



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

*** Press Release ***

Mission Playground Renovation is Getting Started!!

Park Neighbors, Supporters and City Officials Break Ground on a New Clubhouse, Synthetic Turf Soccer Field and Water Garden with Sparkling Mist, Foaming Geysers and Tropical Rain Showers!!!

For Immediate Release

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SAN FRANCISCO— City officials and friends and neighbors in the city's Mission District celebrated today the official start of a \$7.5 million renovation project that will transform the asphalt-laden Mission Playground into an urban oasis, complete with new play equipment, a water garden and a brand new state-of-the-art soccer field.

"The importance of parks and open space cannot be underscored in densely populated neighborhoods like the Mission," said District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener. "Today is an important step forward as we continue to try to provide the world-class park amenities our residents need and desire."

Park repairs will include remodeling the old and worn-down clubhouse for seismic safety and increased natural light, resurfacing the busy tennis and basketball courts, replanting a lawn, installing new children's play equipment, improving park accessibility and safety, and replacing the old, asphalt soccer field with a state-of-the-art synthetic turf field.

(more)



Mission Playground Renovation Groundbreaking
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Following in the footsteps of other successful Mission District park renovations, a new water garden will feature ornamental fountains spraying mist and showering water for young children's play and delight. A local artist, Michael Bartalos, designed a new decorative park fence along Valencia with whimsical characters and scenes celebrating the colorful and unique neighborhood.

Most of the park improvements are funded through the 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond. The non-profit City Fields Foundation is donating the soccer field renovation as part of the Playfields Initiative partnership with Recreation and Parks, which seeks to eliminate the deficit of sports fields for youth athletics in San Francisco.

In the past six years, the City Fields Foundation has helped renovate dozens of athletic fields at six parks throughout the city, adding an additional 66,000 hours of play time to the city's fields and resulting in an additional 1,800 kids playing sports each year.

"For decades, Mission Playground has hosted extremely competitive evening pick-up soccer games on an asphalt field," said Susan Hirsch of the City Fields Foundation. "The City Fields Foundation is proud to be renovating the asphalt field with new synthetic turf and replacing the old lights with energy efficient, automated field lights. There's no good reason why the most competitive walk-up soccer game in San Francisco should be played on asphalt."

On Thursday, Supervisor Wiener and Hirsch were joined by Phil Ginsburg, general manager of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

"Providing the public with clean, safe and fun parks is our top priority," said Ginsburg, general manager of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. "Our partnership with the City Fields Foundation has been instrumental in achieving that goal as we continue to renovate our park and recreation spaces throughout the city."

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