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Presidio



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Preserving the Presidio
as a Sustainable
National Park

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News Briefs

Historic Landmarks Conference
The Presidio Trust recently took part in the National Historic Landmarks Stewards Congress in Cape May, New Jersey. Participants shared ideas for addressing the challenges facing historic districts including protecting cultural resources, maintaining historic buildings over the long-term and identifying ways to fund enhancement projects. The Presidio was the only National Historic Landmark District in California and the only national park represented at the conference. The Presidio was declared a National Historic Landmark District in 1962.

Main Post "Charrette"
In anticipation of this month's public workshop focused on Main Post planning, Trust staff recently conducted a charrette – a design "brainstorming" session – to discuss possible planning options for the historic site. Staff explored ideas for preserving the area's unique historic and cultural character, strategies for improving pedestrian access, programs to increase visitors' enjoyment of the area, and ideas for appropriate reuse of Main Post buildings. Please share your suggestions for rejuvenating the "heart of the Presidio" at the January Planning Workshop. The event will be held at the Golden Gate Club on Wednesday, January 19. Please call 415.561.5300 with questions.



"GREEN BUILDING" TOUR
Representatives of the Building Owners and Managers Association and a study team from the Japan Productivity Center for Socio-Economic Development recently toured the Presidio to learn about the environmentally "friendly" practices and materials that are used in building rehabilitations at the park. A walking tour of the Thoreau Center for Sustainability highlighted the visit.



Each month in the year 2000, the Trust will host a public forum at which community members can share their ideas and suggestions on a specific Presidio planning issue.

PRESIDIO 2000: A LOOK AT THE YEAR AHEAD

ANTICIPATED PROJECTS WILL ENHANCE THE PRESIDIO'S VITALITY AND VIABILITY

The Presidio Trust and its partners are developing several projects for the year 2000 designed to improve the visitor experience, enhance the park's environment, and generate funds to operate and improve the Presidio.

VISITOR SERVICES

- The Trust and the National Park Service will complete the process, begun at last September's Planning Workshop, to identify improvements to visitor services and "interpretation" programs at the Presidio. To aid in the planning effort, in the spring the Trust and the National Park Service will host a symposium with invited experts from fields including museum planning, history, education and natural resources.
- Last year, the Trust and the National Park Service completed the design, graphics and placement plan for kiosks that will provide visitors with information on transit, recreational opportunities and noteworthy attractions at the Presidio. In 2000, these kiosks will be installed in more than a dozen highly visited park locations.
- Following an extensive public process, the Trust and the National Park Service will publish a Trails and Bikeways Master Plan that will propose ways to improve recreational and transit opportunities for hikers and bicyclists. The Plan will address accessibility, the protection of natural and cultural resources, signage, links to regional trails and the addition of public amenities, among other issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS

- The Trust and the National Park Service will launch pilot projects to restore and enhance the Presidio's native plant communities, historic forest and landscaped areas.
- In keeping with the Trust's ongoing efforts to reduce traffic and pollution by making alternative modes of transportation easy to use, the Trust will pursue a shared bicycle program, a shared electric car program and a Presidio internal shuttle system.
- In order to use water and energy most efficiently, the Trust will construct a Water Reclamation Plant and an energy-producing fuel cell co-generation plant at the park.

site and begin pre-development action at the obsolete Letterman hospital and research center.

- Comprehensive Main Post planning with appropriate environmental analysis will be completed, and a competitive process to identify appropriate tenants to rehabilitate and occupy now empty buildings will be launched.



Producing plans to regenerate the Presidio's natural environment and improve its network of trails is a key priority in the coming year.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEASING

- By the end of 2000, up to 40 percent of the park's infrastructure will have been modernized.
- The Trust will enhance the productivity of many of the Presidio's non-residential tenants by expanding the Presidio's fiber optic loop capacity by 200 percent.
- In order to build community, protect cultural resources and generate revenue to operate the park, the Trust will rehabilitate and lease over one hundred historic housing units. By year's end, nearly 900 households will call the Presidio home.
- The Trust will complete the Environmental Impact Statement for the 23-acre Letterman



By the end of 2000, nearly 900 of the Presidio's 1,116 housing units will have been rehabilitated and leased. Up to 40 percent of the park's infrastructure will also have been modernized.



Locating informational kiosks at popular park destinations is one important way of improving the visitor experience.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARK

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

The Presidio's Main Post served as a collection point for Scouting for Food, the largest single food drive in the Bay Area. Sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, 30,000 scouts and adult volunteers sought to exceed last year's record distribution of 6 tons of food given to the San Francisco Food Bank. Donated items aided the sick and homebound, families in crisis and the Bay Area's homeless during the holiday season.



HAPPY TRAILS

The year-long process to develop a plan to improve the Presidio's hiking and biking trails got underway on December 1 at the Presidio Trails Master Plan Public Scoping Workshop. In advance of the plan's completion, tenants, residents and visitors can enjoy the park's current network of routes, including the newly completed Bay Area Ridge Trail which was opened to the public in October.

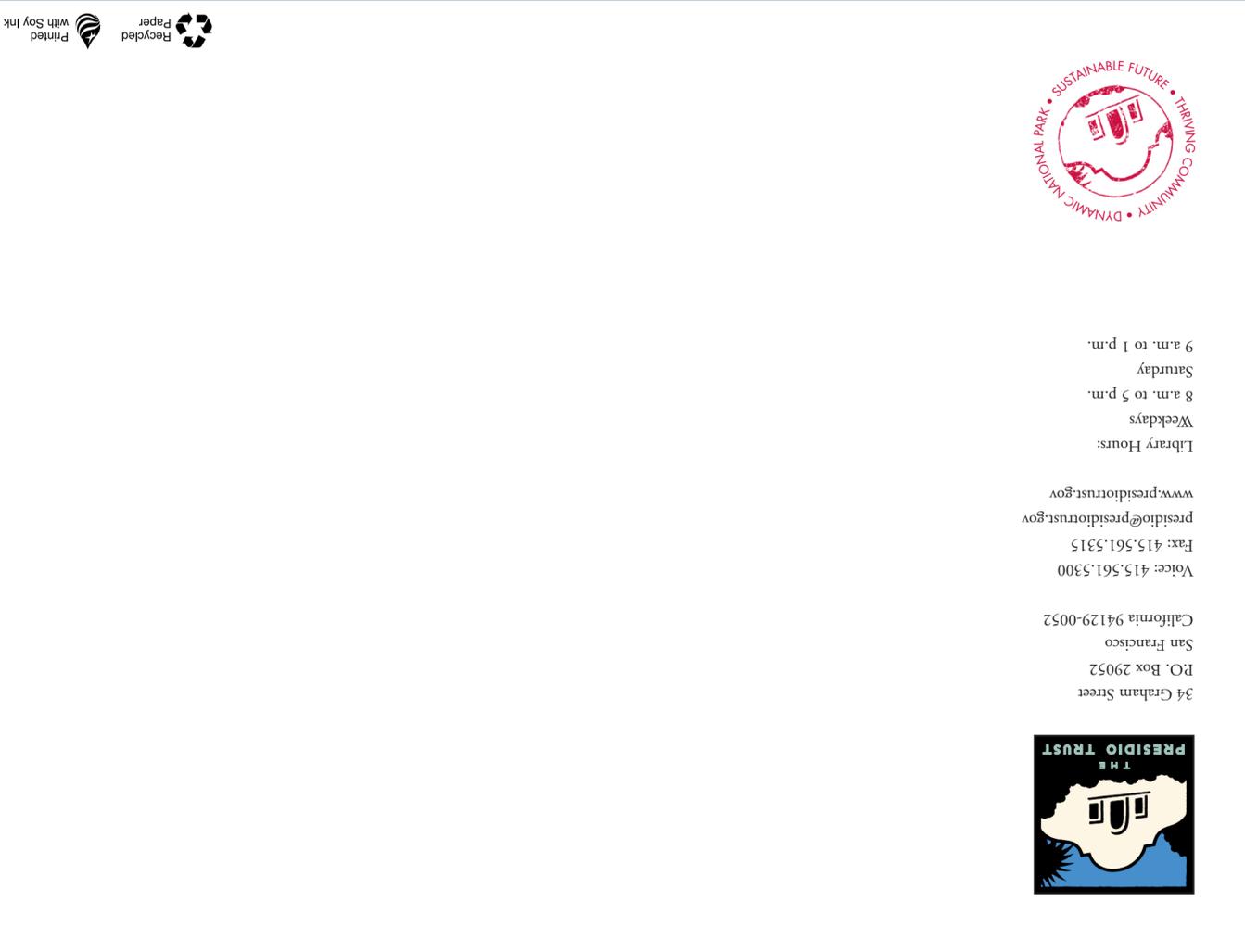


PRESIDIO BRIGHT IDEAS

PG&E, the San Francisco Fire Fighters and the Presidio Trust recently offered Bay Area residents an opportunity to swap their energy-eating and potentially hazardous halogen lamps – known as "torchieres" – for models that have been awarded the Department of Energy/Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR label. More than 700 participants relinquished their old lamps in favor of models that are 80% more efficient.



Legend	
1	The Main Post
2	Crissy Field
3	Fort Point and the Golden Gate Bridge
4	Fort Scott
5	Coastal Bluffs
6	Presidio Forest
7	Cavalry Stables
8	San Francisco National Military Cemetery
9	Letterman Complex
10	Housing Areas
11	Presidio Golf Course
12	Public Health Complex
13	Lobos Creek Valley



Sustainability Spotlight

Presidio-Wide Energy Management System

An environmentally sustainable Presidio must be energy efficient. The most powerful energy management tools are knowledge and control. When users know how much energy they are consuming and have the ability to manage their environment, they make wise decisions.

Toward that end, the Presidio Trust and the Presidio Alliance are partnering to install a cutting-edge computerized energy management system (EMS) at the park that will give tenants a remarkable new ability to monitor and manage their energy use.

The EMS is comprised of a control panel in each building which can communicate heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting, water, and energy use information to a central control station via modem.

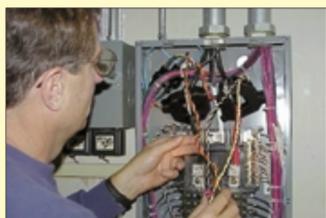


Photo: Presidio Alliance

The benefits of an EMS are many. First, the "energy using" systems in a building can be managed so that they operate most efficiently. For example, rather than leaving a heating system on overnight so that a building is warm at the beginning of the workday, the EMS computer can sense what the outside air temperature is and determine the exact time to activate the heater. The EMS can even learn from its mistakes – if it got the building warm too early one day, it will start the process later the next day.

The EMS will also streamline maintenance. Because all systems are connected to a central station, maintenance crews can consult the EMS to determine the cause of problems. Some corrections can even be made without a site visit.

Additionally, tenants will soon have the ability to access the energy use information for their building in "real time" through a modem instead of waiting until the end of the month to consult their energy and water reports.

The Presidio Energy Management System is a project of "Rebuild America," a community-based effort to manage the park's resources responsibly. For more information about the EMS, contact Trust Energy Manager Maric Munn at 415.561.5300.

Board Members

John Berry	Mary Murphy
Donald Fisher	William Reilly
Jennifer L. Hernandez	Toby Rosenblatt
Amy Meyer	

By Jim Meadows

Presidio Trust Executive Director

Did You Know...?

WHAT ARE THE PRESIDIO TRUST'S GOALS FOR THE YEAR 2000?

In December's Presidio Post, we examined the considerable strides that the Trust and its partners, tenants, and supporters made last year toward meeting the Presidio's sustainability goals. As we begin the third year of the Trust's journey, I am pleased in this issue to provide an overview of the projects that the Trust will undertake in 2000.

Environmentally, the Trust will implement its cleanup program which has been dramatically accelerated as a result of last year's landmark agreement with the Departments of Defense and the Interior. Plans to regenerate the Presidio's natural areas, improve its trail system and enhance the visitor experience will be developed in

partnership with the National Park Service. To ensure that precious resources are used wisely, the Trust will apply its "Green Building" Guidelines as it prepares Presidio buildings for new uses.

The Trust will also continue to host monthly workshops and other public forums to hear the community's valuable ideas on implementation planning. To enhance the park's community, the Trust's Special Events Office, which recently assumed permitting responsibility within the Presidio's interior, will shape events that invite users into the park to enjoy recreational and educational programming, including an Earth Day 2000 celebration.

Building upgrades will enable the Trust to welcome more than 100 new households to the park's community, and a new competitive process to identify diverse and appropriate tenants for the Presidio's Main Post will be launched. Funds generated from these leasing initiatives will support the park's operation, as well as environmental, natural and infrastructure enhancement projects throughout the Presidio.

We thank all those whose support made last year's successes possible, and look forward to another year of cooperative progress toward securing the Presidio's future as a dynamic national park.



EDUCATING TOMORROW'S PARK STEWARDS

PROGRAMS FOSTER A NEW GENERATION OF PRESIDIO SUPPORTERS

AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS ARE A PRICELESS LEGACY CONVEYED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE PRESIDIO TRUST REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING TODAY'S YOUTH TO CARE FOR OUR NATION'S PARK LANDS, ESPECIALLY THE PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO.



Classrooms are not always located between four walls. Presidio education programs demonstrate that learning can take place anywhere – even at the beach.



Students visit the Presidio's National Military Cemetery to learn about the Buffalo Soldier's impact on the development of national parks in the west.

To achieve that goal, the National Park Service has developed three acclaimed formal education programs based at the Presidio. To reach a cross-section of Bay Area schools, these programs have been shaped with the experience of urban youth in mind.

Through the programs, students connect with the Presidio's abundant plant and animal species, its rich history, and the many cultural stories that make up the park's remarkable history. Through a partnership between the National Park Service, the Golden Gate National Parks Association and AmeriCorps, close to 2,000 students from throughout the Bay Area take part in these programs annually.

The following education programs, which reach out to students from underserved and diverse communities, now offer materials in Spanish. Materials in other languages will be available in the future.

Here's the Dirt at the Presidio's

Native Plant Nursery introduces middle school students to nursery operations and propagation techniques. Students gain a hands-on understanding of plant biology and National Park Service practices. *Here's the Dirt* is supported primarily through funding from Exxon Foundation.

Legacy! Buffalo Soldiers at the Presidio of San Francisco takes students on a fascinating study of the famous black cavalry units stationed at the Presidio, who were among the first to patrol the California national parks in 1903. Students pour over historic photographs and letters examining complex questions of allegiance, racism and human rights. As Sidney Webster, former AmeriCorps intern expressed, "*Legacy!* addresses the needs of young African Americans, and other young people, to know that our ancestors played an integral role, beyond that of slaves, in making this country what it is today." This unique program is underwritten by former Ambassador

Bill and Jean Lane.

National Park Labs enlists students in habitat restoration through field sessions, classroom visits, internships, a telecommunications network, and nursery operations. The San Francisco Education Fund recently awarded its Golden Apple Award to this Presidio program, which is funded by a generous grant from Toyota USA Foundation, through the National Park Foundation.

These popular Presidio education programs are filled for the 1999-2000 school year. However, to learn how your classroom or your children's class can apply for the coming year, please contact Nancy Caplan, Education Coordinator, at 415.561.4315.

Over the coming year, the Trust and the National Park Service will partner to create new "interpretive" programming that will educate youth and visitors of all ages about the Presidio's remarkable history.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AT THE PRESIDIO

PARK COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

Though there was no snow on the ground, the spirit of the holiday season was in evidence at the Presidio this November and December as two traditional events – the Day of Thanks Community Potluck Dinner and the Holiday Tree-Lighting Ceremony – brought the park's tenants, residents and supporters together for a celebration of community.

In November, more than 200

people gathered at the historic Log Cabin at Fort Scott for a lively expression of thanks for the bounty of the year. Led by the Presidio Community Activities Team, the get-together was made possible by the generosity of dozens of Presidio individuals and organizations who volunteered their decorating and culinary expertise to craft a memorable night for all. Music and dancing punctuated a festive evening.

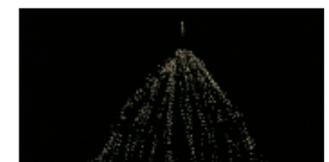
Revelers braved chilly December weather to celebrate the colors of the season by illuminating a tree on the Presidio's Main Post. Participants held hands to create a "human chain" encircling a light-draped tree that grows adjacent to the Presidio museum and joined their voices in song following the "electric" moment when the bulbs lit the night sky. Cider and snacks later warmed the crowd at the Presidio Fire Station.



Friends and colleagues took a break from the hectic pace of life to enjoy a traditional meal together.



Got turkey? The holiday fare was made possible by donations from community members.



The Presidio Holiday Tree brought joy to park visitors throughout the month of December.

PRESIDIO TENANT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Enabling the earth's growing population to meet its resource needs in a manner that is environmentally and economically sustainable is the goal of the Presidio-based Center for Resource Solutions.

The way people think of electricity is changing. Products from light bulbs to washing machines are becoming more energy efficient. The sources that produce our electricity are also changing. The Presidio-based Center for Resource Solutions (CRS) is a small non-profit organization dedicated to promoting energy sources that are environmentally "sensitive" and economically sustainable. These include solar panels, wind turbines, small scale hydro-electric facilities, geothermal (heat from beneath Earth's surface) and biomass (heat from organic and wood waste) generators.

CRS acts as a catalyst to create collaborative projects that address global environmental and economic challenges. CRS employs a "network" approach that brings non-profit environmental and consumer protection organizations together with government and private sector companies to create real-world solutions for sustainable energy policies and projects. The network approach makes CRS far more effective – globally and locally – than one might expect from a small organization.

The Green-e program is one example of the

CRS network approach that has resulted in a successful consumer protection and environmental program supporting renewable electricity choices. By reaching out to many different organizations, Green-e develops regional standards that serve as a useful tool for consumers comparing different electricity choices. If the Green-e logo appears next to an electricity offering, then it meets Green-e's strict criteria.

To learn more, visit www.green-e.org.

CRS is also considering developing a Green Building Center at the Presidio where the public could see the latest ideas in building design and participate in events that promote sustainable appliance, energy and building products for home and work. CRS hopes to partner with several Bay Area organizations to create this showplace for sustainable design.

Internationally, CRS works with the Packard Foundation and Energy Foundation on their Sustainable Energy Initiative in China. CRS also leverages its energy expertise with organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, the International Energy Agency and Winrock International, providing rural villages and conservation sites around the world with power from renewable sources.

CRS brings hundreds of people from across the nation and the world to the Presidio each year to work on renewable energy issues and collaborate with other Presidio organizations who have similar missions. To learn more about CRS, please call 415.561.2100, or visit their website at www.resource-solutions.org.

January

January 13 and 14

Learn How to Save A Life

The San Francisco Paramedics Organization conducts regular training classes at the Presidio for professional paramedics and the public. For more information or to reserve a space, please call 415.543.1161 or visit www.sfparamedics.org.

Monday, January 17, 1 to 3 p.m.

People Make A Difference

What better way to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day than by celebrating the power of each individual to bring about positive change? Over the course of a moderate 2-mile walk, participants will learn about some of the important figures who have influenced our society. Meet at the William Penn Mott, Jr. Visitor Center. Call 415.561.4323 for reservations.

Wednesday, January 19, 6 to 9 p.m.

Planning Workshop on the Main Post

How will the Main Post look and feel in the coming years? Presidio Trust staff will provide an update on the planning work now underway. Please offer your ideas for shaping this rich, historic region of the park. The workshop will be held at the Golden Gate Club. A shuttle will convey guests from the Lombard Gate to the meeting site. Please call 415.561.5300 for more information.



Saturday, January 22, 1 to 3 p.m.

Buildings, Bones and Bottles

Discover the Presidio's rich prehistoric and historic archaeological record and learn about the cultures and lifestyles of the park's past. Dress warmly and wear comfortable shoes. Meet at the William Penn Mott, Jr. Visitor Center. Call 415.561.4323



Ongoing

Plant A Tree

Presidio-based Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) is seeking weekday volunteers to help organize its tree planting programs. To offer your time and talent in support of this important initiative, please call 415.561.6890.



Institute of Noetic Sciences

The Institute will present its Frontiers of Consciousness lecture series at the Presidio Alliance, Building 563, on the third Wednesday evening of each month through December of 2000. For details, visit www.noetics.org or call 415.331.5650.