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Low Scoring Playgrounds Finally Get Some Love

Leading park advocacy organization, Neighborhood Parks Council, joins forces with Rec and Park Department to activate the San Francisco community to improve their playgrounds

SAN FRANCISCO, CA--In promotion of National Playground Safety Week 2007 and TV Turnoff Week, Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC) and the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD) are initiating a series of playground workdays to resolve maintenance issues at the 30 city playgrounds that received a low grade on NPC's 2006 Playground Report Card. By allocating department and community resources, this initiative demonstrates RPD and NPC's commitment to raising the grade of SF playgrounds. The kickoff "Love My Playground" event will take place at Balboa Playground (located at San Jose and Sgt. John V. Young Lane) on Saturday April 28th, from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Starting with NPC's 2006 Playground Report Card, a survey of all 144 playgrounds in San Francisco, RPD and NPC have partnered in a commitment to raise the grade of SF playgrounds. This on-going partnership will run on two-year cycles: the first year will be spent assessing the playgrounds, and during the following year, necessary repair and maintenance will be done to raise the grade of the low-scoring playgrounds.

We are now calling on the community to join forces with RPD and NPC to improve the condition of all our playgrounds. Jed Levin, Volunteer Playground Advocate, emphasizes the importance of this partnership: "It's crucial that parents, community-based-organizations and RPD invest in the process of improving our playgrounds and maintaining these properties at the highest standard."

Come give a little love to your neighborhood playground on April 28th by helping Friends of Balboa Playground sift and replace sand and clean up playground litter, while celebrating the start of this city-wide playground clean-up initiative! You will also have the opportunity to join other local playground groups and sign up for future workdays.

For more information, visit www.sfnpc.org. To RSVP, call NPC at (415) 621-3260 or e-mail Chloe Good at cgood@sfnpc.org. For more information about the RPD Volunteer Program, please contact Kristin Bowman at (415) 831-6330 or Kristin.Bowman@sfgov.org, or visit www.parks.sfgov.org.