



PRESIDIO POST

Board Approves Vegetation Management Plan at Public Meeting

The Presidio Trust Board of Directors approved a resolution that completes the environmental analysis and review process, and sets pilot and demonstration projects of the Vegetation Management Plan into forward motion. The Vegetation Management Plan is a draft document that outlines plans for restoration and ongoing care of the Presidio's forest and natural areas. The board also discussed key topics

about the upcoming Presidio Trust Implementation Plan, and fielded questions from members of the public.

The full board was in attendance at the meeting, which began with presentations by Trust staff to the Board and attendees.

George Ford, remedial construction manager,

See **PUBLIC MEETING, 5**



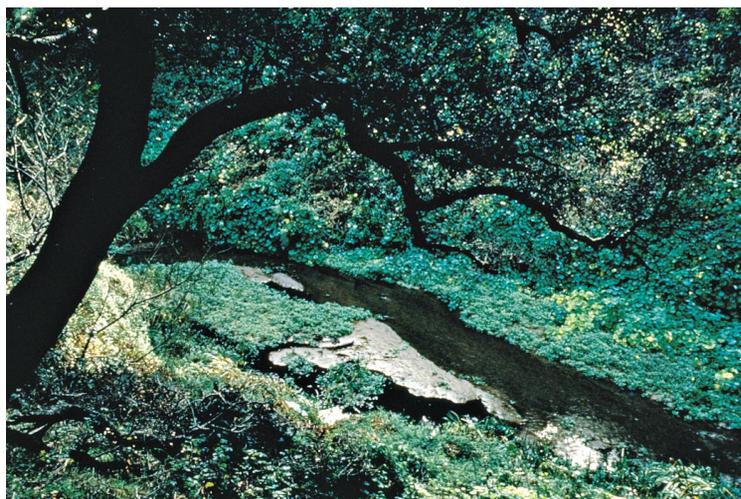
A Watershed Event: The Rebirth of Tennessee Hollow

Tennessee Hollow and the El Polin Spring have played an important role in the human history of the Presidio. The food, water and abundant cover provided by the water supply were critical to Ohlone Indian inhabitants, as they were to early Spaniards. Fascination with the area began with legends and newspaper accounts of El Polin being a "fountain of fertility" and the "spring of many babies." Today, the area provides a unique opportunity to restore an entire watershed, from the headwater springs to the recently completed Crissy Field tidal marsh.

The Tennessee Hollow watershed encompasses the East Housing area, and consists of three tributaries that

drain the southeastern portion of the Presidio. El Polin Spring, located near the picnic grounds at the end of MacArthur Avenue, feeds the central tributary. A spring in the eastern tributary supports one of the few remaining natural streamside, or riparian, plant communities, and some of the best habitat for birds, on the Presidio.

Once these waters flowed naturally northward to a series of wetlands and marshes, emptying into San Francisco Bay. During the Presidio's military occupation, however, Tennessee Hollow underwent a number of alterations. Its waters were directed into manmade ditches, and then into storm drains, by the Army in the



late 19th century.

The National Park Service initially proposed restoring Tennessee Hollow's creek in 1994. A Feasibility Study the next year outlined how a balance could be struck between the area's natural, archaeological and cultural components, while still allowing the creek to be restored. Beginning last winter, the Presidio Trust, working together with the National Park Service, started gathering information that would be needed for a more detailed restoration plan.

Data being collected

include groundwater levels, surface water quality, and surface water flow. This monitoring program will continue through next year's rainy season, in order to learn more about existing conditions, and to model how the Tennessee Hollow watershed works. Hydrology experts will be involved this summer to help develop technical alternatives on how creek restoration could occur.

To support work on Tennessee Hollow, the Presidio Trust has established a partnership with the Urban Watershed Project

See **WATERSHED, 5**

Treasure Map: Protecting Archaeologically Rich Areas of the Presidio

Inhabited in prehistoric times by native Ohlone people, and from 1776 onward by an array of international military groups, the Presidio hides a wealth of history buried within its soil.

Archaeological sites dating from different periods of history are peppered across the park. The challenge: how to protect these diverse sites when ecological restoration, building maintenance, roadwork, and other activities are ongoing throughout the Presidio.

Historians and archaeologists from the Presidio Trust focused on this complex problem, and created a very practical solution.

"We wanted to create a tool that could provide specific information about archaeologically sensitive areas of the Presidio at the

See **TREASURE MAP, 5**

Inside

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News Briefs

Presidio Trust Works with Audubon Society to Protect California Quail



Once, more than 3,000 California Quail made their home in the San Francisco area; today less than 100 of the birds are confirmed residents. The California Quail is included on the National Audubon Society's Watch List, which highlights bird species whose numbers are diminishing.

Over the last year, Quail have found a refuge in the Presidio. For more than a year, the Presidio Trust has worked in partnership with the Golden Gate Audubon Society to support the Save The Quail campaign, a grass-roots effort to help prevent the disappearance of Quail from this area.

The Presidio Trust, the Audubon Society and the National Park Service have begun a series of restoration programs to increase habitat areas for the ground-dwellers. Each month, volunteers help remove destructive iceplant and construct brush piles that provide a refuge from predators. The partners have also instituted a monitoring program to track the population of the species.

To learn more about the Save the Quail program at the Presidio, or to volunteer, please call the Presidio Trust Natural Resources Program at (415)561-4449; nature@presidio-trust.gov.

Working Towards Energy Independence at the Presidio

The Presidio Trust is working with park tenants such as the Presidio Alliance to make the Presidio energy-independent. The Trust plans to pursue the possibility of using emerging

Twenty-Four Interns Spend their Summer at the Presidio

For the past two years, the Presidio Trust has selected college students from across the nation to participate in a summer internship program. This year, we again welcome 24 gifted and energetic undergraduate and graduate students to the Presidio.

Our interns come from a variety of disciplines, backgrounds and experiences. We have representatives from 14 states and three countries, and from leading academic institutions such as Brown University, Cornell University, Penn State University and University of Hawaii.

Our Legal Department is fortunate to have Stephanie Stuart, a 2nd year law student at Hastings College of Law for the summer. Intern Stuart Campbell, who works in the archaeology lab, comes from Scotland. Kooyoung Kim, an exchange student from Korea, will assist the Real Estate Department. We also have two returning interns, Rebecca Mack and Shawn Strohman, who are working in Special Events and Non-residential Construction this time around.

Our interns will provide support for a variety of Trust



Jim Meadows
Executive Director

departments including transportation, finance, public affairs, environmental sustainability, historic preservation, architecture and planning. A pilot project for solar powered lights, project management for the renovation of the Ruger Street Barracks, the Tennessee Hollow Watershed Restoration, and the Oracle software implementation plan are just some of the projects in which they will be involved. If the past is any indication, I know that their work will provide lasting benefits to the Presidio Trust. In

fact, several interns from past programs have been hired as full-time members of our staff.

Over the summer, interns will gain hands-on work experience as they learn about the Presidio and the Trust's mission. They will also have the opportunity to work closely with Trust employees and community members. We hope the experience they gain this summer will help direct and inform their future education and their careers. Please join me in welcoming our 2001 interns.

"green" technologies to reduce reliance on outside power sources by 80 percent over the next five years.

This summer, the Trust will have two natural gas-fueled cogenerators operating. These cogenerators use gas turbines to provide clean, high quality power, and will initially provide enough electricity to run the Presidio Trust's main headquarters. The co-generation program is undergoing environmental and historical review. By next summer, the number of cogenerators may rise to as many as 12, providing energy for both residential and non-residential areas in the Presidio.

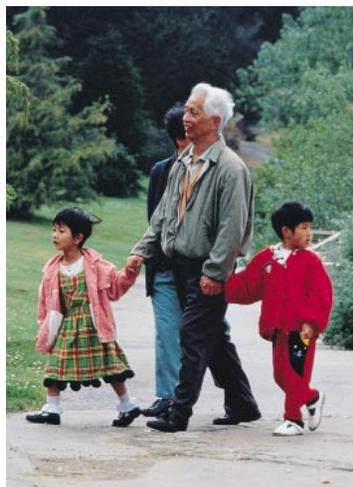
The Trust's energy conservation program includes use of the Johnson Controls-based Energy Management System in 48 non-residential buildings. This system allows building users to view their own energy consumption on detailed computer graphs. Some 7,000 energy efficient fluorescent lamps are currently being installed in residences around the Presidio to replace power-sucking incandescent bulbs. Additionally, astronomical timers on 13 street light cir-

cuits throughout the park turn lights off when the sun rises and on at dusk. The Trust also plans to install 75 solar-powered streetlights that would shine at night using energy stored during the day.

Support for energy-conserving green technologies at the Presidio is widespread. "It is possible to operate businesses with less damage to the environment," said Leanne Hoadley, executive director of the Presidio Alliance, a tenant at the park. "We support the development and use of new technologies that will allow us to change the status quo."

PTIP Update

Please plan to attend a presentation of the draft Presidio Trust Implementation Plan



and environmental impact statement at a public meeting July 25, 6 to 9 p.m. at the Golden Gate Club. At the meeting, Trust staff will explain the draft plan for the Presidio's future, and guidelines for the public to provide additional input that will shape the final plan.

On September 11, the first public hearing on the draft plan will be held at the Golden Gate Club from 6 to 9 pm.

Note: The public board meeting has been rescheduled for September 17 from 1 to 4 p.m., location to be announced. At both these meetings, the public may present their views to the board and have comments entered into the record.

All those who are on the Trust mailing list (those who receive the Presidio Post by mail) will be receiving a copy of the PTIP executive summary by mail in July. Other interested parties can obtain a copy of the summary by mailing a request to the Trust office, 34 Graham Street, P.O. Box 29052, San Francisco 94129; by calling the Planning Department at (415) 561-5414, or in the Trust Library in

the Graham Street office. We look forward to your input!

Building 41 Restored as Lodging for Interns and Volunteers

Restoration work on Building 41, a large former barracks located across from the Presidio Officers' Club, is completed, and the building is back in use as a no-to-low cost housing resource.

"This building will give Presidio-based organizations a place to house volunteers and program participants while they are working in the park," said Ann Ostrander of the Presidio Trust Real Estate Department.

This summer, interns from Food, Land and People and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, together with Landmark Volunteers and Ohlone Tribe members, will stay in the building. "We've had many requests for this type of accommodation from Presidio-based organizations, and now we are equipped to handle them," added Ostrander. Those interested in lodging space in Building 41 should call Ann at (415) 561-5328.



Calendar

WEEKLY

Presidio Chapel Concert

Tuesdays, 8 p.m.
Programs and performers vary. Call (415) 362-6080 for program information. Tickets are \$10 at the door.



Every TUESDAY

Ladies' Golf Clinic

6 to 7 p.m.
Presidio Golf Course
Cost is \$15. Call (415) 561-4661 X4 to sign up.



Every THURSDAY

Beginners' Golf Clinic

6 to 7 p.m.
Presidio Golf Course
Cost is \$15. Call (415) 561-4661 X4 to sign up.

7-14 JULY - 14 OCTOBER

Torture Exhibition

Exhibition of European instruments of torture from the collection of the Criminal Medieval Museum of San Gimignano, Italy. Opening reception July 6, 6 to 9 p.m., free. Tickets \$9-\$6, seniors and children under 10 free. Herbst International Exhibition Hall (Presidio Building 385). For more information, visit www.torturemuseum.com. For tickets call (415) 441-3687.

7, 8, 10 JULY

The Guns of San Francisco

1 to 2 p.m.
Learn how the gun emplacements around the Presidio were used for the defense of the harbor during World War II. Meet docent Sheldon Smith for an illustrated presentation at Battery Chamberlin, Baker Beach. Reservations suggested: (415) 561-4323.



10&24 JULY

National Cemetery Walk

10 a.m. to noon
The San Francisco National Cemetery is the final resting place for many famous and interesting people including pre-Civil War soldiers, a Union spy, an Indian scout, Buffalo Soldiers, and 35 Medal of Honor winners. Rain cancels. Meet docent Galen Dillman at the Cemetery entrance gate, Lincoln Blvd. near Sheridan Ave. Reservations required; call (415) 561-4323.



11 JULY

Ecological Restoration of the Waterfront

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Learn why the Crissy tidal marsh, once thought useless, is now seen as a beautiful necessity, during a 2-mile walk along the shore. Meet docent Bob Halsey at the corner of Halleck and Mason streets. Reservations required; phone (415) 561-4323.



14 JULY

They Called It Home

1 to 2 p.m.
Visit two cottages built for refugees of the San Francisco earthquake and fire, and learn what happened to those left homeless by the April 18, 1906 disaster. Meet docent Bob Bowen at the old Post Hospital at the corner of Lincoln Blvd. and Funston Ave. Reservations suggested; call (415) 561-4323.



16, 23 JULY

Presidio 5-day Junior Golf Camps

9, 30 JULY

Presidio 5-day Advanced Golf Camp

Presidio Golf Course
For more information or to register, call Chris Gay at (415) 561-4661 X306

17 JULY

Friends of the Urban Forest Education Seminar: The Building of Golden Gate Park

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
The evening will include a slide show by Friends of Recreation and Parks, and an update on the park today. Meet at the Friends of the Urban Forest office, Presidio building 1007. Call for information or directions: Chris at (415) 561-6890 X108.

21 JULY

Horseshoes and Carrots

Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Tour the Presidio's historic stables and meet the mounted Park Police's four-legged allies. Note: this program ends at the stables, a 1.5-mile walk from the Visitor's Center. Meet docent Denise Chapleau at the William Penn Mott Visitor Center on Montgomery Street, Main Post. Reservations required; call (415) 561-4323.



21 JULY

Neighborhood Walk Around Tennessee Hollow

1 to 2:30 p.m.
Learn how Tennessee Hollow got its name and find out about its past, present and future. Meet Ranger Marcus Combs at the footbridge at the bottom of Lover's Lane. Reservations recommended; call (415) 561-4323.



22 JULY

Houses, Heroes and History

1 to 2:30 p.m.
Explore the heart of the Presidio and view some of its classic historical buildings representing many architectural styles. Learn about the history of this former army post, and the plans for its future. Meet docent Jim Farquharson at the William Penn Mott Jr. Visitor Center on Montgomery Street, Main Post. Reservations recommended; call (415) 561-4323.



22 JULY

Friends of the Urban Forest's Bicycle Tour of Golden Gate Park

2 to 4 p.m.
Join horticulturist Annalee Veach for a cycling tour of the amazing trees in Golden Gate Park. Meet at the corner of Great Highway and John F. Kennedy Drive. Call Friends of the Urban Forest for information: (415) 561-6890 X108.



28 JULY

Quail Habitat Enhancement Program

9 a.m. to noon
Volunteers are needed to help enhance natural feeding and shelter opportunities for California Quail couples and their chicks. For more information, call (415) 561-4449 or email nature@presidiotrust.gov

28 JULY

The Presidio Rocks

10 to 11 a.m.
Learn the story that underlies the Presidio. Explore 160 million years of geologic and natural history that shaped this unique area's defining characteristics. A Crissy Field Center "Presidio Treks" program. Meet Ranger Will Elder at Crissy Field Center, located at the corner of Halleck and Mason Streets. For information or reservations call (415) 561-7690.

28 JULY

Sounds Like Summer

10 a.m. to noon
Use your ears in this workshop to get up close and personal with nature. Join sound designer Amy Hunter and naturalist Paul Matzner for this special outdoor walk to listen in on the sounds of summer with a specialized microphone. For families with children ages 7 and up. Fee: \$6 per person. Call Crissy Field Center for reservations and information: (415) 561-7690.

29 JULY

Surviving Off the Land

1 to 2:30 p.m.
How did past residents of this area locate food, water, and shelter? Join a 90-minute walk on the beach and hills at Baker Beach and learn the answers. Children welcome. Meet docent Stephen Strugnell at the entrance to the water treatment plant at Baker Beach. Reservations suggested; (415) 561-4323.



29 JULY

Crissy Concert: Didjeridu Dreamtime

Two shows: 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.
World-renowned musician Stephen Kent will amaze you with the magical sounds of the Australian Aboriginal didjeridu, a long hollow tube instrument made from a tree trunk. The concert is free and seating is first-come, first-served. Call Crissy Field Center for information: (415) 561-7690.



Red, White, and Green:

The Presidio of San Francisco as an American Landscape – Part 2

by *Randolph Delehanty, Ph.D.*
Presidio Trust Historian

Part 1 appeared in the June Presidio Post.

TWENTIETH-CENTURY NATURALISM

In the early twentieth century, as curving streets and “naturalistic” land design came into vogue, the Presidio adopted the new aesthetic. When Fort Scott was planned and built between 1909 and 1912, the rigid Victorian grid design evident at the Main Post was replaced with topographically responsive land design.

Fort Scott’s parade ground is horseshoe-shaped, conforming to its site with its open end facing the Golden Gate. Twentieth century officers’ quarters up on the heights, such as Infantry Terrace and Kobbe Avenue, adopted sinuous suburban streetscapes that conform to the contours of the land and that are nestled within a forested “garden city.”

A CONSCIOUSLY NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL ENSEMBLE

The architectural evolution of the Presidio is another way that the park is a living textbook of national changes. Along with recycling the existing Spanish and Mexican adobes, the Army built massive red-brick Fort Point (1853–1861). The 1860s through the 1880s saw the construction of typical Victorian frame and brick buildings such as the dozen cottages along Funston Avenue, the four large officers’ quarters at Funston and Presidio Boulevard, and the utilitarian brick buildings lining Halleck Street.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, the Presidio’s architecture became more self-conscious. Beginning with the design of Fort Scott, a distinctly Californian architecture – the Mission style – appeared on the post. Built of stucco-covered reinforced concrete with curvilinear gables and red tile roofs, these buildings began to give the post its own architectural identity. (The gable end of one of these buildings is now the logo for The Presidio Trust.) The finest example of this style on the Presidio is the Post Chapel of 1930, an ornamented Spanish Revival design appropriately showier than the simple Mission style prevalent on the rest of the post.

Eventually, the Mission style’s color scheme of white walls and red roofs was adopted for almost all the buildings here, from the commandant’s quarters to storage sheds. Red brick buildings were painted with white trim and capped with red asphalt shingle roofs so that they, too, would continue the Mission theme.

A second, and less noticed, architectural revival emerged on the post during the first decade of the twentieth century: the Georgian Revival style, sometimes called the Federal style. While the Mission style recalled the Spanish-settled Southwest, the Georgian Revival recalled the English-settled East Coast. Most of these Georgian Revival buildings were designed in Washington, D.C. Pershing Hall of 1903, and the 1915 Fort Scott commandant’s quarters at 1337 Pope Street are fine Georgian Revival designs. Thus the Presidio’s architecture fuses the East and West coasts in a consciously national architectural ensemble.

The Presidio’s architecture fuses the East and West coasts in a consciously national architectural ensemble.

The Presidio has both exotic and native vegetation. Here, against a backdrop of Army-planted cypress and eucalyptus trees, is an outcropping of serpentine rock with native goldfields and tidytips in bloom. Photo by Brenda Tharp.

A DYNAMIC LANDSCAPE

The Presidio was once a mosaic of grasslands and scrub, with trees on protected slopes and in valleys. Stabilized dunes dominated the western areas and wetlands, and bayshore marshes provided rich habitat for wildlife. By the time the U.S. Army settled here in 1846, the Presidio was a harsh and over-grazed landscape.

In 1883, Maj. W. A. Jones conceived a Plan for the Cultivation of Trees upon the Presidio Reservation. As he wrote: “The main idea is to crown the ridges, border the boundary fences, and cover the areas of sand and marsh waste with a forest that will generally seem continuous, and thus appear immensely larger than it really is.” This forestation plan took decades to effect, and the result is memorable.

Today there are 700 acres of open space on the Presidio, with 300 acres of historic forests and 170 acres of native plants. Trees were planted along the ridges, and irrigated lawns were cultivated in the valleys to create a series of wind-sheltered areas.

From open hills, to overgrazed pastures, to man-planted forests and irrigated lawns, to today’s restored native plant communities, all the phases of California land management have shaped this diverse parkland.

Special thanks to Sharon Farrell, Presidio Trust Natural Resources Planner, for her help with this landscape history.

Part 3 will look at the shift from post to park.





Public Meeting continued from P. 1



talked about the Trust's remediation program:

"The Trust Environmental Remediation Program works with the public, the National Park Service and regulatory agencies to

clean up the park to the highest standards, which are appropriate for a national park.

"At the time the Trust assumed responsibility for the cleanup from the Army, the park had over a dozen landfills and fill sites that contained construction debris, soil and municipal waste. There were hundreds of underground storage tank sites, dozens of vehicle maintenance shops, several fuel depots, and the remnants of over five miles of underground heating oil distribution pipes.

"The Trust is establishing cleanup levels for fill sites, and choosing remedies that are cost-effective and appropriate for a national park. The Trust expects to complete all of the environmental remediation by 2010."

Terry Thomas, natural resources program manager, talked about protection and preservation of wildlife:

"The San Francisco Bay Area has been identified by the Nature Conservancy as one of six hot spots of biological diversity. The Nature Conservancy looks at these areas as beacons of conservation nationally. We have an opportunity here at the Presidio to help lead that effort.

"Trust conservation experts are working on mapping areas of biodiversity. Also, Point Reyes Bird Observatory has spent the last couple of years in partnership with the National Park Service inventorying birds, and the Presidio was included in that. Through these efforts and other outreach, we're hoping to provide leadership, locally, nationally and internationally, in protecting biological diversity."

Cherilyn Widell, Trust preservation officer, made a presentation on sustainable rehabilitation of historic buildings at the Presidio: "The Presidio is undergoing one of the largest historic preservation projects in the United States. The Trust is using innovative technologies in adaptive reuse, using trained craftspeople, and promoting sustainable stewardship in efforts to restore over 400 historic properties.

"Restoration work is resulting in 19th century buildings with 21st century technology, including low-flow plumbing, recycled carpeting, non-toxic interior paint, and energy-efficient lighting and appliances. All rehabilitation meets both the Secretary of Interior's standards, and the green building guidelines.

Board Chairman Toby Rosenblatt made some comments on PTIP – the Presidio Trust Implementation Plan: "I wanted to remind everybody that PTIP is an ongoing process. Upcoming meetings will provide more opportunities for us to gather additional input and ideas to shape the plan. The Trust board regards PTIP as an iterative and interactive discussion and dialogue on what we all collectively hope to see as the next steps in the life of the Presidio."

Board member Mary Murphy commented: "We've heard a lot of the concerns about unfettered commercial development on the Presidio. The Trust Act, our enabling legislation, creates an absolute cap on how much development there can be in the Presidio, which is exactly as much as there is today.

"There have been several comments about the Greenwich gate issue. This is not an automobile access gate. It is a bicycle and pedestrian path gate that will not be wide enough to accommodate a vehicle."

Transportation Update

Presidio Shuttle Service to Begin July 30, 2001



This summer, the Presidio Trust will begin a new, free internal shuttle service. The shuttle will run a circuit route, serving residential areas and points of interest within the park. This service will help fulfill the park's sustainability goals by making it easy for residents, employees and visitors to move around the park without using their cars.

One key goal of the service is to provide better access to

public transit. The shuttle route will connect to Muni at a variety of locations, and to Golden Gate Transit at the Bridge Toll Plaza.

The Presidio Trust will soon be purchasing clean-running compressed natural gas (CNG) buses for the service. Stay Posted for a route map and schedule, plus an upcoming contest to name the internal shuttle service!

Cut Your Commuting Costs – Join a Vanpool Today!

The Presidio Trust now has three vanpools arriving at the Presidio each workday, originating in Napa, Vallejo, and San Leandro. The vanpools are open to all employees in the park, and others will be started as more

Presidio commuters register for the program.

- A vanpool is a group of 7–15 people who commute together in a van.
- Vanpools are most cost-effective on long distance commutes.
- The savings over driving alone are substantial.
- Vanpools include all insurance, maintenance, and roadside assistance.

If you are interested in forming your own vanpool or joining one, please contact Greg Stempson at 561-2739.



Watershed continued from P. 1

(UWP), a non-profit environmental organization. UWP conducts the surface water monitoring program, and is in the process of establishing a program to involve area high school students in watershed restoration efforts. This educational/outreach program grew out of another partnership between the UWP, San Francisco Unified School District, and UCB to provide inner city high school students with quality education in environmental sciences. In the fall, students from Galileo High School will begin tackling projects that will give them a hands-on experience in environmental protection.

"Restoring Tennessee Hollow provides a special opportunity to demonstrate the connection between human habitation and the natural resources of the area," said Holly Van Houten, senior planner for the Trust. "Our plan for the area will enhance and protect its many special features."



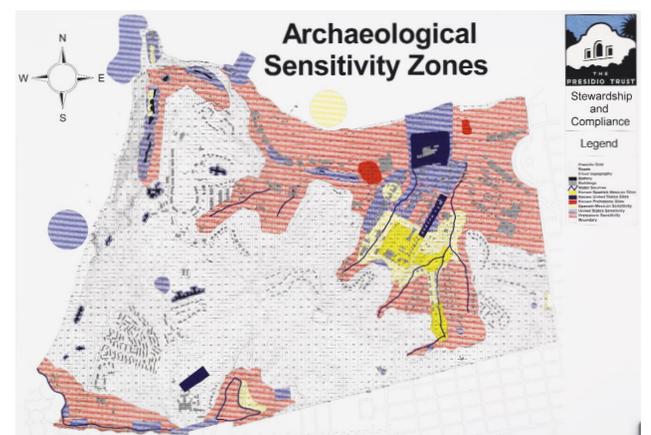
Treasure Map continued from P. 1

click of a mouse," said Chris Lee, Trust archaeologist and cartographic expert. "The first step was to create a grid system spanning all 1480 acres of the Presidio."

First Lee divided the Presidio into 50-meter quadrants. Each quadrant was assigned a number for identification. Onto this grid system, Lee and associate Eric Blind synthesized geographic data from maps and plans dating from the 1790's onward. They also overlaid information from a GIS database of past excavations. With this additional information, the new map clearly localizes archaeologically sensitive areas, and specifies the historic period from which documented archaeological finds within each area have been dated.

With the addition of an integrated database of past archaeological studies done on the Presidio and their findings, the map is now a point-and-click tool that can instantly alert Trust archaeologists when potentially sensitive areas are slated for any type of work project. If the area is an archaeological "hot spot," a Trust expert is assigned to be on-site during any projects.

"The map identifies known archaeological sites from pre-historic times, the Spanish-Mexican period, and U.S. Military occupation," said Sannie Osborn Ph.D., historical archaeologist for the Trust. "It also indicates areas of archaeological sensitivity for each of these periods. It is an outstanding resource for protecting the unique pieces of history still hidden throughout the Presidio."





Tenant Profile: U.S. Park Police

On the Presidio Beat



By Dianna Waggoner

With their fleet of 20 white patrol cars, two motorcycles, nine scooters, eight horses, four all terrain vehicles, and numerous bicycles, the U.S. Park Police are among the Presidio's most visible tenants. Eighty-three officers patrol 74,000 acres of Golden Gate National Recreation Area 24 hours a day, handling everything from murder and burglary to injured seals. They are federal police officers, authorized to write federal or San Francisco tickets or arrest warrants.

During a typical week last month, the department responded to 22 burglar alarms (all false), 24 drug charges (mostly small amounts of marijuana), seven disorderly conduct calls (everything from a nude man racing across a parking lot to party goers slugging each other), and 24 significant traffic events (mostly excessive speeding and driving under the influence).

At the Communications Center on Mesa Street where 911 calls are handled, dispatchers can tell the time of day based on what's happening. During the day, too many callers use the emergency 911 number for general information. Traffic problems and false burglar alarms fill the early evening hours.

"I hope this doesn't sound like the Presidio is a hot

bed of crime," said Captain Noel Inzerille, who heads up the Operations Division that is responsible for the on-the-street officers, "because it's not."

Recently, I spent a Friday evening riding with two officers. Radio voices filled the patrol car with beat numbers, street intersections, and instructions, all delivered in a crisp, urgent, yet unemotional tone.

5:05 p.m. Lt. Connie Leonard hustles through the Golden Gate Bridge's rush hour traffic to a small grass fire near the scenic overlook. "I'm nosy," she explains. "I like to know everything that's going on." As the officer in charge of all police on the beat, that's a job requirement.

5:35 "Oh, this won't do!" exclaims Leonard. A pickup truck loaded with miscellaneous furniture is parked next to a broken down trailer in a parking lot. On the radio she learns that the driver promised to move it the night before. The driver will be contacted again.

6:10 Leonard stops at the Communications Center on Mesa Street, where she is told about a transient who says he's been living in a nearby ravine for three years.

6:17 Leonard decides to check out the ravine, quickly spots a tent, and calls for backup. ("You never know what you're walking into.") The man inside the tent has

"Part of our mission is to protect and serve...I make sure that people are safe and doing okay."

died. The area is cordoned off with yellow police tape, the coroner summoned (the verdict: natural causes), and the SPCA called to take care of the man's cat.

7:03 Officer Jesse Petersen drives through the parking lots around Baker Beach and the Golden Gate Bridge. She's alert for "anything that doesn't look right" – cars parked facing away from the lovely view, drivers who fire up their engine the moment her patrol car approaches. Tonight she sees "everybody

doing the right thing."

9:00 It's time to start closing the gates to the beaches, which means encouraging straggling beachcombers to pack up their picnics and head for home. Officer Petersen

does this with good humor, but leaving no doubt who's in charge.

9:53 The radio announces illegal bonfires and parties on Ocean Beach. The flames are quickly extinguished, and the youngsters sent further down the beach where bonfires are allowed.

10:25 "At last!" A second car is now parked next to the truck and van. A warrant check of the woman inside the trailer reveals an arrest record. She consents to a search of the trailer, and officers find syringes and crystal-coated cellophane

envelopes. She's issued a citation, puts a new battery in the truck, and drives away.

1:10 a.m. Officer Petersen continues to sort out the syringes and envelopes while other officers rush off to stop a fist fight at Aquatic Park.

2:55 Officer Petersen stops at the Communication Center to pick up paperwork, and sits down to eat dinner with the dispatchers – tortilla chips and cheese dip, one raisin cookie, and a huge bottle of water.

3:05 Another check of parking lots and call to the duty officer to see if he needs her to stay till 5 a.m. "Part of our mission is to protect and serve," Officer Petersen says. "I make sure that people are safe and doing okay."

Presidio Trust Board Members:

Donald Fisher
Jennifer L. Hernandez
Ira Michael Heyman
Amy Meyer
Mary Murphy
William Reilly
Toby Rosenblatt

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