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Presidio



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Preserving the Presidio
as a Sustainable
National Park

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News Briefs

Restoration Advisory Board
In July, the Presidio Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) held its first meeting since the Presidio Trust became the lead agency for all Presidio environmental clean-up activities. RAB brings the community, the Presidio Trust, the National Park Service and environmental regulatory agencies together to ensure that Presidio environmental clean-up is consistent with community priorities and interests. RAB meetings occur on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on August 10 at the Golden Gate Club. For more information, call 415.561.4255.

"Green" Purchasing
In keeping with its sustainability mission, the Presidio Trust has launched an Affirmative Procurement Program to identify environmentally friendly products it can select when making purchases. Products containing recycled content include re-refined motor oil, construction materials, custodial supplies and office products. The program is currently being considered for adoption by other national parks.

Monthly Planning Workshop
Please join the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service for a discussion on interpretation and visitor services at the Presidio. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8 at 6 p.m. at the Golden Gate Club. There will be no planning workshop in the month of August.



HOW THE PRESIDIO TRUST USES THE GMPA

The Presidio Trust uses the 1994 General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) every day as a guide for decision making – whether establishing planning priorities, managing resources, or selecting tenants. The Trust appreciates and respects the extraordinary time and effort that hundreds of community members dedicated to developing this document during a four-year public planning process.

In 1994 the National Park Service adopted an Amendment to its General Management Plan for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) to guide planning for the Presidio.

Subsequently, in 1996 Congress and the President agreed on legislation creating the Presidio Trust. The "Trust Act" directs the Trust to fulfill the purposes outlined in Section 1 of the 1972 legislation creating the GGNRA (see sidebar on p.3) and to follow the "general objectives" of the GMPA.

Congress explicitly did not accept the GMPA as a governing document because of conflicts with the economic requirements and the changing user environment evident already in 1996. Congress did include the direction to follow the "general objectives" of the GMPA. Since the GMPA does not specify "general objectives," the Trust Board of Directors reviewed the document carefully and summarized the fundamental elements of the plan. (see sidebar on p.1)

Nearly a decade has passed since planning of the GMPA began. The GMPA made several assumptions about the future of the Presidio that changed with time. For example:

- Rather than providing the Presidio with \$13 million in funding each year in perpetuity, Congress will phase out all financial support for the Presidio by 2013.
- The Army, which had intended to occupy up to 20 percent of Presidio buildings after the base closure, chose to depart.

- Although not named specifically in the GMPA, there was an assumption that UCSF would locate its research and medical facilities at Letterman. UCSF ultimately chose to locate at Mission Bay.

Additionally, the GMPA has several planning goals which are inconsistent with current conditions. For example, it envisions:

- A jobs/housing balance for an anticipated 4,800 employees while calling for only 600 housing units.
- Conference centers at both the Public Health Service Hospital Complex and Fort Scott. These plans may be infeasible because the National Park Service intends to create a conference center at Fort Baker in the Marin Headlands.

While we continue to use the GMPA as a master document to

guide us in our decision making, changed conditions require the Trust to reassess the GMPA's specific site plans and programs. The Trust must be flexible as it implements the general objectives of the GMPA and meets its challenge to become financially self-sustaining. Where appropriate, the Trust will undertake additional environmental analysis, supplementing the GMPA's Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate proposed actions.

(continued on p.3)

The General Objectives Defined

To preserve and enhance the historical, cultural, natural, recreational and scenic resources of the Presidio

To address the needs of Presidio visitors, tenants, and residents for community services such as transportation, water, power, waste management, and public safety (among others) in an environmentally responsible manner, while minimizing undesirable impacts on neighboring communities

To increase open space, consolidate developed space, and provide for appropriate uses of the Presidio, particularly uses that involve stewardship and sustainability, cross-cultural and international cooperation, community service and restoration, health and scientific discovery, recreation, the arts, education, research, innovation and/or communication

To sustain the Presidio indefinitely as a great national park in an urban area

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARK

TALL SHIPS

More than a thousand people gathered at Fort Point to witness the arrival of an armada of historic "tall ships," believed to be the largest such parade to occur in the San Francisco Bay this century. The ships, led by six of the tallest in the world, were taking part in the San Francisco Gold Rush Sail, a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the gold fever of 1849.



SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE MARATHON

The San Francisco Chronicle Marathon brought 4,000 athletes from across the nation and the world through the Presidio in July. Runners entered the park at the 15th Avenue Gate and journeyed along Crissy Field on their way to the Marina district. Bay Area natives Brad Hawthorne and Patti Smith emerged victorious.



COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT

The Presidio Trust welcomed thirty Council for Excellence in Government Fellows to the Presidio to discuss the Trust's innovative mission and management strategy. The non-profit, non-partisan Council offers leadership development training for federal managers, with the goal of improving the performance of American government. Participants use what they learn to better serve the public.



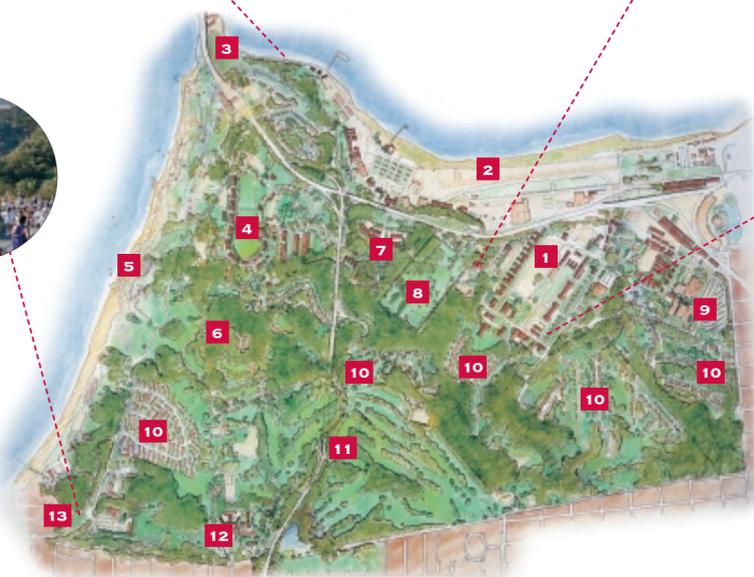
Legend

- 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 Service Center
- 13 Lobos Creek Valley



DIG IT

More than 800 people examined the unprecedented excavations that are taking place at the Presidio this summer at the Archaeology Open House. Visitors investigated research projects underway at Funston Avenue, the Officers' Club and Crissy Field. Dozens of archaeologists from around the nation and the world are helping to preserve and protect the Presidio's extraordinary cultural resources.



Staff Spotlight

Katy Christie, Presidio Trust landscape architect, is working to ensure the environmental sustainability of the Presidio through the rehabilitation of historic buildings and native sites. Her efforts make Presidio buildings accessible to all users and protect the overall cultural landscape of the park.

Currently, Katy is leading the project to restore the historic Presidio Gate, making the park entrance safer and more inviting for visitors.

Katy joined the Trust after working for the National Park Service in Denver. A native Georgian, she received her Bachelor of Arts in landscape architecture at the University of Georgia.

"Working at the Presidio has been a great opportunity," said Katy. "The Presidio offers a landscape architect the chance to rehabilitate a vital cultural landscape that also serves as an important landmark in San Francisco."



Special Events Coordinator

PRESIDIO SPECIAL EVENTS

The Presidio Trust Special Events Office is up and running and dedicated to making the Presidio a place where home, work and recreation can be accommodated in harmony. Our office is working very closely with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Special Park Uses Group (SPUG) to schedule the many requests received from the community for use of the park.

Through the end of the current fiscal year, the SPUG office will write permits for major outdoor activities and filming projects. Beginning on October 1, 1999, the Presidio Trust Special Events Office will assume this responsibility and begin permitting all events occurring in the interior areas of the park. The Trust will continue to work in concert with the GGNRA, which will retain permitting authority in the Presidio's coastal areas, to coordinate those activities which will naturally traverse both areas of the park.

The Presidio Trust's goal is to schedule a mix of activities which will minimize the impacts on the park community while allowing visitors from across San Francisco and across the nation to fully enjoy the Presidio's natural, cultural and historic resources.

Our staff is anxious to hear from anyone considering hosting a special event at the Presidio. We look forward to helping all users tailor their activities to be compatible with the unique environment of the Presidio.

Yours very truly,

Steve Overman
Special Events Coordinator

Presidio Open House

Come explore the many building and infrastructure improvements that are enhancing the Presidio experience for tenants and visitors alike. Join us for a tour of several sites that have been transformed by the Trust's Facilities staff during the last year. The Open House and Tour will be held on Wednesday, August 25 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Activities begin at Trust Headquarters, 34 Graham Street, in the Presidio. Call 415.561.5418 for more information or to RSVP.

Public Health Update

More than 100 people participated in a constructive discussion on the future of the Public Health Service Hospital Complex at the Trust's July Planning Workshop. A presentation on historical considerations, environmental conditions and traffic strategies was followed by small group discussion. A summary of public feedback is available at www.presidiotrust.gov. Public meetings will continue into the new year.

Board Members

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

BARRACKS TO FILM CENTRE

Building 39 on the Presidio's historic Main Post was built in 1938 to house enlisted troops. The three-story "T" shaped barracks, constructed in modified Mediterranean Revival style, was later transformed into the headquarters of the U.S. Sixth Army, occupied by information offices and the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff. The building has stood vacant since 1995.

Last year, the San Francisco Film Centre signed a lease for Building 39 and for the 800-seat Presidio Theatre, becoming the Presidio Trust's first long-term tenant. The Centre is currently completing a \$6.6 million rehabilitation of the 67,000-square-foot former barracks, replacing the electrical, plumbing and fire safety systems and conducting a complete seismic upgrade of the facility. The project is being carried out in accordance with national historical preservation standards under the supervision of Trust architects.

When completed late this year, the Centre will be home to a variety of non-profit and for-profit organizations, including the San Francisco Film Society and the George Gund Foundation. The site will also include state-of-the-art film production and editing facilities and public space showcasing film-related exhibits. Over the coming year the Centre will be joined on the Main Post by over a dozen organizations, bringing new vitality to the traditional heart of the Presidio.



GGNRA Park Archives and Records Center

The San Francisco Film Centre will make the Presidio a hub for international and multicultural film arts.

HOW THE PRESIDIO TRUST USES THE GMPA

(continued from p.1)

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE 1972 GGNRA ACT?

- ❖ To preserve the Presidio for public use and enjoyment
- ❖ To provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to urban environment and planning
- ❖ To provide for recreation and educational opportunities consistent with sound principles of land use planning and management
- ❖ To preserve the GGNRA, as far as possible, in its natural setting, and protect it from development and uses that would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of the area

*Presidio Trust Board of Directors Resolution 99-11
Adopted March 4, 1999*

In addition to following the general objectives of the GMPA, the Trust implements specific programs, often in partnership with the National Park Service. As part of this process, the Trust seeks additional public input and creates specific budgets and timetables. Programs include:

- A Vegetation Management Plan to guide the preservation and restoration of the park's natural areas and cultural landscape.
- Sustainable development strategies including alternative transportation, energy conservation, the Trust's Green Building Guidelines and a jobs/housing balance.
- Historic and cultural preservation, including building rehabilitation, archaeological research

- projects and community events.
- Major utilities infrastructure upgrades and repairs.
- Implementation of plan initiatives, including the Bay Area Ridge Trail improvements, Presidio-wide Trails Planning, and interpretive planning.

The Trust has also been able to respond to the challenge of environmental clean up and has initiated and signed a first-of-its-kind \$100 million agreement with the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Army. A clean up of all hazardous materials is needed so that the Presidio meets a standard that contemplates broad public use, as envisioned in the GMPA. This agreement provides the means and ensures timely implementation to make that possible.

Public input, an outstanding element of the GMPA process, will continue to be an indispensable part of Trust activities. We are committed to open and constructive dialogue with the Bay Area community that has demonstrated such care and concern for the Presidio over the years.

Many of the Trust's Board and staff were intimately involved in GMPA development. We are committed to realizing the vision of the Presidio as a creative community built upon the principles of sustainability. As a matter of law, the Presidio Trust follows the general objectives of the GMPA. As a matter of policy, the Trust uses the GMPA as one of its principal guides for all Presidio planning activities.

PRESIDIO TENANT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT



Steeped in history but guided by innovative sustainability principles, Presidio Golf Course offers a superb recreational experience for Presidio visitors.

Amidst great fanfare and spectacular summer weather, the long awaited new Presidio Golf Course Clubhouse was opened to the public in June. The 7,500 square foot Clubhouse marks the final phase of a four-year \$9 million renovation of the Presidio Golf Course and its facilities by Arnold Palmer Golf Management in cooperation with the Presidio Trust.

The Clubhouse is the first new structure built on the Presidio since it became part of the national park system and the first public clubhouse in the course's history. Symbolic of the Trust's commitment to the preservation of the natural environment of the park, the golf course has adopted sustainable practices to save water, avoid



Presidio Trust Board Member Amy Meyer joined Arnold Palmer Golf Management in celebrating the opening of the new Clubhouse. (above) The course's innovative irrigation practices are expected to reduce water usage by up to 25%. (below)



pesticides and protect native plant species, including the California lassingia that graces the 13th hole.

Established in 1895 as a 9-hole golf course hewn by horse-drawn plows, the Presidio course has undergone many changes over the years, shifting from an army drill field to a refugee camp after the devastating San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

The Clubhouse blends the Mission-style architecture of the Presidio and signature elements of Bay Area architect Bernard Maybeck. The clubhouse is home to a full-service pro shop, free golf skill clinics, meeting facilities, an interpretive gallery displaying historic photos and memorabilia and the Presidio Café, which overlooks the 18th green. The clubhouse is open from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week. For more information please call 415.561.GOLF or check out the web site at www.presidiogolf.com.

August

August 7 and 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

5th Annual Aloha Festival

Join the Pacific Islanders Cultural Association for a celebration of Polynesian, Micronesian and Melanesian food, music and art. Live entertainment, craft exhibits and an outrigger canoe race guarantee fun for the whole family. The festival is free and open to the public. Main Parade Ground. Call 415.281.0221 for more information.

Thursday, August 12, Noon to 4 p.m.

Presidio Trust Blood Drive

Share a precious gift with those in need by becoming a blood donor. Join the Presidio Trust and Blood Centers of the Pacific. Meet at Building 1750 on the Presidio. For an appointment, call 415.561.5343.

Tuesday, August 17, 7:30 p.m.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission Meeting: Public Hearing on the draft Presidio Vegetation Management Plan

Offer feedback on the draft Vegetation Management Plan for the Presidio developed by the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service in cooperation with the Golden Gate National Parks Association. Meet at the Fort Mason Center, Building 201. Call 415.561.5300 for more information.

September

Monday, September 6, 8 p.m.

Music at the Chapel

"An Evening of All-Russian Virtuoso Piano" with conductor and composer Seth Montfort will be held at the Presidio's Interfaith Center. A \$10 donation is requested at the door. For more information, please call 415.775.4635.

Wednesday, September 8, 6 to 9 p.m.

Monthly Planning Workshop

Share your ideas on interpretation and the visitor experience at the Presidio. The meeting will be held at the Golden Gate Club. Call 415.561.5300 for more information.

Thursday, September 30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Framework for Sustainability Workshop

Join Presidio-based organization, the Natural Step, for a one day conference examining a framework for an economically and environmentally sustainable society. Founder Dr. Karl-Henrik Robert and a panel of experts will share their insights. Registration is required by September 1. Call 415.561.3344 for more information.