



*Transforming lives by transforming public space*

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## **New vision of Richmond Greenway’s future comes to life Friday at Harbour-8 Park**

*Neighborhood residents, city officials, Pogo Park, and Trust for Public Land will celebrate rapid “park activation” success at noontime ceremony*

**Richmond, CA, November 5, 2014**—Last May Richmond city officials learned that the Trust for Public Land had selected a two-block section of the Richmond Greenway for a bold experiment in “rapid park activation.”

Now, just six months later, the Harbour-8 Park on the Greenway between Harbour Way and 8<sup>th</sup> Street, is finished—on schedule and on budget. Inside the park’s hand-carved wooden fence is a children’s playground unlike any other in the Bay Area. It was designed and built by local residents using a community engagement model pioneered by nonprofit Pogo Park.

The new park opens officially this Friday, November 7, with a public ceremony at 12 noon. Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Pogo Park Director Toody Maher, and the Trust’s California Director Gina Fromer will speak.

Sand and water play are major features of Harbour-8 Park. It boasts a huge sandbox made of sanded and sealed redwood stumps. Water flows up inside a molded cement sculpture that was cast by Pogo Park’s local resident team, with help from Richmond’s Scientific Art Studio. Children can push a button to make water flow from the top of the sculpture down over two waterfalls.

Even the sand is special. “We brought in \$5,000 worth of Olympic sand from Carmel,” says Maher. “It’s considered the Cadillac of sand because it doesn’t stick to your skin.”

For climbing the park has a large “spiderweb” of woven rope attached to six Douglas fir poles. It too was designed and built by local residents. Pogo Park brought in a rope expert to train the team in hand weaving techniques. There’s also a clubhouse and two sets of swings. Below the

colorful murals on the south side of the park are hand-carved benches made from redwood logs for those who like to sit in the shade.

The entrance to the park from 9<sup>th</sup> Street is marked by a 10-foot 3000-pound totem, designed and carved by the local resident team under the direction of master sculptor Peter Phibbs. Future plans for the park include a large area of community gardens, a fruit tree orchard, and bioswales for stormwater management.

This park is a great example of The Trust for Public Land's national "Parks for People" initiative. The Richmond pilot is the first such activation to be completed in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"We are excited about this project because it kicks off a new kind of approach for us," says Jennifer Isacoff, director of Parks for People in the Bay Area. "The idea is to find locations where a quick intervention and focused investment can have a big impact in the community." In addition to the Trust's investment, Pogo Park and the City provided additional funding and manpower.

"This project is not just about building a park," says Maher. "It's also about community and economic development. It's about giving people from the neighborhood an opportunity to be involved and learn valuable skills in design, construction, and fabrication."

The members of the Pogo Park Richmond resident team who designed and built Harbour-8 Park are Project Manager Richard Muro, Daniela Guadalupe, Karina Guadalupe, Carmen Lee, Tonie Lee, Toody Maher, Jose Juan Reyes, Terrence Tolbert, Jesus Varga, Armando Ybarra, and Nancy Ybarra.

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Note to editors: Photos and graphic images available