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## Letters to the Editor

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### The Parks Department's fuzzy math

The Parks Department and the local BID have not accurately informed the public of the percentage increase, after the planned renovation, of playground space in Union Square Park North. At first, they said, the increase would be 60%, then they said that it would be doubled (a 50% increase). Recently, they said it would be a 30% increase.

In answer to a direct question from an Arts Commission member, a spokesperson for the Parks Department admitted that the department

had *no* plans to keep the third (sand) playground of 3,500 square feet after the renovation.

Here's the arithmetic—using the department's own figures: The total available playground space is 10,000 sq. ft. The total space of two current playgrounds included in the plan is 5,100 sq. ft. By adding the 3,500 sq. ft. of the third playground, to the 5,100 square feet of the others, the total current play space is 8,600 sq. ft.

Therefore, playspace after renovation, would

be expanded only 14%.

That's not enough, for city kids who have almost no open space to play in, especially, considering the district's rapidly increasing population.

The Campaign to Save Union Square Park, supported by the public and elected officials, is opposed to privatization schemes that privilege commercial interests over the needs of our kids.

**Eadie Shanker**  
Coordinator, Campaign  
to Save Union  
Square Park