers with better advise.

As shown above will also send this to FAMSF. They may have answers and solutions. I am open to offer help to resolve/suggest issues regarding handicapped.

Best,
Ed and Suzanne Ford
I appreciate the information of people to contact to express my displeasure of the closure of JFK Drive.

I am handicapped and always knew I could find a handicap parking space within a block of the museum. That let me know I could visit the museum on week days and park on the street. I also could park near and visit the Conservancy, Dahlia Garden and Rose Garden when I wanted. I did not mind sharing the Drive with a bike lane and found that the bikers were few in number and respectful. I never went to the park on a weekend when I thought there would be more bikers and people in general.

I am aware of the garage with access to the museum but is is very expensive which also limits my visits.

What I wish is JFK Drive would be open on week days and if necessary closed on weekends. Seems to me that would satisfy most people.

Museum Member