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NOVATO COMMUNITY GARDEN GROUP REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DOG PARK SUPPORTERS

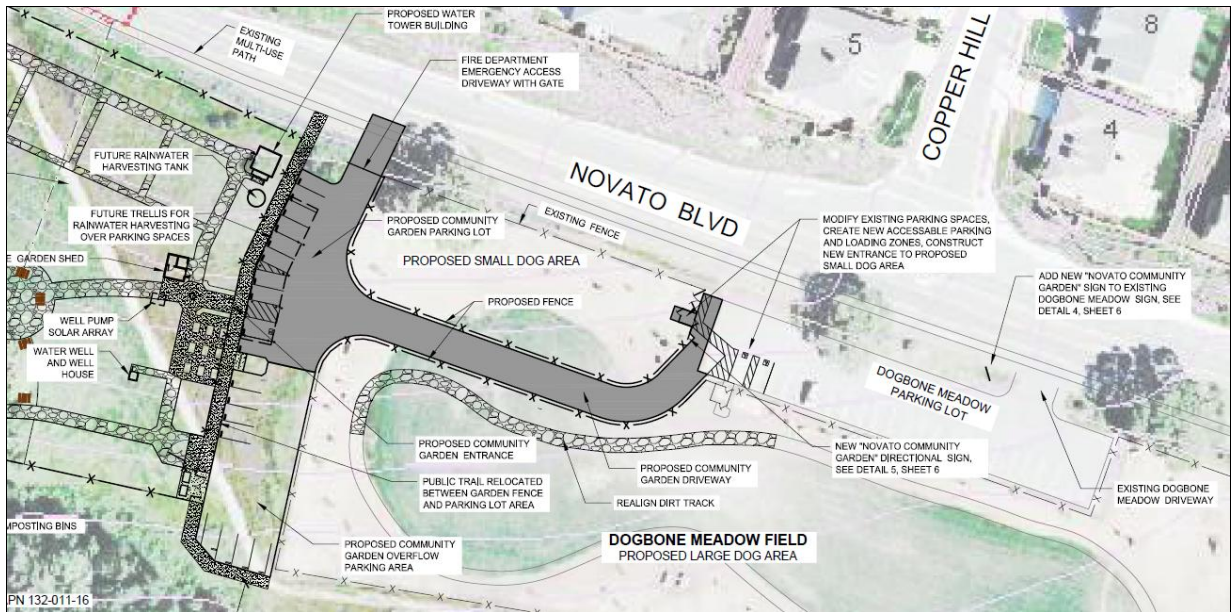
NOVATO CA, October 7, 2011-- The Novato Community Garden Project got a much-needed boost on September 22, 2011 when the City of Novato Zoning Administrator approved the variances requested for the construction of a community garden adjacent to Dogbone Meadow, Novato's longstanding (opened June 2000) dog park.

In 2008, the Novato City Council had approved a request by a community group to build a community garden next to the dog park in O'Hair Park. The garden project was stalled last February (2011) when members of Friends of Dogbone Meadow raised concerns about the site plan, in particular a proposed road from the dog park parking lot through the north side of the dog park, requiring the removal of several mature trees.

The City of Novato arranged two professionally facilitated meetings between representatives from the Novato Community Garden Committee and members of the board of Friends of Dogbone Meadow. A new design plan, suggested by the Friends of Dogbone Meadow and enthusiastically taken up by the Novato Community Garden Committee, moves the proposed road further into the dog park and away from the trees, creating a separate area for smaller dogs. A new separate double entry gate will be built to the new small-dog area and a watering station included. Additionally, a new ADA pathway to an accessible seating area will be created from the large dog entry.

The new features and improvements that will be made to the dog park by the Novato Community Garden Committee have satisfied both groups and the City. The partnership is heralded as a success, especially because these improvements will not cost the City any taxpayer dollars.

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Approved Site Design. To see full layout go to www.novatolivewell.org/communitygarden

Now the community garden group has much fundraising to do to reach their goal of building the garden, and the Friends of Dogbone Meadow can continue their primary task of raising funds to maintain and improve the dog park.

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