

# Mission Dolores Park

Rehabilitation Project

San Francisco Arts Commission Civic Design Review
Phase 1: Schematic Design / Informational Package / January 23, 2012

## table of contents

A10 View of Restroom & Multi-Use Court PlazaA11 View of Restroom from Multi-Use Court

The Community Process Context Plan G1 L1 Schematic Site Plan L2 Schematic Grading Plan L3 18th Street Elevation Sections through Athletic Courts L4 View of Overlook at 20th & Church Streets L5 View of Plaza at 19th & Dolores Streets L6 Court Restroom - Plans & Elevations A1 A2 Playground Restroom - Plans, Elevations & Sections A3 Operations & Maintenance Building - Plan A4 Operations & Maintenance Building - Elevations & Sections A5 Context Photos A6 Design Inspiration A7 Views of South Restroom (at Playground) A8 Birds-Eye View of the North Restroom A9 View Into Park from 18th & Church Streets Entrance



## the community process

#### **Goals of the Community Design Process**

The Mission Dolores Park co-design process was based on the belief that participation by representative stakeholders is the foundation of a successful urban park project. This is especially true for Mission Dolores Park, which is defined by its extraordinary diversity of users and constituents. Many of these groups have established organizations and positions—on the issues and in the landscape. A successful project had to find a way to respect, include and balance all these interests. To do this, the project team set out to organize a process that:

- engaged all the existing groups as leaders of the project from the beginning
- welcomed everyone and gave everyone comfortable ways to fully participate
- involved everyone in each step of the design process to make them co-designers and co-owners
- promoted a collective discussion and decision making culture, encouraging moderation and compromise

#### STEP 1: Building a Representative Steering Committee

To meet these goals, the project team worked for two months before the first workshop to build a fully representative Project Steering Committee.

#### Starting with the Existing Leadership

First, the project team met individually with the leaders of organizations, institutions and businesses actively involved in the park to hear their ideas and concerns and invite them to be the core of the Project Steering Committee. Everyone responded positively to the invitation to help lead the process. In April, leaders came together to discuss the park, the design process and who to recruit to create a fully representative committee. Founding members of the committee included representatives of:

- Dolores Park Works
- Dolores Park Dogs
- Friends of Dolores Park Playground
- Mission Dolores Neighborhood Association
- Mission Community Council
- Dolores Park Café
- Bi-Rite Market

#### Reaching Out to Every Park Constituency

At the Steering Committee core group meeting the project team asked, "Who would be around this table if we had the perfect Dolores Park Steering Committee?" Leaders listed over 30 individuals, entities or constituencies that make up the park community. The project team reached out to each







constituency through over 20 one-on-one meetings. The result was a remarkably diverse, representative steering committee, with over 40 members including representatives of:

- Immediate park neighbors
- Surrounding neighborhood associations
- Local and park serving businesses
- Park organizations and activists
- Youth, families, and seniors
- Disabled park users
- Park user groups
- Neighboring schools
- Local recreation and social service organizations
- Sponsors of park programs and events
- Historic preservation advocates

#### **Providing Consistent Representative Leadership**

This Steering Committee met 8 times, before and after each community workshop to:

- Identify key questions to take to the whole community
- Refine presentations and materials.
- Talk through challenging issues to figure out how they could be productively discussed in a large open forum
- Represent the community in the day-to-day design process

Steering committee members immediately showed deep commitment and engagement and wanted more than a monthly forum. At members' request, the project team established a Google on-line discussion group. The Google Group became a prime forum for day-to-day discussion generating hundreds of posts and comments by members.

#### STEP 2: A Transparent, Collective Design Process

Working with the Steering Committee, the project team then launched a series of 6 Community Workshops developed to reflect the key steps in any schematic design process:

- Site Analysis and Visioning
- Programming and Conceptual Designing
- Exploring Options for Each Element or Aspect
- Creating a First Draft Plan
- Refining the Draft Plan
- Reviewing and Finalizing the Plan

These workshops were not formatted to collect input, but rather to engage community members in initiating each step based on their own knowledge and experience of the park. For example, the site analysis, programming and conceptual design sessions started with literally blank pages, which:

- Made it possible for everything that followed to be based on local expertise and desires.
- Grounded participants in the realities of the site, the budget and the many competing ideas, preparing them for the challenge of finding solutions and making hard choices.
- Eliminated an "outside" plan as a distraction or excuse, leaving everyone with the responsibility to solve problems together.

## Workshop 1: Analyzing the Site & Brainstorming Rehabilitation Needs

June 2, 2011 / Community Attendance: 120

The design process began where it should—in the field. After a Steering Committee member opened the workshop and Supervisor Wiener welcomed the over 100 participants, everyone went out in small groups to assess the site. A Steering Committee member led each group pointing out critical issues, providing information, and taking notes.

When everyone returned, we engaged in an hour-long brainstorm and discussion answering the questions: "What needs to be fixed? What needs to be changed? What needs to be added? What needs to be preserved?" Critically, this happened just after everyone toured the site with analytical eyes and in a diverse group—leading to more grounded and moderated suggestions. Participants listed over 250 ideas for improvements, but also repeatedly said, "Fix it, but don't change it." Additional ideas were collected on cards at the session and on-line at the projects web page. This comprehensive initial brainstorm became a touchstone throughout the process.

## Workshop 2: Creating Your Dolores Park Plan

June 30, 2011 / Community Attendance: 120

After the traditional opening by Steering Committee members and the Supervisor, the project team provided a succinct overview of the context of the project: the bond mandate, the budget, the time line, and a distillation of the site assessment and programming brainstorm done by participants at the first workshop.

With this information, participants were asked to work in small groups to "Create Your Own Rehabilitation Plan" starting with the entrances, paths, restrooms and maintenance building....and then moving on to whatever was most important to members of the group. After 45 minutes, the 12 small group plans were posted around the workshop room for an informal salon style viewing and discussion. Participants were surprised by the immediate consensus on some points and the range of ideas on others.

Then, as would be a practice throughout the process, the group came back together to hear reports from each small group on specific items that posed a choice or required a decision. At this session, the question was "Where should we place the restrooms and maintenance building?" As each group reported, live before everyone's eyes, the community's first decision was made: every group supported moving the maintenance building to the northwest corner of the park near the intersection of Church Street and 18th Street.

#### Forming Working Committees to Explore Complex Areas

In Steering Committee discussions after workshop 2, it became clear that several key topics and areas of the park were too complex and too important for participants to plan in the limited time allowed at workshops. To provide time to fully consider the issues and give everyone space to participate, the project formed working committees on Dog Play Areas, the North Multi-use Field, the Sports Courts and the park's Western Edge. Each committee met between 4 and 12 times, working in the field, doing research, testing alternative proposals and finally providing options or a plan to be reviewed by the entire community.

Without these committees the workshops would have become bogged down in detail or derailed by passions, or worse, these most critical issues would have been left undecided. A prime example is sports courts. Initially there seemed to be too many ideas and needs to fit into too little space—with blog posts and petitions pointing to conflict. However, through creative collaboration led by tennis and bike polo players the same northern court area was reconfigured to include more courts that better served everyone.

## Workshop 3: Exploring Key Areas & Elements of the Park August 4, 2011 / Community Attendance: 120

While the committees did their work, the entire community came together to explore two central issues identified in the first two workshops: the placement of the bathrooms, the future of the clubhouse and the circulation paths in the park. Based on participants' conceptual designs, the design team developed materials on each of these issues, including a diagram showing the range of bathroom location options and a proposal for meeting circulation needs with as little pavement as possible. Working in 12 small groups, participants weighed the options for bathroom locations and by the end of the evening developed a clear decision to place facilities on the south and north sides of the park adjacent to the playground and sports courts.

At the same time, the small groups developed diverse ideas about the park paths—foreshadowing that this would be the critical issue to resolve in the balance of the process. Some groups reported accepting the proposal as what was needed to meet ADA requirements and maintenance needs, but most groups were unsatisfied. They felt that the width and course of the path, and the required retaining walls would have too much impact on park. At the end of the session, an ad-hoc committee was formed to explore path options. Before the next workshop, this group met on site in the park and traveled to Alamo Square to review the recently rehabilitated path system.

#### Workshop 4: Reviewing a First Draft Plan

August 25, 2011 / Community Attendance: 100

This session marked the beginning of a new phase of the process—the review and refinement of successively more refined draft plans. The project team explained that the next three sessions would have a similar form: the committee and team would present the current plan distilling all the collective work to date. Participants would then work in small groups to confirm their ideas had been fully captured and grapple with the remaining unresolved issues.

This first plan review and revisions session began with a collective presentation of the plan by the project team and representatives of the Dog Play Area, North Field, Sports Courts and Western Edge Committees. The Recreation and Parks Department then explained the maintenance and operation needs that were informing the plan and the Mayor's Office on Disability discussed the accessibility goals the City had for the project. As part of the presentation, the project team outlined the most recent refinements to the path system and explained the maintenance and accessibility needs that limited the team's ability to change the course or width of the paths as much as participants would like

With this context, participants reviewed the first draft plan in small groups, commenting on all aspects of the design. Groups were also asked to consider in detail whether they would retain and repurpose the existing clubhouse or remove it.

When the small groups reported back two things were clear:

1) many aspects of the plan were widely supported and 2) the paths and clubhouse questions remained unresolved. A majority of groups were still unsatisfied with the paths and the explanation of their necessity. Participants split on the future of the clubhouse with 5 groups voting to remove it and 7 groups voting to repurpose it for a range of activities from recreation to









food service. Participants also provided a range of comments for refining aspects of the plan from picnic table placement to dog play area boundaries.

Extended Project Team and Committee Deliberation Recognizing key issues remained to be resolve, the project team extended the period of deliberation before the next workshop to one and a half months. The goal was to give the team and project committees enough time create a complete draft plan before the entire community came back together. This would assure everyone would have a final opportunity to review all aspects of the project at this fifth session and then confirm their comments had been heeded at the last and sixth workshop.

The Steering Committee held two extended meetings during this time: the first focused on the landscape, the second focused on buildings. Working Committees also met and the project team worked closely with community members most concerned about the remaining unresolved questions.

## Workshop 5: Reviewing the First Complete Plan October 20, 2011 / Community Attendance: 80

The project team started this session by reviewing a chart of the decisions made to date and the relatively short list of tasks remaining. The message was clear: "We've come a long way together. We have a few tough decisions left to make. But, given what we already done...we can do this." Just as the Steering Committee had worked overtime in the previous month, the team asked participants to stay an extra hour, so everyone could thoroughly consider all aspects of the plan.

The team then presented the first complete draft plan bringing together all the community's work to date. Throughout the presentation, the team highlighted the questions remaining: the future of the clubhouse, the paths, the building architecture and important other areas that hadn't received close review by the whole community: the 19th Street Plaza, the entrances, tree management, benches and trash receptacles.

The 12 small groups reported back twice: once on building matters and then, after more deliberation, on the landscape. 9.5 of the 12 groups voted to remove the clubhouse, resolving one of the key outstanding questions. All the groups reacted favorably to the building architecture offering complementary refinements. For example, almost all of the groups favored a more traditional "hip" roof on the northern restroom and changes to southern restroom to better integrate it with the landscape.

In the landscape report backs, groups provided support and refinements in each of the remaining areas. The refined path system without retaining walls was judged to be an improvement, but still not satisfactory to many. The 19th Street entry plaza was also an improvement, but many thought more could be done. Just as the team had hoped, community members were now full participants in the design process, considering different options and perspectives and not satisfied until we got it right.

#### Workshop 6: Final Plan Review

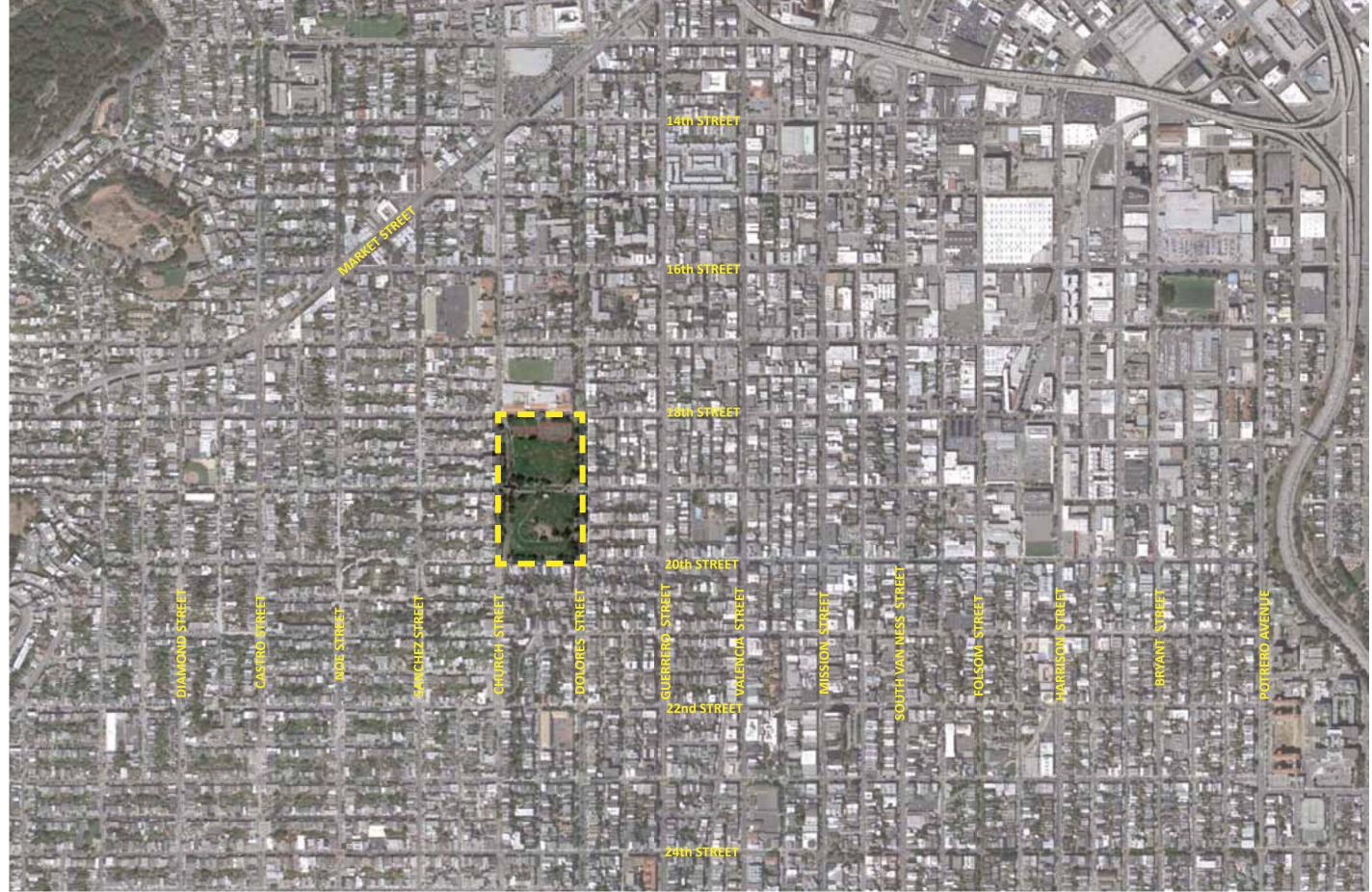
October 27, 2011 / Community Attendance: 60

Just as with the last days on a traditional in-office design project, the final workshop was the occasion for a flurry of creative problem solving. By the end of the night, the remaining issues were resolved with greater consensus than anyone would have expected. This is best exemplified by the resolution to the path discussion. After Workshop 5, a widely supported resolution on paths seemed unlikely. Then in the days before the last workshop, the project team explored a new solution proposed by a Steering Committee member. This creative alternative was presented to the final workshop along with the follow-up to all the other direction the community gave at Workshop 5.

The final small group report backs were short and sweet. 8 of 12 groups voted for the alternative path plan and smiles and handshakes were exchanged. The groups reported back appreciation for the responsive refinements made to the buildings and landscape. The session and the community design process closed with everything on the "to do" list checked off and everyone (literally almost everyone in the room) agreeing that the process was more productive and congenial than they could have expected. Together we had succeeded in "fixing" Dolores Park without "changing" what made it such a wonderful and beloved place.

## Timeline of Steering Committee Meetings & Public Workshops

April 27	Steering Committee Meeting #1: Committee Formation Meeting
May 26	Steering Committee Meeting #2: Full Steering Committee Kick-Off Meeting
June 2	Workshop #1: Vision & Site Analysis
June 16	Steering Committee Meeting #3: Draft Program & Prepare for Conceptual Design
June 30	Workshop #2: Set Priorities & Create Conceptual Plans
July 28	Steering Committee Meeting #4: Review Draft Conceptual Plans & Prepare for Workshop 3
August 4	Workshop #3: Refine Conceptual Plans
August 18	Steering Committee Meeting #5: Review 50% Schematic Plans & Prepare for Workshop 4
August 25	Workshop #4: Planning the Key Elements of the Rehabilitation Plan
Sept 29	Steering Committee Meeting #6: Review Draft Plans - Site work
October 6	Steering Committee Meeting #7: Review Draft Plans - Architecture
October 20	Workshop #5: Draft Plan Review
October 27	Workshop #6: Draft Plan Review





R | H | A | A



#### 10. NORTH FIELD

- Multi-use for events and sports
- Unstriped and unlit
- · Special drainage and irrigation to sustain high use
- Dashed lines indicate U-10 soccer field dimensions

#### 11. OFF LEASH DOG PLAY AREAS

- A) South off leash dog play area: Marked by signage at corners, backless benches & special pavers. Amenities provided: benches, trash receptacles, bag dispensers, all-species drinking fountain, storage box, bulletin board
- B) North off leash dog play area: Marked by signage at corners & special pavers. Amenities provided: bag dispensers

#### 12. SOUTH EDGE

- New overlook at southwest corner with decorative paving and benches
- New benches along 20th St. sidewalk Disabled parking spot provided
- Turf & Irrigation rehabilitated with careful attention to root systems of mature trees

#### 13. PICNIC AREA

- Small clusters of picnic tables close to playground
- Existing to remain at south dog play area with new paving

#### 14. RENOVATED ENTRY

- · Linear plaza with seat wall
- Accent planting between tennis fence & seatwall
- Bike racks
- Park signage at corner curved wall

#### 15. DOLORES ST. CURB PLANTING

- Turf & Irrigation rehabilitated with careful attention to root systems of mature trees
- Increased trash receptacles & bike racks
- Accent planting
- Increased bike parking · Expanded cobble border (2') at lawn edge • Paved compacted triangular corners at

#### Increased trash receptacles

Improved drainage

PARK WIDE IMPROVEMENTS

· Turf planting renovated

Irrigation renovated

- Improved signage
- Updated lighting
- Increased benches
- Historic signage

#### . RENOVATED ENTRY PLAZA

- · ADA compliant & disabled curb drop-off
- Bell relocated closer to sidewalk
- · Wide steps with side paths at same
- grade as promenade Replace bell mounting structure

#### 2. 19TH STREET PROMENADE

- · Maintains existing character
- Internal valley gutters removed
- Turf in median to remain, flowering
- perennials in central circle & terminus points only
- · Landing plaza at path crossing

#### 3. NORTHERN EDGE

- A) Tennis courts refurbished
- B) Relocated tennis courts
- C) Relocated basketball court • D) New multi-use court with curbed
- wall, stepped fence, "bang board" against bathroom wall, unmarked asphalt surface
- E) ADA compliant mid-block entrance aligned with High School entrance. Sloped walk at 1:12
- F) Improved entrance from J-Church

#### 4. OPERATIONS BUILDING

- Built under basketball court
- · Entrance and exit drive off 18th St.
- Internal path access to park
- Gated yard, open to sky

#### 5. RESTROOMS

- A) Compatible with historic character, designed to serve 2,500 person/day, expandable for weekend use, built-in drinking fountains, green roof
- B) Portable toilets for large events with crowds > 5,000, temporary as needed C) Pissoir in park's southwestern

#### quadrant 6. CLUBHOUSE SITE

· Restored to turf

#### 7. CONNECTING PATH

- Connects park elements
- · Works with natural topography for minimum impact
- Avoids cutting across open green
- No retaining walls needed
- . A) 6' wide concrete path with 2' wide cobble shoulders
- B) 8' wide concrete path with 2' wide cobble shoulders for large event access, 5' wide turf stablization between path & court fence C) Existing path widened to 6' wide
- concrete with 2' wide cobble shoulders
- D) 6' wide concrete path with 4' stabilized turf shoulder, no amenities except 3 benches shown

#### 8. WESTERN EDGE

- New 4' sidewalk along Church St.
- Repair broken internal paths
- Repair failing retaining wall as needed
- Selective removal of vegetation to improve safety and visibility
- Low shrub planting
- New trash receptacles along Church St.

#### 9. MUNI TRACKS AND BRIDGE

- Removed MUNI stop under bridge
- · Chain link structure over bridge removed Solid wall at east end of bridge replaced
- with transparent guardrail MUNI shelter relocated at 20th/Church

Repaved MUNI tracks

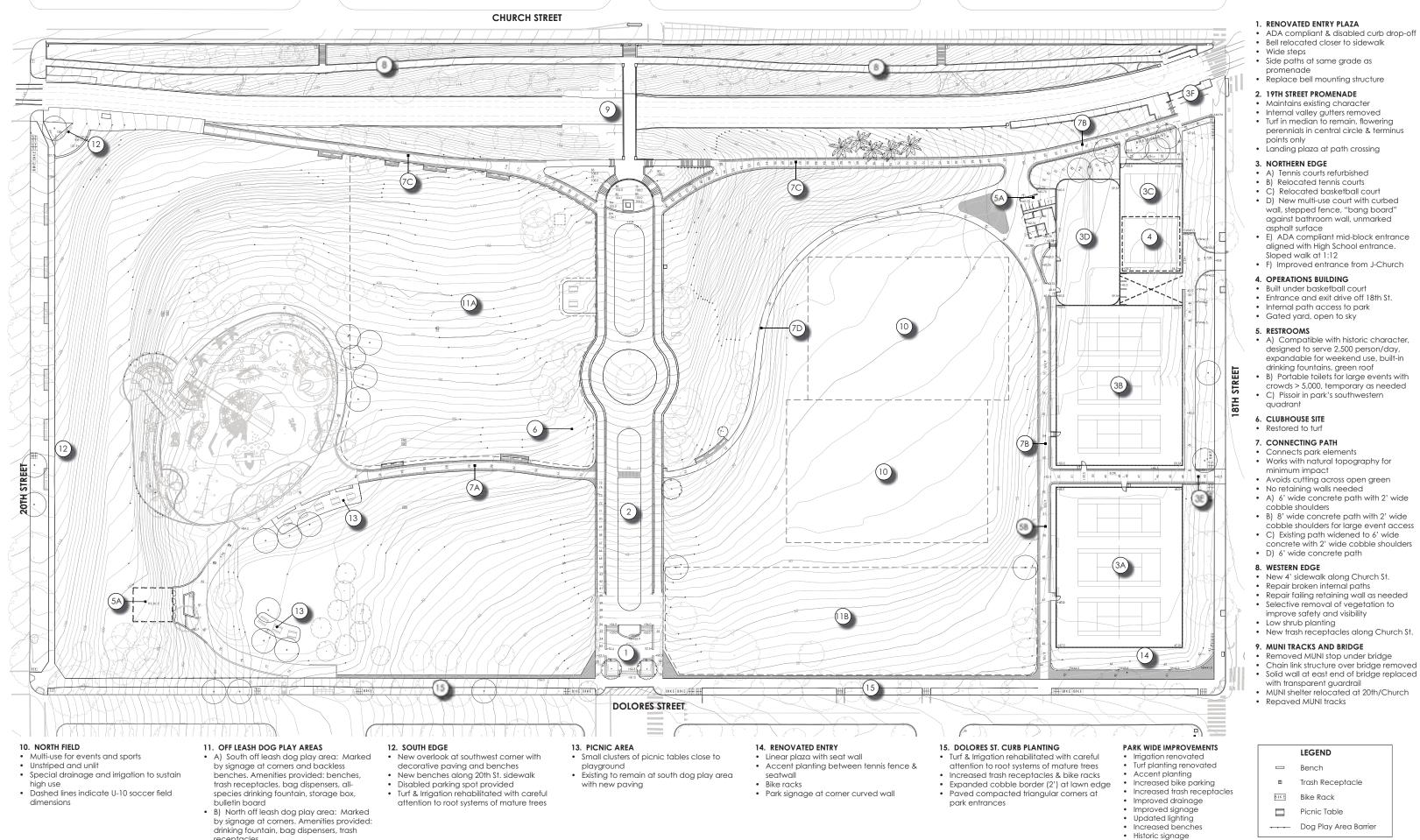


Trash Receptacle Bike Rack Picnic Table

Dog Play Area Barrier



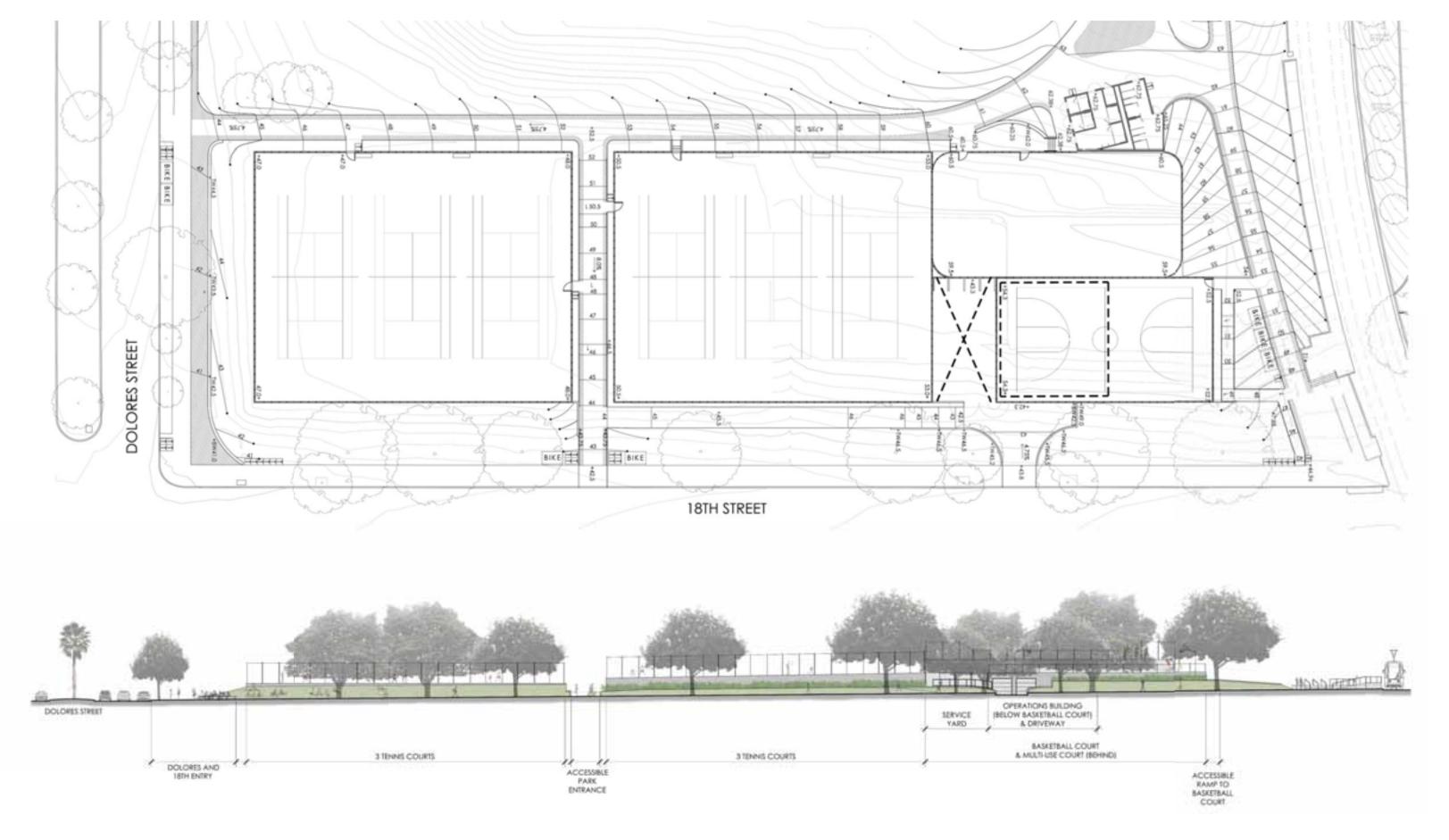
# MISSION DOLORES PARK





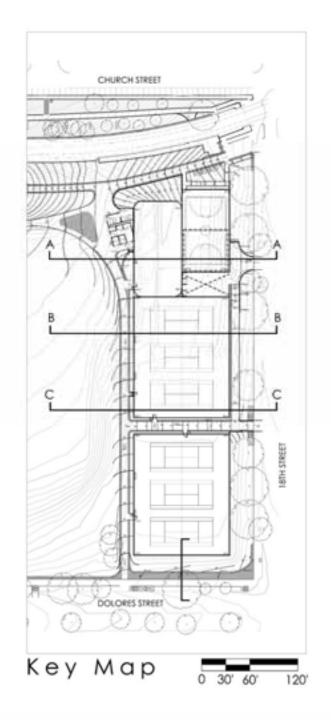
January 23, 2012

## MISSION DOLORES PARK





R | H | A | A January 23, 2012





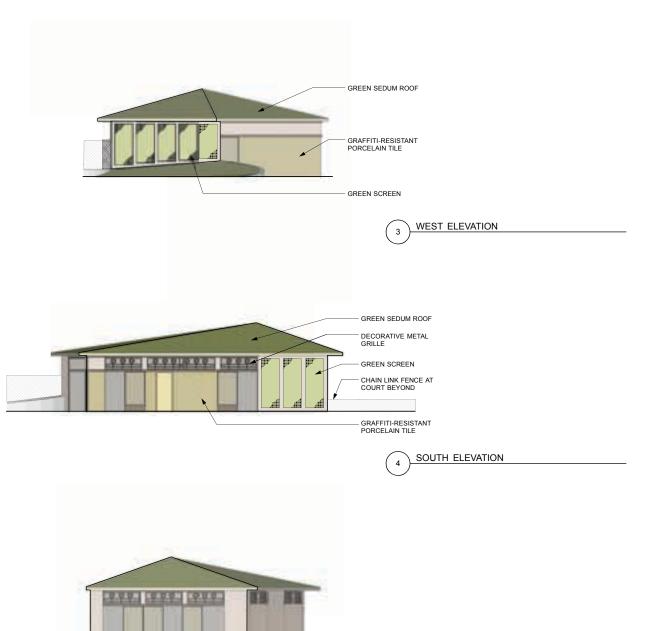


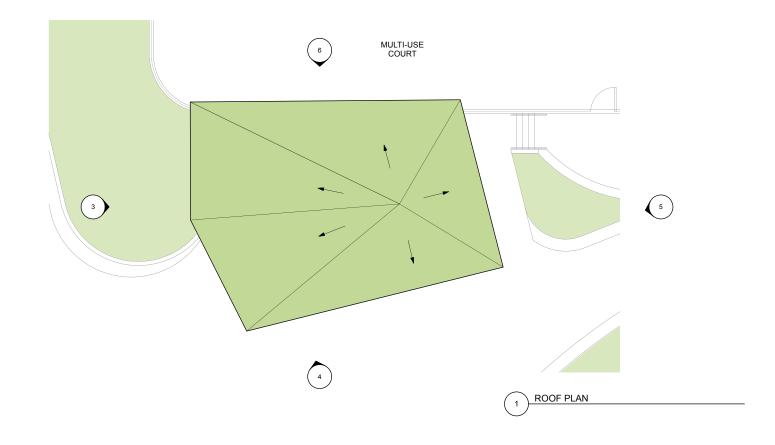
MISSION DOLORES PARK
L4 / Sections through Athletic Courts



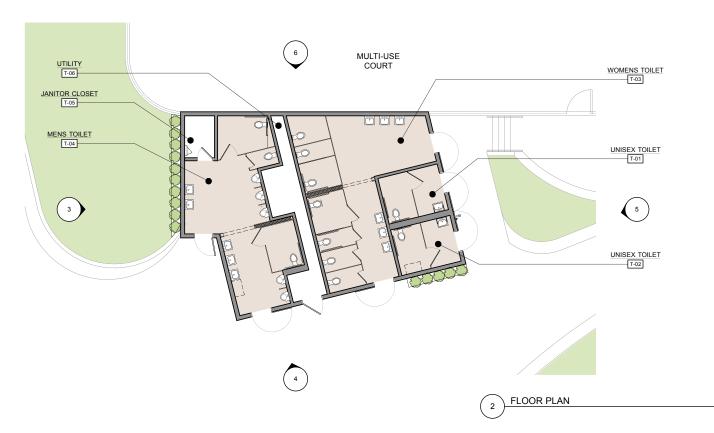






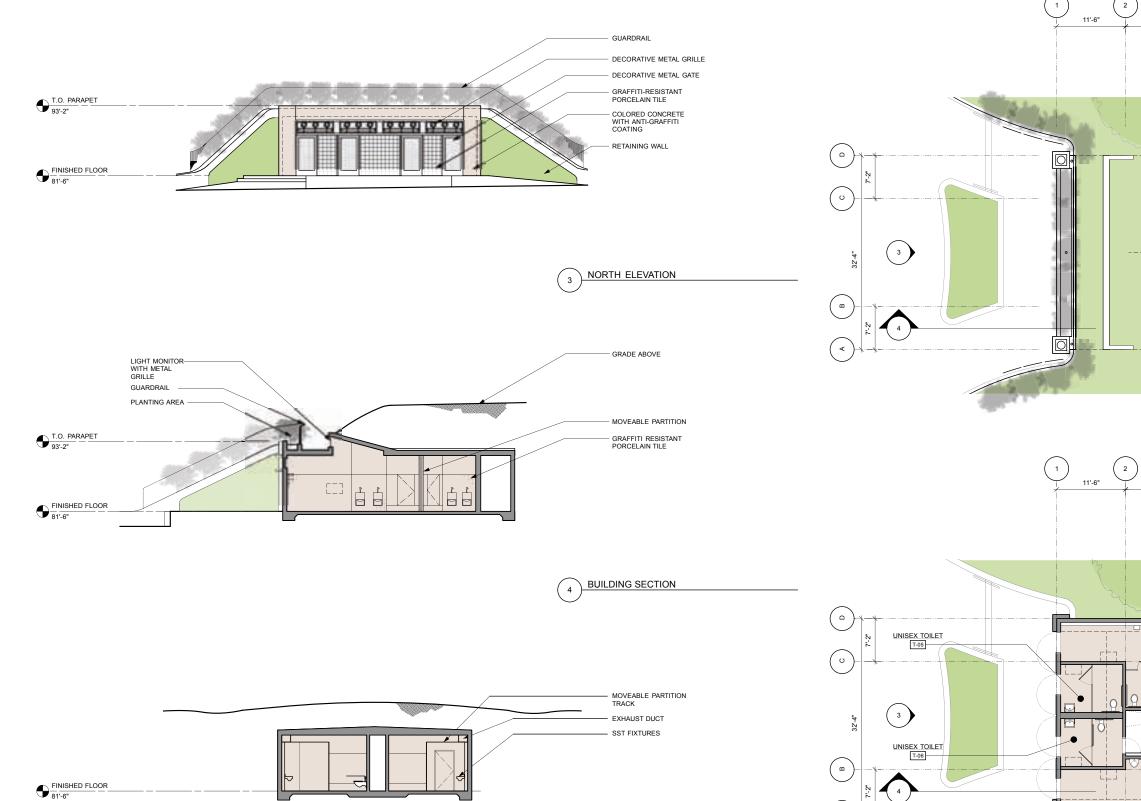


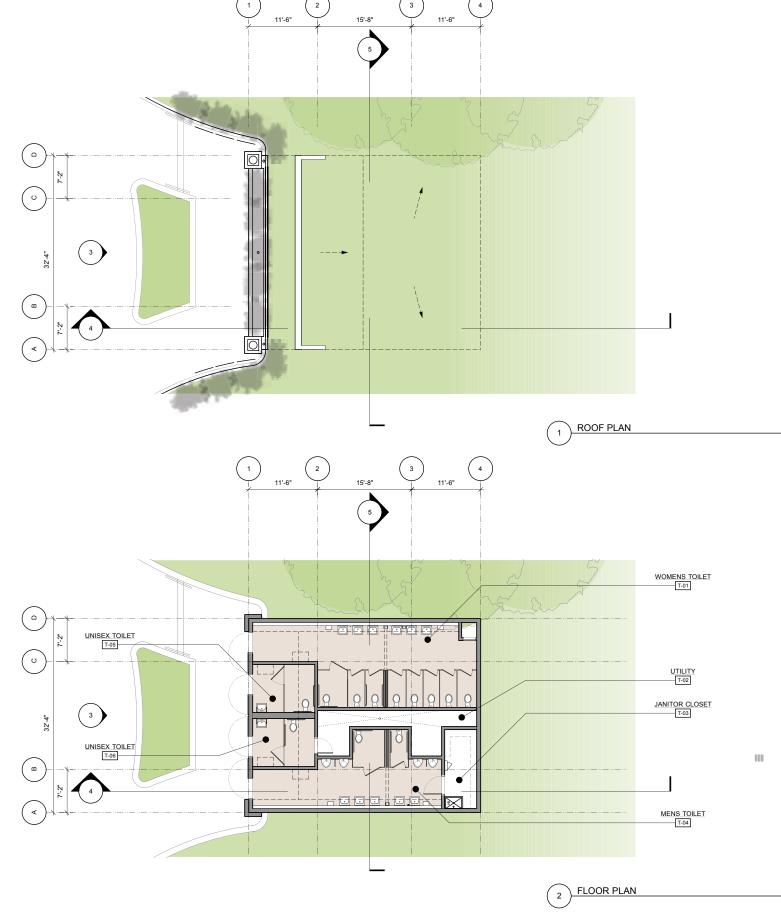






A 1 / Court Restroom - Plans + Elevations

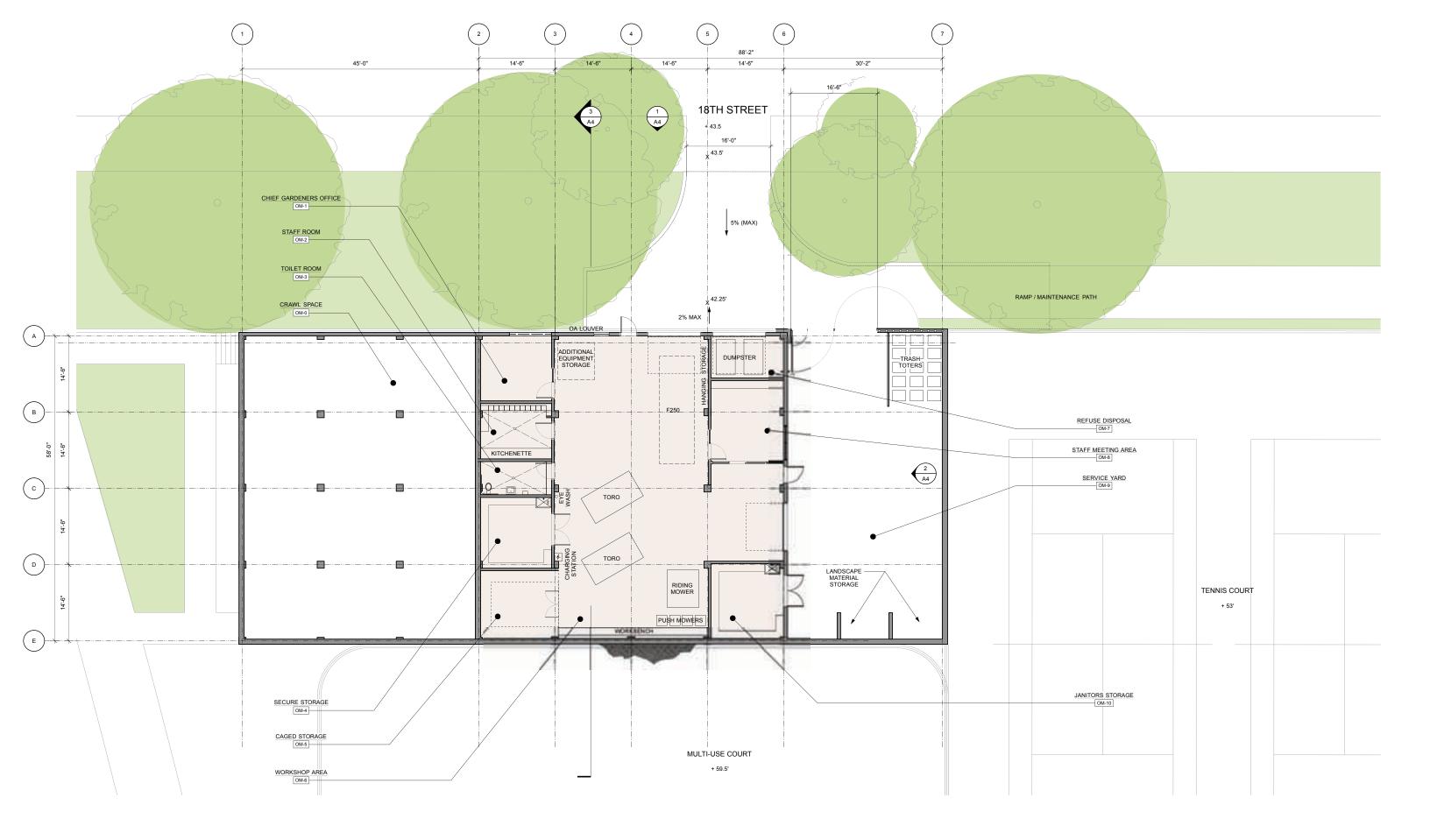


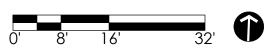


5 BUILDING SECTION

MISSION DOLORES PARK

R | H | A | A



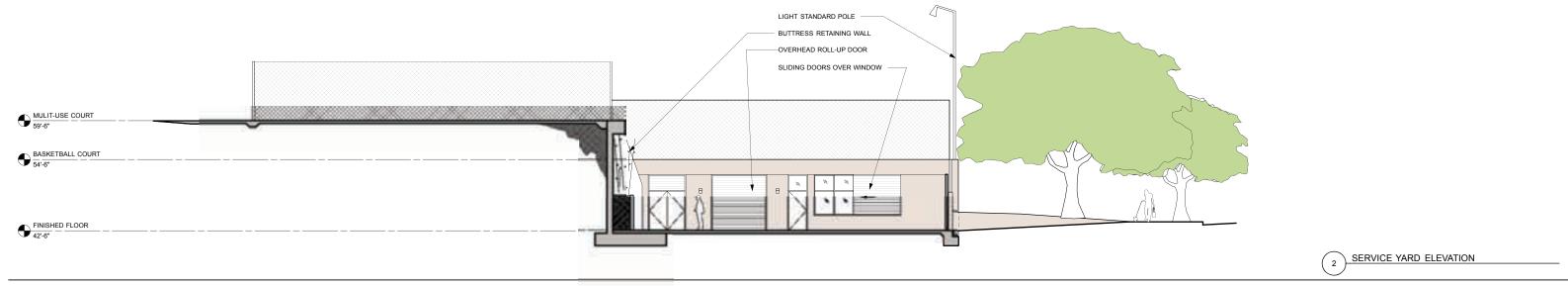


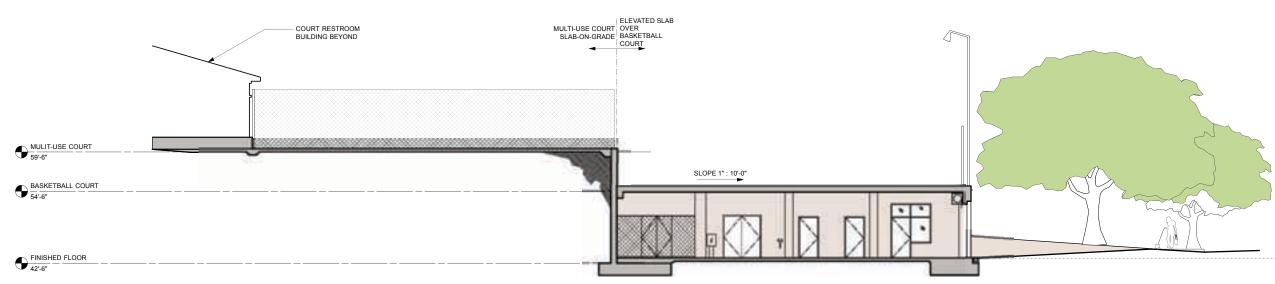


R | H | A | A

January 23, 2012







A 4 / Operations + Maintenance - Elevations + Section

BUILDING SECTION



January 23, 2012



PLAYGROUND RESTROOM VIEW EAST FROM 20TH STREET

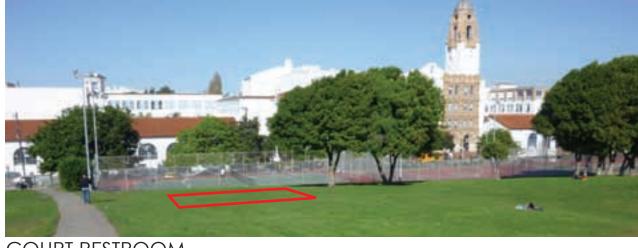


COURT RESTROOM



OPERATIONS + MAINTENANCE VIEW EAST









OPERATIONS + MAINTENANCE
18TH STREET ELEVATION

PLAYGROUND RESTROOM



AERIAL OF PROMENADE



CONVENIENCE STATION - 1940'S CONCRETE FRIEZE



CLUBHOUSE ADDITION PRONOUNCED CORNERS + HIP ROOF



CONCRETE BRIDGE EXPRESSED CORNERS



PREDOMINANT TOPOGRAPHY LOW-SLOPE TOPOGRAPHY



LOW SLOPE GREEN ROOF



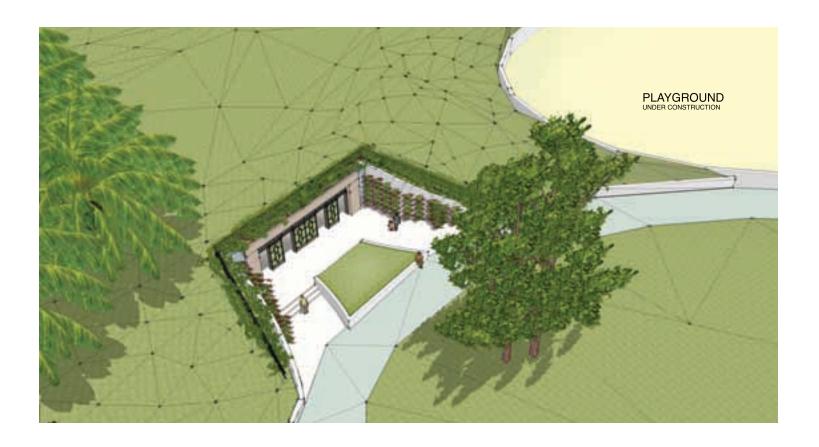
**GREEN WALL** 



DOLORES STREET MEDIAN OF PALMS



- GREEN SEDUM ROOF
- ② GREEN WALL
- 3 ORNAMENTAL METAL GRILLE
- 4 ORNAMENTAL METAL GATE
- (5) COLORED CONCRETE WITH ANTI-GRAFFITI COATING
- GRAFFITI-RESISTANT TILE





MISSION DOLORES PARK
A7/ Views of South Restroom



MISSION DOLORES PARK A8/ Birds-Eye View of North Restroom



MISSION DOLORES PARK

A9 / View Into Park from 18th & Church Street Entrance



MISSION DOLORES PARK

