



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS COUNCIL

### **Nominate Park Heroes for Recognition and Prizes at the Fourth Annual Stewardship Awards Luncheon**

The Neighborhood Parks Council is pleased to announce our fourth round of awards for park groups that have accomplished extraordinary things in their neighborhood parks. Three awards are offered: Grand Prize of \$2500, second is \$1500 and third is \$1000.

Park group efforts in San Francisco are critical to the upkeep, restoration, beauty and usability of our parks. The energy, strength and determination of our City's residents to help care for and improve our beloved parks make volunteers one of San Francisco's greatest civic assets.

Please help us acknowledge this tremendous commitment of volunteers by nominating your park group or another that you think has done outstanding work. The prizes recognize effort in any or all of the following categories: active park workdays, beautification successes, organizing volunteers, government and civic advocacy, fundraising, capital improvements and use of ParkScan.org.

Please distribute the nomination forms widely. Awards will be given at the Annual Stewardship Awards Luncheon on May 14<sup>th</sup> at Mission Bay Community Center at noon.

**PLEASE RETURN THE NOMINATION FORMS AND ALL SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTS TO NPC PRIOR TO APRIL 14, 2008.**

**Additional forms can be downloaded on the NPC Website**

[www.sfnpc.org](http://www.sfnpc.org)

**Submit to: Meredith Thomas, Program Manager**

[mthomas@sfnpc.org](mailto:mthomas@sfnpc.org)

**Fax: 415-703-0889**

**451 Hayes St, Second Floor**

**San Francisco, Ca 94102**

**451 Hayes Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102**

**T: 415.621.3260 F: 415.703.0889 [www.sfnpc.org](http://www.sfnpc.org)**

**A project of Urban Resource Systems**



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS COUNCIL

### **Recognizing Outstanding Park Groups:**

Recognizes efforts in any or all of the following: active park workdays, beautification successes, organizing volunteers, government and civic advocacy, fundraising, capital improvements and ParkScan.org activity.

**\*\*This form and attached documents should be returned to NPC prior to April 14, 2008 to ensure the recommended group receives full awards consideration.\*\***

Nominated Park Group: \_\_\_Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park\_\_\_\_\_

Park Name & Location: \_\_\_Upper Douglass Dog Park (27<sup>th</sup> St at Douglass St)\_

Park Group Key Contact Phone and e-mail:

\_\_\_Denise Spielman | e-mail: dmspielman@yahoo.com | Tel: 415-\_\_\_

Recommended By:

\_\_\_Elizabeth Statmore\_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_1131 Diamond Street, San Francisco CA 94114\_\_\_

Phone:

\_\_\_415-695-1930\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail:

\_\_\_statmore@earthlink.net \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach a detailed description of the reason for your nomination (500 words or less, please). Additionally, submit letters, photos, testimonials or other documentation that explain the illuminate the successes of the nominated park group.**

### **Nomination Submission Guidelines**

**451 Hayes Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102**

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1. Winning park groups must be able to attend the Awards Luncheon on May 14, 2008 at the Mission Bay Conference Center at UCSF
2. Nominations are open to all park groups of San Francisco parks and open spaces (i.e. property owned by the city and county of San Francisco).
3. The definition of a Park includes all parks, natural areas, stairs, community gardens, greenways and center islands. Golf courses are excluded.
4. You may nominate only one group or individual
5. Groups or individuals may self-nominate.
6. Nominations will be accepted by mail, e-mail, or fax until 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2008. Mail: 451 Hayes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102

E-mail: Meredith Thomas, Program Manager [mthomas@sfnpc.org](mailto:mthomas@sfnpc.org)  
(include Awards Nomination in the subject line)

Fax: 415-731-0889

**Thanks and Good Luck!**

Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park (FUDDP) is unique within San Francisco for its ability to transform a formerly scraggly, unloved-looking no-man's-land where into a vibrant community centerpiece.

By organizing innovative and spirited fundraising events such as Dogtoberfest and large-scale self-care programs -- including clean-up days that regularly draw 30 to 50 people on a Saturday morning -- Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park brings together a broad range of park stakeholders of all ages and levels of ability. FUDDP truly represents the diversity of our particular dog-loving community.

Some noteworthy accomplishments of the 2007-2008 season:

- involved neighborhood groups and merchants through innovative and spirited fundraising programs, such as Dogtoberfest 2007
- raised funds for a new drinking fountain for both human and canine park lovers, which we hope to see “go live” in spring 2008!
- increased public awareness of our park and park group through effective PR and news campaigns (see the story on FUDDP in the Oct-2007 issue of the Noe Valley Voice):

*<http://www.noevalleyvoice.com/2007/October/Sht.html>*

- united park stakeholders and increased communication over the web using our FUDDP Google Group and web site ( <http://www.fuddp.org> ) - with over 130 active members!
  - organized quarterly clean-ups that regularly draw 30-50 people on a Saturday morning to do park maintenance in partnership with Rec and Park
- brought together a broad range of park stakeholders of all ages, interests, and levels of ability based on our shared values and interests

truly represented the diversity of our neighborhood and community

Highlights from the 2007-2008 season follow this summary.

# PARK CLEAN-UP — Saturday, 29-Mar-08





Oh, sure—Rec and Park may *deliver* the top soil, but... it takes a village to spread it around!



Unrolling the new fencing around the newly turned grass area (provided by Peggy, Scout, and Billie)



Everybody pitches in.



No spectators here!

You'd like me to do... **what exactly???**



Rec and Park runs the heavy equipment while we "person" the hand tools.



[March 2007](#)[RETURN TO HOME PAGE](#)[FEEDBACK](#)

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# Dogs' Best Friends Take the Lead at Upper Douglass Park

*By Lorraine Sanders*

At Upper Douglass Dog Park, a designated off-leash area at the corner of Douglass and 27th streets, some pet owners have been taking cues from their canine pals. No, they haven't been eating mud, stealing tennis balls, and scampering up the cliffs behind the three-acre park. Rather, they've been developing an enthusiasm for another doggie trait: the pack mentality.

In recent months, the park's bipedal users have banded together, both to protect the park as a safe place for their pets and to organize efforts for future park improvements.

"While many people in the group have worked for years as individuals or in small groups to ensure a safe, enjoyable, and well-maintained park environment, it is only over the last four or five months that we have begun to coalesce into a more organized group," says Eden Halbert, a Noe Valley resident who runs the dog-care company SF DogZone with a little help from her "assistant," a stately Siberian husky mix named Luna.

Halbert is no stranger to park improvement projects. As a co-founder of Friends of Noe Courts Park, she has worked with residents to raise almost \$500,000 towards improvements for the playground at the corner of Douglass and 24th streets. She also organized a community cleanup day at Upper Douglass Dog Park in October that drew about 35 people who pitched in to pick up stray poop, fill in holes in the ground, and patch parts of the fence that borders the off-leash area.

As more and more people expressed interest in maintaining and improving the space, Halbert, who sits on the board of Friends of Noe Valley, joined with Carrie Varoquiers, a fellow board member who visits the park daily with her dog Malone, to formally establish a neighborhood group dedicated to the park. In 2007, they have set up a Google group that currently counts about 100 members to discuss park issues and to work towards a prioritized list of ideas for park betterment. The group recently held a community park cleanup day at the end of February, and a Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park web site is also in the works.

While the official Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park group is just getting started, its formation reflects a sense of community that has existed at the park for a long time.

"We originally formed the group because there are all these things that we keep talking about, and we just wanted to see where the consensus was," says Denise Spielman, a loyal park user who visits the park daily with her dog Yasmin.

Many of the regulars were already familiar with each other before the group formed. Indeed, on any given day, park users can be found chatting in small groups, catching up on each other's day-to-day lives, and trading pet stories while their dogs romp on the park's grassy terrain. "For [Yasmin], it's like the ideal place. For me, it's a great social interaction," Spielman says.

The hope is that the new group will not only make communication among frequent park users easier and more efficient, but will also aid active dog walkers and owners when they interact with the city's Recreation and Park Department and launch fundraising efforts for park projects, such as a new dog

water fountain, a working irrigation system, and a gated front entrance.

According to Colleen Flynn, stewardship program manager for the Neighborhood Parks Council (SFNPC), forming an organized and solid park group is a key element of park upkeep and improvement in the face of park and recreation budget cuts, which she estimates will reach \$1 million in the city this year. "We firmly believe that building stewardship for the neighborhood helps to maintain the space and keep it active and helps the city maintain the space," Flynn says.

Forming a park group can also have financial benefits. Each year, the SFNPC selects three San Francisco park groups to receive a \$2,500 prize to be used toward future improvements. Winners are selected for exceptional volunteer work in the following categories: Outstanding Environmental Achievement, Outstanding Effort for a Capital Project, and Outstanding Park Group. The deadline for 2007 nominations is March 15.

In the coming months, the Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park will be working to determine which issues are most important to park users. Currently, water fountains, better drainage, and fencing repairs are the most common items mentioned on an ongoing survey posted on the Google group page.

But even with a cohesive group working to create a better park for dogs and humans alike, changes must ultimately be approved by the city.

"Things don't happen overnight. There are processes there for a reason, and it's easy to get frustrated by what we perceive as red tape, but these are public lands, there's a process in place for making sure that the public has input," Halbert said.

*To join or learn more about the Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park, visit <http://groups.google.com/group/UpperDouglass> or e-mail Halbert at [eden@sfdogzone.com](mailto:eden@sfdogzone.com). Neighbors concerned about excessive noise, barking, or other park issues may also contact Halbert via e-mail.*