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PARK GROUPS RECEIVE \$2500 CASH AWARDS

Neighborhood Parks Council Awards Volunteers for Park Beautification, Fundraising

San Francisco, CA-- Each year, more than 100 park groups volunteer to improve their neighborhood parks through pulling weeds, cleaning up litter, reporting maintenance issues through ParkScan.org, and fundraising for park improvements. For the past 3 years, Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC) has awarded \$2500 prizes to 3 outstanding park groups to recognize the valuable contribution of these park volunteers.

“Neighborhood Parks Council established the Stewardship Awards to honor the efforts of volunteer park groups across the city,” says Isabel Wade, Executive Director of NPC. “Their help is essential to the ongoing maintenance and beautification of our beloved public parks and gardens.”

On Tuesday, May 22nd, District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi will present the awards at NPC’s Stewardship Awards Luncheon at the Mission Bay Conference Center. Prizes will go to the following groups:

- * Friends of Duboce Park: Outstanding Park Group Award
- * Garden for the Environment: Outstanding Environmental Achievement
- * 24th Street Friends of Mini-Park: Outstanding Effort for a Capital Project

In addition, a special award will be presented to an outstanding youth program:

- * Lowell High School, Adopt-A-Park Program

The Friends of Duboce Park, Outstanding Park Group Award winners, were the first group in the city to raise significant money (\$250,000) for a new playground in their park. The group’s activities “bring neighbors together and contribute to our feeling of community,” says Duboce Friends member Mark Scheuer.

The Garden for the Environment (GFE) will be honored for its role as leader of the sustainable agriculture movement in San Francisco. Suzi Palladino of GFE comments, “We are honored to receive this award, as we value the partnerships NPC provides for greening projects throughout the City.”

The Friends of the 24th Street Mini Park will be awarded for the artistic renovation of their park, which reopened in November 2006. The new playground design, featuring a mosaic serpent for kids to play on, was the result of 2 years of community planning. The group’s spokesperson Erick Arguello believes that “when people come together, anything is possible.”

A special award for Youth Environmental Achievement will be given to Lowell High School’s Adopt-A-Park Club for their beautification project at Rolph-Nicol Park. Jack

Cen, the group's leader, is proud that "a group of teenagers with a vision for a more scenic walk to school has paved the way for a more beautiful future" for the park.

About Neighborhood Parks Council: Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC) advocates for a superior, equitable and sustainable park and recreation system. NPC provides leadership and support to park users through community-driven stewardship, education, planning and research.

NPC is a coalition of community-based park groups actively involved in improving neighborhood parks throughout San Francisco. Since 1996, NPC has grown to include 120+ park groups and 4,000 park volunteers, establishing itself as San Francisco's premier park advocacy group.