



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor  
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

\*\*\* Press Release \*\*\*

## **Rec and Park Receives \$25K Grant for Lights at Mission Playground** *U.S. Soccer Foundation Award Will Help Increase Play at Popular Park Site*

**Immediate Release**

January 18, 2011

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**SAN FRANCISCO--** Soccer players soon won't be left in the dark at Mission Playground, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the United States Soccer Foundation to furnish the facility with lighting that will help extend play time into the evening and more than double the number of soccer players served at the popular neighborhood park.

It is anticipated that the new lights will help provide recreational opportunities to approximately 40,000 soccer players each year, up from 17,000.

"Our staff has been proactive in searching out various avenues to help improve our parks," said Phil Ginsburg, general manager of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. "Thanks to the U.S. Soccer Foundation, this new lighting will provide more opportunities for our youth to get out and play and will also help keep our park safe and well-lit."

Mission Playground is an archetypical urban park, with a bustling recreation center, blacktop, playground and pool tucked into a vibrant commercial and residential block. Its asphalt blacktop draws soccer players of all ages and backgrounds from the surrounding neighborhood for competitive and casual pick-up games.

The installation of the Musco-brand sports lights will be part of a larger construction project this spring that will replace the playground's asphalt blacktop with a safer, softer synthetic turf field, lined for soccer and bordered by landscaping and spectator seating.

The renovation project is a partnership between the Recreation and Park Department and the City Fields Foundation, an organization dedicated to addressing the chronic shortage of playfields in San Francisco by renovating playfields throughout the city, including those at Garfield Park and Silver Terrace (2006), Franklin Square (2007), South Sunset and Crocker Amazon (2008), and Kimbell Playground (2010).

**(more)**



**US Soccer Foundation Grant**  
**San Francisco Recreation and Parks**  
**January 18, 2011**  
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“Mission Playground is taking shape as a premier recreational facility, where soccer players of all ages can improve their skills and learn the valuable life lessons of teamwork and sportsmanship,” said District 9 Supervisor David Campos. “Not only will this lighting improve the park, it will provide traditionally underserved communities with the best opportunities to reach their potentials.”

District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener agreed. "Mission Playground is a critical resource for our community, and I'm thrilled that it will be even more usable with this investment," he said.

Completion of the project is anticipated in the fall.

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