

# \$6 million Boeddeker redesign finally set

Now it's about waiting for makeover grants

BY TOM CARTER

SIX-FOOT-HIGH metal blades of green grass that chime. Big rocks on poles that you can spin. Shiny metal eggs 3 feet around that you can see your reflection in and hug — if you're a kid, hop on or hide behind.

These are three of the “dream” features in the complete makeover of Boeddeker Park that the Trust for Public Land is proposing. If dreams come true, it will be a vast change that park advocates have longed for, but never thought could happen.

The trust embarked on the project three years ago, after seven architects from various firms volunteered to sketch a park redesign pro bono. The community reacted favorably and the land trust proceeded with Rec and Park collaboration. At public meetings, residents voiced

their ideas and new plans were refined; they determined the locations of the park's major features.

The trust expects to hear this month about the \$4 million state grant it requested, which would launch construction in the spring. This is the park

residents said they wanted, according to the trust.

Those grass chimes could be chiming in the summer of 2012, the transformation's estimated completion date.

“The grass blades and spinning rocks are ideas of ours and would only be in the park if we get the full amount we applied for,” said the trust's Mary Muszinski in an interview. “The state people came to the park in July and stayed an hour and a half asking questions and looking at the park and the plans.”

Boeddeker is one of 475 parks statewide that have applied for money from Proposition 84, the \$5.4

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TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

This drawing shows the proposed new Boeddeker clubhouse in a more open park.

NO. 104

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN FRANCISCO STUDY CENTER

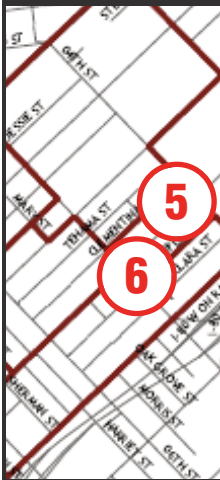
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CENTRAL CITY

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'FRESH AND CLEAN'



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Molly Trejo is the only female regular at the weekly Youth with a Mission shower.

## TL's only free shower

One afternoon a week, 10 people line up for 20 minutes in private

BY TOM CARTER

THERE'S one free shower in the city's poorest neighborhood, where a profusion of do-good nonprofits dwell. It's available only a few hours a week. But to the homeless in the Tenderloin, it's still a hot number.

When you don't have a nozzle at your fingertips for a week or two, when you're adrift on gritty, windswept streets and desperate for the warming, cleansing spray folks with a home take for granted, well, a good shower is new life.

Every Friday morning on Ellis Street, homeless people gather outside Youth with a Mission drop-in center to sign up for the free shower in the Tenderloin. The door opens at 9:30 a.m. and the first 10 who sign up get to take a private shower. The first shower is at 1 p.m. and then there's one every 20 minutes until 4:30 p.m.

“The list fills up in 10 minutes,” says staffer Janet Long. “And the regulars know that. They are so glad to have this chance. They feel so much better. They're fresh and clean, something we take for granted. But we can only do so much, and some are disappointed.”

With more staffing the showers could be used more. But for privacy, the connected

bathroom has to be closed during showering, and the center is reluctant to deprive drop-ins of the bathroom. So the free showers happen within a narrow window.

Long says there are eight shower-time regulars. One is a woman.

“Oh, she can't wait for her name to be called,” Long says. “And she's a different person when she comes out, too, so excited, and she puts on lipstick — we gave her some makeup for Christmas — and she feels like a woman.”

Another regular, Lee — no last name — has his hoodie up and is leaning against a window in the alcove at the door. He's 5-foot-7 with crystal-clear blue eyes and a beard. As the perpetual No. 1 in line, he always arrives before 8 a.m. He heard about the shower from street buddies two years ago, soon after arriving in the city.

“I bring a change of clean clothes in the afternoon,” says Lee, 50. “I've got a friend who'll do the washing.”

The shower's invigorating, gives a guy a boost.

“It feels a lot better from being sweaty and dirty all day. Some people, you can't get next to. It's their hygiene. Knocks you out.”

He eyes people edging closer to the door. Who's going to be first today could be in dispute.

A thin, pleasant man with no teeth tries to establish the order. A woman tells him she arrived before Lee, but it turns out she's waiting for a clothing voucher. A lot of people are. So there are really two lines, one for showers and one for the first five people who sign for clothing vouchers at 9:30 a.m. at another table. A voucher from the Monday through Friday program is good for a set of free clothes at St. Vincent de Paul in

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