

UPDATES

Lake Merced on the Mend? A lake that has dropped 50% of its volume in 60 years is obviously in serious trouble. That's why **Supervisor Tony Hall's** announcement of a first step toward reaching an agreement between San Francisco and Daly City to split the cost of routing storm water into the lake and to reduce the amount of water being pumped easy from the West Side Aquifer (which feeds the lake) came as such good news. Yet to be determined, however, is how much water D.C. will be allowed to pump from wells on its golf courses, so don't pop the cork on the bubbly just yet.

Also Around City Hall. Nothing short of cloning could make it easy to be both chair of the Rules committee and a member of the Finance committee. After giving it a go, district 5 **Supervisor Matt Gonzalez** is now moving over to the Neighborhood Services and Parks Committee from Finance, switching seats with district 11 **Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval**. Welcome aboard, Matt!

Laissez les bon temps rouler! That was the crowd's mandate when New Orleans funkster **Zigaboo Modeliste** took the stage at the **McLaren Park Funk Project**. At 90-plus degrees, October 14th was made to order for a funk festival, and 600 party people shook their groove thangs accordingly at the NPC benefit for the Red Cross.

Cleaning Up Franklin Square. It should be an urban oasis in district 6. Instead it is a "needle park," littered with discarded hypodermic needles, human waste, and beer cans. The thirty **Americorps** volunteers who took action in the neglected park on **Make a Difference Day**, picking up trash and pulling weeds, provided a glimpse of the clean, welcoming space Franklin Square could be. Special thanks to NPC's own **Liz Donnelly** for coordinating the event and **Miriam Moss** and **Eugenie Marek** for pitching in.

Voted Down. It must have seemed like a good idea at one time. But the proposed legislation requiring 24-hours notification before removing personal property from public spaces, including city parks, would've resulted in trash-strewn open space, additional work for already overextended RPD staff, and little real help for homeless persons. The supes wisely nixed the measure.

Park Event of the Year? The STRICTLY BLUEGRASS festival bankrolled by financier, banjo picker, and park pal Warren Hellman will be hard to beat for this honor. **Emmylou Harris** and **Alison Krauss** headlined the star-studded free music festival October 27 at Speedway Meadows in GGP. Brand new **House Majority Whip Nancy Pelosi**, **Mayor Jerry Brown**, **Supervisors Aaron Peskin** and **Tony Hall**, and **City Treasurer Susan Leal** turned out for the post-park soiree at Slim's.

A Talk on a Thorny Issue. San Francisco has long been a city of transplants – its flora included. How do native plants compare with, say, Mediterranean species, especially when it comes to the resources needed to maintain our lovely landscape? The NPC panel discussion "**Native Plants and Habitat Restoration: A Broad Perspective**" will examine both sides of the native-versus-non-native-species issue. **Ruth Gravanis**, **Lisa Hokholt**, **Art Shapiro**, and **Mike**

Vasey are scheduled to speak. They will also field audience questions. The discussion will take place at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12**, in the State Building Basement, 455 Golden Gate Avenue. A wine and cheese reception begins at 6:00 p.m.

A Living Memorial. The NPC/RPD initiative to plant thousands of bulbs in remembrance of those who died in September's terrorist attacks got underway on October 27th at Park Presidio Boulevard's annual daffodil planting. The effort in San Francisco supports the memorial planting of one million yellow tulips and daffodils in NYC. Special thanks to Park Presidio stalwarts **Patty Phleger** and **Carol Brost**, **RPD General Manager Elizabeth Goldstein** and **Supervisor Jake McGoldrick** for helping with the kick-off.

New Staff at NPC. **Tracy Baxter**, Information and Outreach Program Manager; **Amber Rosenberg**, Communications Director; **Vidya Tikku**, District Park Planning Program Manager at your service!

Looking for a great holiday gift idea? Give a subscription to **Bay Nature Magazine!** For only \$16 (\$3 off the regular price), you can give your friends and family members a treat full of gorgeous images, insightful articles and valuable information about the Bay Area's legendary natural world. For more information, go to: www.baynature.com/gifts.html or call (925) 372-6002.

—Tracy Baxter

SAVE THE DATE
THE NPC HOLIDAY PARTY
WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 6 AT 5 BUENA VISTA TERRACE
AT DUBOCE FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.
SEE YOU THERE!

THANK YOU

Americorp Volunteers	The Honorable Susan Leal
Carol Brost	Judith Anne Lockhart
Alexander Clemmons	Mary McAllister
Cole Hardware	Nurserymen's Exchange
Grace D'Anca	Nancy Dobbs Owens
Angela Patricia Duque	Patti Phleger
Floor Craft Garden Center	Ariana Sexton
Barry J. Frankel	Shindig Productions
Walter & Elise Haas Fund	Sloat Garden Center
Supervisor Tony Hall	Maurico Vela
Mary and Al Harris	Christopher Woods
Kelly Properties	Margaret Woods
Daniele Kent	Togo's Eatery

The **Neighborhood Parks Council** is a non-profit project of Urban Resource Systems. It is funded by grants and private donations. Your contribution would be deeply appreciated and is fully tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

The NPC is a non-profit coalition of community-based park groups that are actively involved in improving and restoring neighborhood parks in San Francisco. Our mission is to launch a renaissance in the parks and recreation system that will be sustainable for future generations.

CONTINUED

IN MEMORIAM

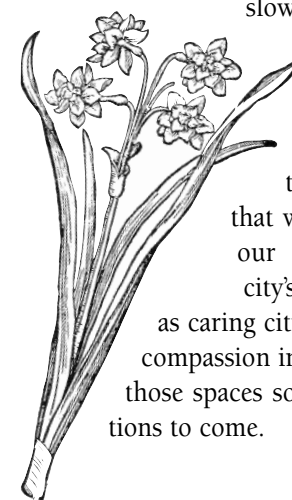
Friends in Park Movement...continued

keep pace with inflation.

Existing parks need continued investment. Until the passage of Proposition A last year, San Francisco had not had a citywide bond for parks in over 50 years! Parks and recreation centers are capital assets as well as environmental ones. We need to protect our original investment as well as ensure improvements that can meet public expectations. Since everyone not only benefits from parks but also needs them, no development should be exempt from the open space requirement. A second revenue-generating idea, therefore, is to impose a small but graduated fee for parks on every residential development permit. In this way, we could ensure that every neighborhood—not just new ones such as Mission Bay—has appropriately developed play spaces and green respites for children, adults and even dogs.

A third idea is to modify the existing mechanism of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to create PIDs (Park Improvement Districts). One quasi example already exists at Union Square where surrounding businesses have created a "clean and safe" assessment based on linear square footage on the street front to pay for increased security and garbage removal. An actual PID could also help pay for park maintenance, as is the case at Bryant Park in New York City. In fact, many cities place their entire area within a landscape assessment district to raise funds specifically for maintenance. Oakland raises up to \$11 million a year with this method.

What many of us love most about San Francisco is the sense of community that we feel in our neighborhood spaces—especially in times of dire need. One need only think of how the city pulled together after Jonestown or the assassination of Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Milk to realize the strength of our collective compassion. We can take advantage of the



slower development pace precipitated by the economic downturn, and the uncertainty of international events, to plan and test cost-saving and revenue-generating ideas, and to be creative in a thoughtful way that will contribute to our quality of life, our community foundations, and our city's environment. Let's come together as caring citizens to share our strengths and our compassion in our public spaces; and let's cherish those spaces so that we have them for the generations to come.

—Isabel Wade,
Executive Director

IN MEMORIAM

Bicoastal Initiative to Plant Flowers in City Parks in Remembrance of September 11th Victims

The **Neighborhood Parks Council** and the **Recreation and Park Department** are planning a citywide initiative to plant thousands of bulbs in San Francisco's neighborhood parks in remembrance of those who died in September's terrorist attacks. This memorial planting is in support of the effort by the Parks Council, our counterpart in New York City, inviting thousands of New Yorkers to come together to plant one million yellow tulips and daffodils in NY parks as a living memorial to the World Trade Center victims.

The first site of this budding effort was Park Presidio Boulevard. On October 27th, volunteers led by the Park Presidio Neighbors—the folks who have been gardening along the boulevard for the last four years—planted bulbs as part of what is now a "sea to shining sea" memorial.

Additionally, the following park groups have scheduled upcoming plantings:

Who: Friends of Dolores Park
When: December 1st, 2001
Contact: Donald Bird
Phone: 415-864-4614

Who: Friends of Buena Vista Park
When: December 1st, 2001
Contact: Isabel Wade
Phone: 415-621-3260

Who: Friends of Holly Park
When: December 1st and 8th, 2001
Contact: Eugenie Marek
Phone: 415-826-0236

Who: Friends of Crocker Amazon
When: December 1st, 2001
Contact: Steve Currier
Phone: 415-587-9156

We would like to invite your group to create flower memorials in your park during November and December. If you're interested and would like more information, please contact **Amber Rosenberg**, **Neighborhood Parks Council**, 415-621-3260.

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