



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

April 23, 2014

Dear Noe Courts Park Neighbors:

Noe Courts Park, located at the 24th/Douglass Streets, is a small neighborhood park (0.925-acre) containing a basketball court, tennis court, multi-use lawn area, children's playground and restrooms. Both the basketball and tennis courts also function as multi-purpose spaces due to the diverse, recreational demand at this small, neighborhood park.

Under the 2008 Parks Bond Restroom Program, the Noe Courts restroom building is slated for improvements, including a wheelchair-accessible ramp to the playground. Concurrently the Friends of Noe Courts obtained a grant from the 2008 Parks Bond Community Opportunity Fund in the amount of \$211,000 to improve lawn drainage and the walkways, terraced seating, site furnishings and landscaping. To coordinate these two funded projects and potential future ones, the SF Recreation and Park Department decided it would be most efficient to develop a park improvement plan. This would be an exciting opportunity for the neighborhood and park users to re-imagine Noe Courts Park for the next generation of park users.

The SF Recreation and Park Department held four community meetings from May 2013 to November 2013 to develop a park improvement plan. All park users were equally encouraged to participate. Public notices were mailed to addresses within a 300' radius, and posted at Noe Courts Park and on the SF Rec and Park website.

A common theme that arose in the first two meetings was the need for a clean, green space that is not dominated by dog activity, and a general need for more green space. In these same meetings, the participants overwhelmingly supported removal of the tennis court to create additional green space particularly for "people only" activities. However at the third community meeting, a showing of new participants expressed support in keeping the tennis court. In an effort to reassess the community's preference, a fourth (and last) community meeting was held to provide participants with options to change the park layout by removing the tennis court or by keeping a tennis court as part of a multi-use set up. Community participants also had the option to keep the tennis court by maintaining the *status quo*. Although the individual option to maintain the *status quo* received the most votes, the combined votes for all "change" options indicate a preference for a new layout because current conditions are not meeting the community's needs.

Please note that SF Rec and Park will resurface the tennis courts on Flint Street to a playable condition. Furthermore three additional tennis courts are in proximity to Noe Courts Park at Douglass Playground, Upper Noe Rec Center and Christopher Playground.

Noe Courts Park Improvement Plan Proposal

The “change” option receiving the most votes was presented as “Option A’ at the last community meeting. It depicts relocating the basketball court in place of the tennis court to create new green space at the northwest area of the park for “people only” use. An existing lawn area resides to the east and functions as multi-use. However the SF Recreation and Park Department recommends the following modifications in support of other park uses:

- 1) To maintain the tennis opportunity at Noe Courts, the SF Recreation and Park Department is proposing to combine basketball and tennis on the same court space. SF Rec and Park shall evaluate the best hours of use for each activity and will post a priority schedule for these activities. The priority schedule is subject to change.
- 2) To improve the proximity of the playground with the “people only” lawn, SF Rec and Park is proposing to switch the “people only” lawn with the multi-use lawn space. A perimeter fence will surround the “people only” lawn area to exclude other uses.

The proposed Park Improvement Plan (enclosed) acknowledges current park uses while accommodating future needs. Implementation of the proposed plan would occur in phases based on the availability of funding. Phase 1 improvements, located in the eastern portion of the site, are currently funded and would include the following scope:

- Restroom renovation
- Wheelchair-accessible path between restroom and playground
- Lawn drainage
- Walkway improvements
- Terraced seating
- Site furnishings
- Landscaping

The SF Recreation and Park Department will present the proposed Park Improvement Plan to the Capital Committee of the Recreation and Park Commission for consideration on May 7, 2014, at 2:00 PM (Wed); and to the Recreation and Park Commission for final action on May 15, 2014, at 10:00 AM (Thu). Both hearings will be held in City Hall, Room 416. Public comments are welcome at these hearings. Please visit www.sfrecpark.org for any changes to the hearing dates.

