

**MEDIA RELEASE****Embargoed until August 6, 2009:****CONTACTS:**

Meredith Thomas, Executive Director  
Neighborhood Parks Council  
mthomas@sfnpc.org  
Phone: 415-621-3260  
Cell: 415-728-3354

Lisa Seitz-Gruwell  
Recreation and Parks Department  
Lisa.seitz@sfgov.org  
Phone: 415-831-2740

**Innovative Partnership Brings Large-scale Greening Project to San Francisco's Parks**

**San Francisco, CA, July 31, 2009.** On the afternoons of August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, some 1700 athletes from the JCC Maccabi Games® will clean and beautify 17 of San Francisco's neediest public parks and playgrounds with the support and guidance of the Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC) and Recreation & Parks Department (RPD).

The JCC Maccabi Games® are hosted by the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco (JCCSF) and will take place from Aug. 2 to 7, 2009. The Games are an Olympic-style sporting competition held each summer in North America since 1982. However, this will be the first time that San Francisco has hosted the internationally acclaimed event. The Games, which revolve around athletic competition for Jewish teens ages 13 to 16, also include formal Opening Ceremonies, social events, and a community service project known as DOCAS, or the Days of Caring and Sharing, which allows visiting athletes and coaches to give back to their host community.

The 2009 San Francisco DOCAS is focused on improving public parks and playgrounds that are in need of a little extra attention. Last year, the NPC and RPD Playground Initiative committed to improving 26 San Francisco playgrounds that received a failing grade in NPC's 2008 Playground Report Card. This commitment stemmed from a shared belief that every child in San Francisco deserves access to quality play space, regardless of income level or ethnicity. The Days of Caring and Sharing project will support to this important mission by putting the athletes to work creating a safer, greener and more beautiful San Francisco!

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