

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Department of Parks and Recreation**

Jesús Aguirre Director

March 29, 2011

Jonathan Bender ANC 3E 4411 Fessenden Street, NW Washington, DC 20015

Dear Chairman Bender:

Thanks for your continued interest in Chevy Chase Recreation Center. I write to provide you with an update on the status of this very important construction project. As you may know, weather and permitting delays have put this project significantly behind schedule. Still, we hope to have the entire park project completed and opened by June 20, 2011.

As you may be aware, the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM) has been implementing this project and managing the construction on behalf of DPR. According to the current schedule provided to us by OPEFM, the project will be completed in phases as follows:

- 1) Construction on the ball field will be completed by mid-April; however, the field must remain undisturbed for 30 days after sod installation so that the grass can firmly set in place. The field will be available for use in mid-May.
- 2) The playground will open at the end of May, as long as DPR can ensure safe access to the playground in light of the work that will continue to take place inside the recreation center.
- 3) The small, enclosed off-leash dog park will be completed and open in June.
- 4) The pilot program allowing the use of the ball field as an off-leash dog exercise area during specific times in the morning is moving forward, and we hope that this use can commence when the ball field is open for use in mid-May. However, this use cannot begin until certain requirements are met by the Chevy Chase Field Dog Park Group, including the installation of the required fencing and trash cans, and a signed MOU is in place stipulating their responsibilities relative to the ongoing maintenance and operation of both the small dog park area as well as the larger field pilot project.
- 5) The splash park and recreation center will be the final pieces of the project and will be open in time for our summer camp programming in mid-June.

I will notify you if there are any changes in this timeline.

We understand the importance of this park to the community and although we too are frustrated by the delays in the construction, we remain focused on our goal of ensuring that this project reflects the many diverse uses of the park.

Thank you for your patience during this period and we look forward to the completed renovations in the coming months.

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Sincerely,

Jesús Aguirre Director

cc: Honorable Mary Cheh, Ward 3 Councilmember ANC 3E Ollie Harper, Acting Executive Director,  
Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization