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NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARK

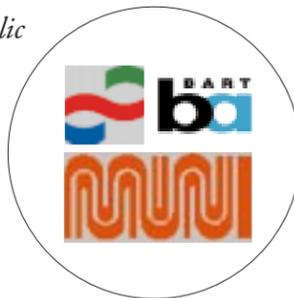
NEW SAND ARRIVES FOR CRISSY FIELD

In early January, 18,000 tons of clean sand arrived at Crissy Field, replacing contaminated soil that the U.S. Army's contractors had removed to prepare for restoration of the site. For several days, barges were anchored offshore near the Historic Coast Guard Station and pumped sand onto the beach. The sand will now be shaped into dunes and planted with native species. The privately-funded restoration project is being sponsored by the Golden Gate National Parks Association, the non-profit partner of the National Parks at the Golden Gate.



TRANSIT PASSES AVAILABLE AT PRESIDIO TRUST OFFICE

As part of the Presidio Trust's ongoing effort to promote public transportation to the Presidio, the Trust will be selling MUNI, BART and Golden Gate Transit passes and tickets to the public beginning on February 22. They will be available at the Presidio Trust's offices at 34 Graham Street from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.



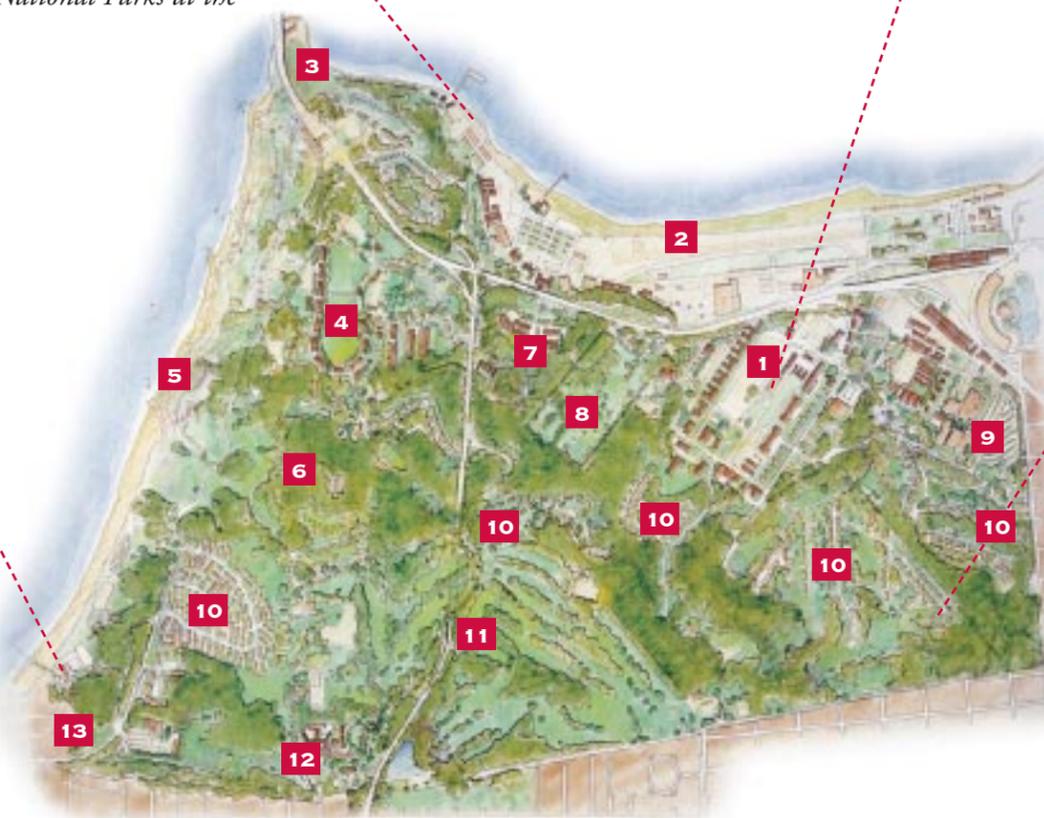
Legend

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SCHOOL GROUPS VISIT WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Fourth and fifth grade students from Burke School in San Francisco visited the Presidio Water Treatment Plant in January. The Plant is located by Baker Beach and draws water from Lobos Creek for use throughout the Presidio.



ARCHITECT SELECTED FOR REHABILITATION OF HISTORIC HOUSES

The Presidio Trust has selected the Page & Turnbull/Solomon, Associated Architects to design renovation plans for Colonial Revival Style brick duplexes on Liggett and Portola rows. Once the work is completed, these 1930s homes will be available for lease.

Presidio

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*Preserving the Presidio
as a Sustainable
National Park*

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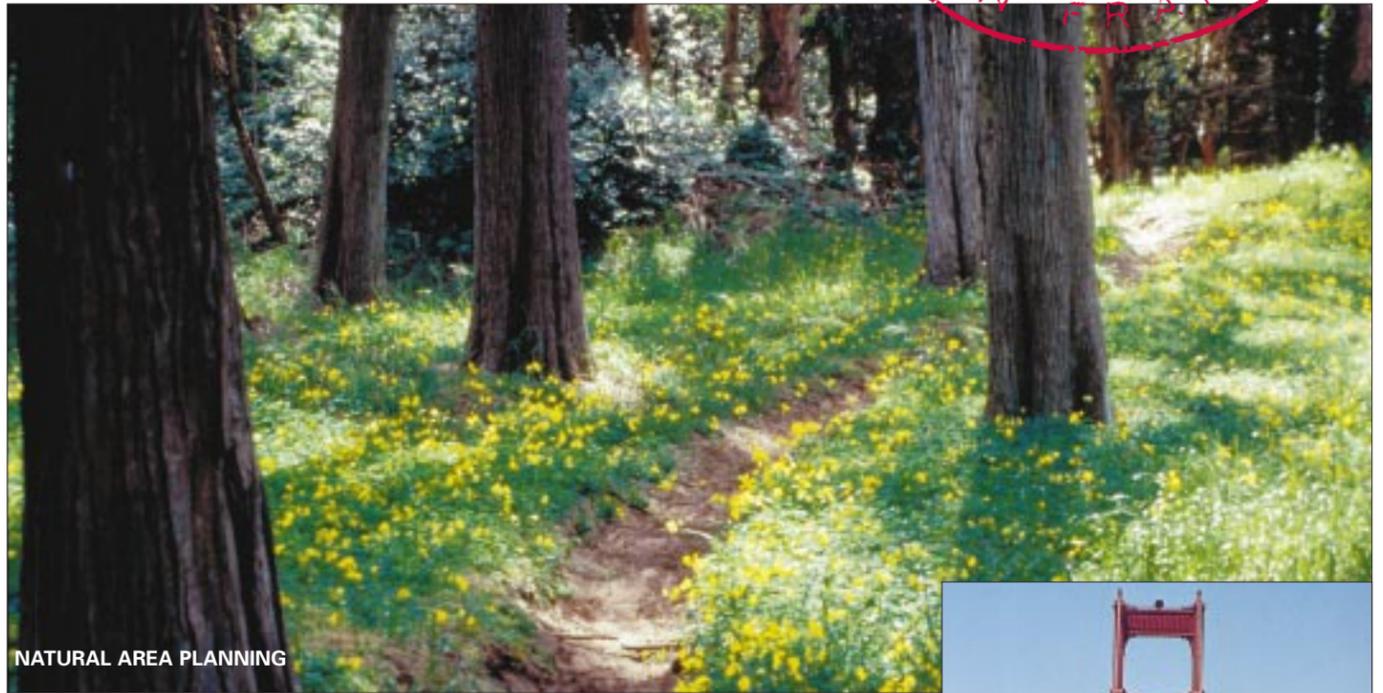
Public Health Service Hospital Complex for Lease

The Presidio Trust is seeking tenants for the Public Health Service Hospital Complex and is soliciting input from community members about appropriate uses.

A request for qualifications will be available on February 16, and prospective tenants will have 60 days to prepare responses. Potential uses for all or part of the 412,000 square feet of space on the 36-acre site are varied and may include educational or conference facilities, senior housing, lodging, health care, research and development, multimedia, office, or residential space.

The Public Health Service Hospital site is located just inside the Presidio's southern boundary near 15th Avenue and Mountain Lake. It includes 17 buildings, the largest of which is the 312,000-square-foot hospital building. The site offers possibilities for building reuse or new replacement construction.

Neighbors and community members are encouraged to attend a workshop on Wednesday, February 17 to provide input about appropriate uses for the site. The workshop will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Golden Gate Club in the Presidio. The Trust will also be meeting with neighborhood groups in February. Organizations interested in meeting with the Trust should call 561.5300.



NATURAL AREA PLANNING

PARKWIDE PLANNING

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TO BE A KEY COMPONENT

Detailed implementation planning for the Presidio will begin in February with the first of a series of monthly public workshops. This phase of design and planning work for the park will build upon the General Management Plan for the Presidio to lay out detailed implementation plans for major park activity centers, natural areas and parkwide improvements.

The Presidio Trust chose San Francisco-based Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Moris (SMWM) as its planning firm through a competitive selection process with a nationwide outreach. SMWM was among the finalists that made public presentations at the December 2 Presidio Trust Board of Directors meeting. As part of the evaluation, finalists submitted written responses to questions raised at the meeting.

SMWM will lead a multidisciplinary team to assist the Presidio Trust in planning initiatives that will preserve the Presidio's historic and natural character while creating an inviting environment for the park's community and visitors. The firm's work includes planning and design for Mission Bay and the S.F. Civic Center Plaza. The group is known for innovative techniques for fostering community involvement.

Beginning in February, the Presidio Trust and SMWM will conduct workshops on the second Wednesday of every month to facilitate public input on park planning activities. The first workshop on **February 10 from 6 to 9 p.m.** at the Golden Gate Club will provide an overview of the planning schedule and priorities for 1999.

SITE PLANNING

Site planning will focus on activity centers in the park and will address issues such as public access, circulation, landscape rehabilitation, and proximity to park boundaries. The Letterman Complex, where tenant selection is underway for a 23-acre site, will be the first area of focus for site-specific planning. Planning activities for the Main Post and Public Health Service Hospital Complex will also begin in 1999.

NATURAL AREA PLANNING

Resource preservation and enhancement, in conjunction with providing improved visitor access, will be the focus of open space and natural area planning. In cooperation with the National Park Service, projects in 1999 include a Presidio-wide trails plan, Mountain Lake restoration, and a plan for managing the historic forest and native plants areas. Planning is already underway for the completion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Presidio link, in partnership with the National Park Service and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council.

PARKWIDE PLANNING

Parkwide planning will focus on features that integrate various parts of the park as a whole. Improving transportation systems, transit service and visitor access to the Presidio is a top priority for the park in 1999. Planning will explore alternatives to automobile transportation to minimize roadway congestion. This includes the establishment of an internal shuttle system, implementation of approved pedes-



PARKWIDE PLANNING



SITE PLANNING

trian and bicycle routes, and enhanced public transit. In addition, planning and design work will focus on critical intersection improvements, parking and bus management programs.

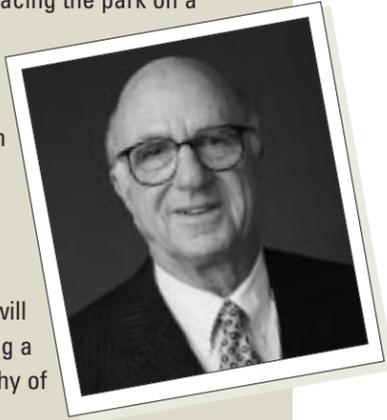


The next phase of detailed planning work for the Presidio will build upon the general objectives outlined in the Presidio's General Management Plan. The 1994 Plan was the result of a four-year public planning process involving more than 100 meetings and workshops.

Board Profile

Donald G. Fisher, a native of San Francisco, brings his comprehensive knowledge of real estate management and business savvy to the Presidio Trust Board of Directors. Mr. Fisher is Founder and Chairman of The Gap, Inc. Prior to his success in retail clothing, Mr. Fisher focused on real estate management with the Fisher Property Investment and Development Company.

"Congress has challenged us to preserve the Presidio's natural and cultural resources while placing the park on a strong financial footing," said Mr. Fisher. "I believe that by setting high standards for design, sustainability and financial performance, we will succeed in creating a national park worthy of the Presidio's incomparable setting, history and community."



Among his other affiliations, Mr. Fisher is Chairman of the S.F. Partnership and serves on the Board of Governors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Advisory Board of the Haas School of Business at U.C. Berkeley, and the Board of Trustees for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

His community service also includes work with the Committee on Jobs, KQED (as Vice Chairman), the Executive Committee of the Bay Area Council, and the Executive Committee for the Columbia Park Boys and Girls Club. Among his many honors are 1997 Retailer of the Year presented by the National Retail Federation, Business Man of the Year awarded by U.C. Berkeley's Haas School of Business, and election to the Bay Area Business Hall of Fame by the Bay Area Council. Mr. Fisher is a graduate of the University of California.

Board Members

John Berry	Mary Murphy
Edward Blakely	William Reilly
Donald Fisher	Toby Rosenblatt
Amy Meyer	

Advisory Commission

The public is invited to hear an update of Trust activities and offer public comment at monthly meetings of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission. The March meeting will be held on the 16th at 7:30 p.m. Location to be determined. Call 561.4633.



Deputy Director for Real Estate and Planning

PRESIDIO PLANNING

As this issue of the Presidio Post goes to press, the Trust is embarking on an exciting planning effort. After a competitive request for qualifications, the Trust has selected a planning team led by Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Moris, better known as SMWM, to assist the Trust with detailed planning for the Presidio. Starting with the 1994 General Management Plan Amendment for the Presidio – a concept plan – we'll develop implementation plans to address a wide range of planning issues. As described in our feature articles this month, the Trust has a full agenda of projects to plan and implement over the next 18 months.

I invite you to participate in this planning effort by joining the Trust staff and SMWM in a series of monthly planning workshops. At the first workshop on February 10, we'll present an overview of a proposed planning agenda for 1999 and 2000. At each future workshop we'll focus on a specific planning area or theme. Working in small groups, all participants will have an opportunity to contribute.

This planning work is part of the Presidio's continuing evolution from Post to Park – our team is thrilled to participate in making a wonderful place even better! I look forward to working with you.

Yours very truly,

Jane Blackstone

PRESIDIO FOREST

Many Presidio visitors assume that the trees have always been here, when in fact they are the result of deliberate planning to beautify the post. Until the late nineteenth century, the Presidio consisted mostly of sand hills covered with grass and wildflowers. In 1883, Major William A. Jones drafted a plan for the Presidio Forest that was well-received by Army officials and members of Congress, including Representative John Colburn who replied that the Presidio "must give you an opportunity to produce the most charming effects, which will prove to be a blessing to San Francisco and her visitors for hundreds of years after you are gone."

The first mass planting of trees occurred late in 1886 on California's first Arbor Day. Congress appropriated funds for more trees in 1889, and three years later the number of trees totaled 350,000. The Presidio forest was planted with acacia, cypress, pine, washingtonia, bamboo and eucalyptus trees.

In 1902, the Army reassessed the forest and expanded its role beyond mere beautification. More trees were planted to prevent soil erosion, provide windbreaks, and screen new batteries.

This year, a new phase of forest planning will be undertaken that deals with forest, native plant areas and landscaped portions of the park. Planning will include details for rehabilitating the aging forest to ensure its viability into the future.



Photo courtesy of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area archives.

February

Saturday, February 27, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Buffalo Soldiers in the West

Learn about the various important contributions of African-American "Buffalo Soldiers" in the settlement of the West on this moderate two-mile walk. Meet at the Lombard Gate. Reservations required. Call 561.4323.



Saturday, February 27, 1 to 3 p.m.

Patriotism and Prejudice

Japanese-American soldiers at the Presidio contributed to the Allied war effort in WWII, even as their families lived in internment camps. Meet at building 640 on Mason Street near Crissy Field for this short informative walk. Call 561.4323.



March

Wednesday, March 10, 6 to 9 p.m.

Presidio Planning Workshop

Community members are invited to attend this monthly workshop and provide input on planning issues such as major site design, natural area projects, and parkwide improvements. Located at the Golden Gate Club. Call 561.5300.

ARTIFACTS DISCOVERED

RENOVATIONS CONTINUE FOR SAN FRANCISCO FILM INSTITUTE



Artifacts discovered during work to connect a water main to this Main Post building included ceramic pottery, metal hooks and cattle bones.

ARTIFACTS DATING FROM 1815 WERE DISCOVERED DURING REHABILITATION WORK ON THE WEST SIDE OF BUILDING 39, THE FORMER SIXTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

The site appears to have been a kitchen or hearth, located outside the walls of El Presidio de San Francisco, the original village-fortress commissioned by Captain Juan Bautista de Anza on July 26, 1776.

Among the artifacts found were tejas – roofing tiles used by the Spanish colonists – multicolored ceramic pottery, oxidized metal hooks and cattle bones. The objects were removed, soil and strata were recorded, and the rehabilitation work continued with minimal delay.

The artifacts are now at the Presidio's archeology lab in the Letterman Complex and will later be on display.

Renovations on the building are underway in preparation for the San Francisco Film Institute, which will move in this year. In the spring of

1998, the Institute was chosen from among 11 other groups to lease the former Sixth Army Headquarters Building and the Presidio Theatre.

The San Francisco Film Institute will be a center for film arts that fosters multicultural and international exchanges of film. It will include state-of-the-art pre- and post-production facilities, multicultural outreach and classes, and a mix of for-profit and non-profit film-related organizations, including the San Francisco Film Society.

Presidio tenants are selected based upon their ability to meet the general objectives of the General Management Plan Amendment and Presidio Trust goals. Lease revenue enables the Presidio Trust to preserve the natural and historic resources of the Presidio as a national park.



PRESIDIO TENANT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

LEAKEY FOUNDATION

The Louis S. B. Leakey Foundation located in the Presidio has been funding research to study human origins for 30 years. With such renown grantees as Jane Goodall, the Foundation has made possible many of the seminal studies that comprise current knowledge about human evolution.

Louis Leakey introduced the idea that closely observing great apes in their natural habitat might give clues about the roots of human behavior. The Foundation pursues Leakey's vision of exploring human origins through a multidisciplinary science that seeks to understand the earliest people – the ecology of their times,



The Leakey Foundation

their biology and culture, and their behavior.

This approach involves three primary areas in which the Foundation awards research grants: paleoanthropology – the study of stone tools and fossilized bone fragments, primatology – the behavioral study of non-human primates, and the study of contemporary hunter-gatherers.

"The Foundation asks the big questions about human origins that continue to inspire generations of scientists," said President Kay Harrigan Woods. "At the Presidio, we are part of the park's mission to bring education and learning alive for the many people who are in some way connected to this unparalleled place."

Foundation-sponsored lectures, symposia and workshops provide opportunities for the public to learn firsthand about new research. Contact the Foundation at 415.561.4646 for more information.



The U.S. Army planted rows of trees in the Presidio to increase the post's attractiveness. The Presidio Forest in an early stage of growth is shown here in the 1880s.

Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission Meeting

Community members are invited to attend these monthly meetings that include a Presidio Trust update and opportunity for public comment. Location to be determined. Call 561.4633.

Wednesday, March 24, 10 a.m. to noon

Presidio Trust Board of Directors Meeting

Finalist teams for the Letterman project will present their proposals to the community and the Board of Directors. Public comment is welcome. Located at the Golden Gate Club. Call 561.5300.



Wednesdays, March 24 & 31, 6 to 9 p.m.

Letterman Finalists Workshops

Finalist teams will present their proposals, and community members will be invited to provide input in small and large groups. Located at the Golden Gate Club. Call 561.5300.

