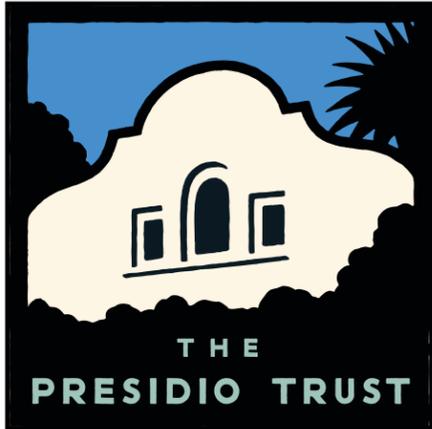


Presidio

A Monthly Publication of the Presidio Trust

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*Preserving the Presidio
as a Sustainable
National Park*

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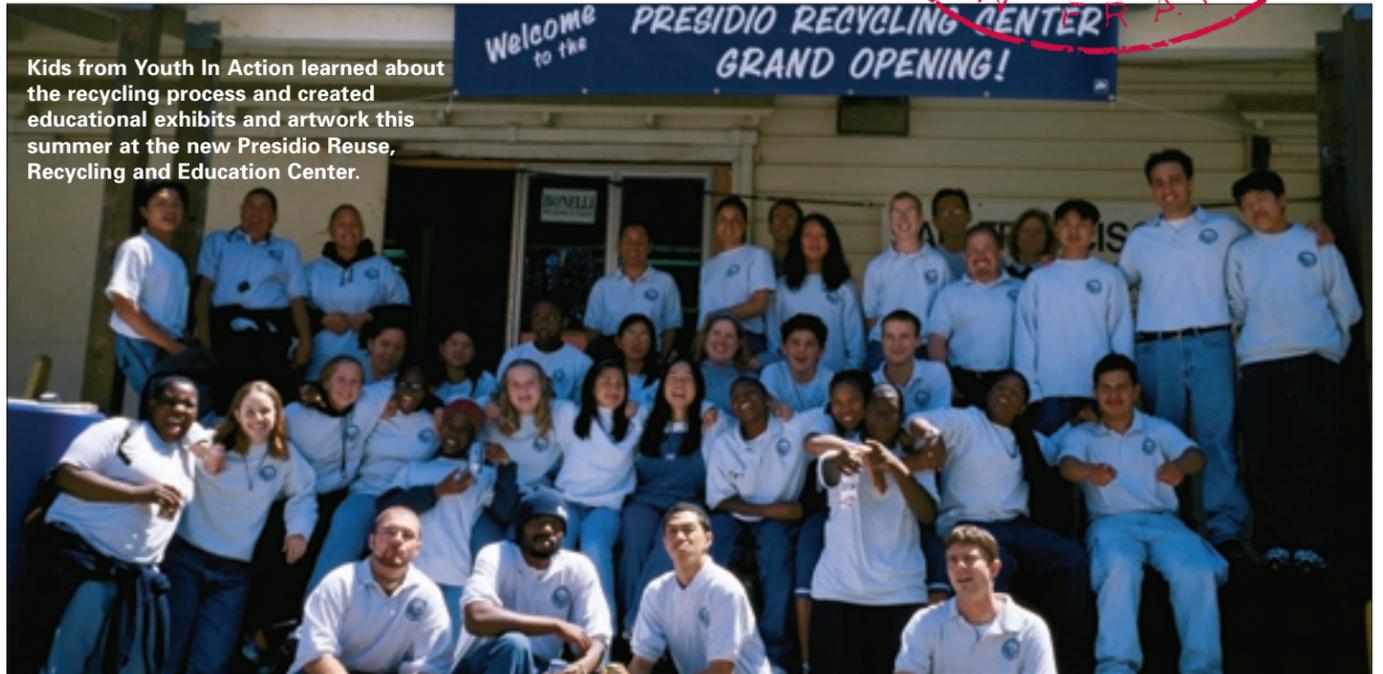
News Briefs

Mountain Lake Enhancement

The *Mountain Lake Enhancement Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA)*, which guide future improvements to the lake and its shoreline, will be available for your review and comment in late September. The Presidio Trust, the National Park Service and the Parks Association are jointly working to improve water quality, enhance habitat and improve public access at Mountain Lake. The draft plan will be presented at the September 26 meeting of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission (see Events). It will also be available at www.presidiotrust.gov. To request a copy by mail, call 415.561.5300 or email mountainlake@presidiotrust.gov. The October *Presidio Post* will feature details on this important natural resource project.

Building 35 Environmental Assessment

The Presidio Trust will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the rehabilitation of historic Main Post Building 35 for general office use by for-profit and non-profit organizations, with a minor coffee bar/deli use. Rehabilitation of this 62,000 square foot structure will be paid for by the tenants and completed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Historic Building Rehabilitation. Issues to be studied include traffic and transportation, the effect on cultural resources, visitor use and experience, consistency with the Presidio's General Management Plan Amendment and cumulative impacts. We welcome your views and comments on this proposed project, including alternatives to consider and impact topics to be studied. Please send your written comments to John Pelka, NEPA Compliance Coordinator, Presidio Trust, 34 Graham Street, P.O. Box 29052, San Francisco, CA 94129, or email jpelka@presidiotrust.gov.



Kids from Youth In Action learned about the recycling process and created educational exhibits and artwork this summer at the new Presidio Reuse, Recycling and Education Center.

“CLOSING THE LOOP”

Wearing protective helmets and gloves, project partners poised barrels brimming with aluminum cans, paper, plastics and bottles over sparkling new recycling bins.

As the “saved” materials crashed downward, a new entity was born – the Presidio Reuse, Recycling and Education Center.

After months of preparation, in August the Center officially opened its doors to the public. The ceremonial “tipping” was the highlight of a Grand Opening event that also featured praise from guest speakers and a tour of the facility. Two dozen teens from Youth In Action, an environmental education program run by the San Francisco Conservation Corps (SFCC), also showcased their newly-created “Recycling Roxanne” mural, a mosaic constructed from bottle caps and other recycled goods.

First conceived by the National Park Service in 1994, the Center evolved into a collaboration between the Presidio Trust, the SFCC, and San Francisco Community Recyclers. The California Department of Conservation Division of Recycling and San Francisco's Solid Waste Management Recycling Program provided funding to establish the facility.

Five SFCC Corpsmembers have worked since last fall to get the site up and running, and have operated the Center on a day-to-day basis for a year (see sidebar).

“This partnership means that our Corpsmembers have the opportunity to learn valuable skills while they help the Presidio meet its goal of becoming a sustainable community,” said Ann Cochrane, SFCC's Executive Director.

Located in a recently renovated World

War-II-era warehouse in the Presidio's Fort Scott area, the Center serves the Presidio's 100 organizations, park visitors and the residents of several surrounding San Francisco neighborhoods. The program rescues 12 tons of recyclable materials each month.

The Center is moving the Presidio toward its goal of becoming a “closed loop” community where materials are reused on site rather than carted to landfills. The Presidio Trust also transforms organic debris such as grass clippings into compost used to nourish plants and purchases recycled office products and construction materials whenever possible.

“We're preserving the Presidio's natural landscape by respecting our resources,” said Trust Executive Director Jim Meadows. “This Center is demonstrating how a community can live in harmony with the environment.”

The Center is also becoming a popular field trip destination for school groups. Already, hundreds of kids have visited the site to learn about the importance of recycling. Students receive hands-on lessons in how to identify and sort materials, and demonstrate what they have learned through art projects.

“When kids come to the Recycling Center, they learn both about protecting the environment and about the Presidio's history,” said Jeremy Kaller, Recycling Outreach Team Supervisor.

Community members are invited to drop off their glass bottles, aluminum cans, tin cans, plastic bottles, paper-white ledger, newspapers, mixed paper and corrugated cardboard at the Center Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 415.561.2178.



Donning hard hats and goggles, project partners “christened” the Center by recycling containers of glass, cans and plastics.

The “Corps” Team

A “gang of five” Corpsmembers spent one full year transforming a former food-storage warehouse into the new Presidio Reuse, Recycling and Education Center. The team, comprised of youths aged 18 to 24, was participating in an AmeriCorps – sponsored project with the San Francisco Conservation Corps. Program participants gain on-the-job experience and earn almost \$5,000 for college.

This first class of AmeriCorps members working at the Center graduated last month and turned over operations to a new team.



Before joining the SFCC, program participant Justin Forster was unsure what to study in college. Now, the University of Oregon student plans to pursue a career in international community development.

“It's really been the most challenging year I have ever had,” said the Eugene, Oregon, native. “I learned leadership skills and how to deal with responsibilities. It was quite an adventure.”

Said fellow Recycling Center alum Kathryn Smith, “I learned so much. I didn't know I would be part of such a big operation.”

THE SPIRIT OF ALOHA

ISLAND BREEZES REPLACE FOG AT THE PRESIDIO



The Aloha Festival was a colorful celebration of Pacific Island culture.

THE PRESIDIO COULD HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN FOR A TROPICAL PARADISE DURING THE ALOHA FESTIVAL, HELD LAST MONTH AT THE PARK FOR THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

The celebration's sights, smells and sounds were so captivating that foggy San Francisco soon became a distant memory for visitors arriving at the park's Main Parade Ground. For two days, guests could imagine they were in the Pacific Islands.

With about 30,000 people attending the event, Aloha Festival co-chairman Julian Avilla was delighted with the community's support.

"It was very successful," he said. "We are already planning next year's festival."

The event, sponsored by the Pacific Islanders' Cultural Association, is a

showcase for Polynesian, Melanesian and Micronesian music, dance, food and art. The gathering allows organization members to celebrate their common history and share their traditions with the community.

Avilla said the Festival gives friends and relatives a chance to come together after being apart for a year.

"It's a gathering of all Pacific Islanders to come and listen to music, enjoy food and share stories," he said. "It joins families together."

Dancers demonstrated the hula from the main stage, vendors displayed authentic island food, arts and crafts,

and visitors tried their hand at the ukulele and took lessons in Hawaiian quilt making.

Anyeley Dzegede, a visitor to the Festival, got a real taste of island culture.

"One of my good friends is from Hawaii and always talks about the friendly people, laid back atmosphere, delicious food, beautiful land and expressive culture," the Florida native said. "I've never been to Hawaii, but the Aloha Festival made me appreciate all the things she always talked about."

HAWAII BOUND

While the Aloha Festival celebrates a new connection between the Presidio and the Pacific Islands, the park's ties to Hawaii date back more than seven decades.

On August 31, 1925, five Navy pilots climbed aboard a PN-9 seaplane, a newly-designed aircraft, charged with completing the first non-stop flight from the mainland to Hawaii – a distance of 2,200 miles. Amidst the thunderous cheers of thousands, the crew departed from Crissy Field for what they believed would be a 30 hour journey.

Encountering unexpectedly heavy winds and low on fuel, the vessel was forced to make an emergency water landing 400 miles shy of their destination.

Although the Navy had stationed ships every 200 miles along the route to rescue the crew in case of trouble, the men of the PN-9 found themselves adrift with an inoperable radio. Stranded and soon bereft of food and water, they ingeniously converted the fabric from the craft's wings into a crude sail, transforming the plane from aircraft to makeshift sailboat. After more than a week of paddling, the vessel coasted into Kauai on September 10.

The nation, fearing the crew lost, had anxiously followed the search for the plane. The crew was given a hero's welcome and received the keys to the city upon their return to San Francisco.

This month we mark the 75th anniversary of this historic event. Please join the National Park Service for a program commemorating the flight on Saturday, September 9, from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Coast Guard Station on Crissy Field. Call 415.561.4323 for details.



HT

FOUNDATION

on and breast cancer screening and prevention projects for the medically underserved throughout the nine Bay Area counties. Also go to the National Foundation to find one of the most innovative and responsive grant programs in breast cancer today. Forms for the 2000 Race are available at the Presidio Komen Foundation (Building 36, 20) or at local Safeway stores. Register at www.active.com.

The foundation has a national toll-free breast cancer helpline that is answered by trained, experienced volunteers whose lives have been personally touched by breast cancer. For more information, questions, local resources, or to request support, call 1.800.I'M AWARE® (1-800-4-A-WARE, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST). For the latest on breast health and breast cancer prevention and Komen Foundation news and events, visit their award-winning website at breastcancerinfo.com.

Wednesday, October 4, 6 to 9 p.m.

Presidio Stories Workshop

Bring your ideas for telling the Presidio's important and exciting stories. Meet at the Log Cabin (1299 Storey Avenue). Call 415.561.5418 with questions.

October 21 and 28, and November 4

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) Training

Would you know what to do during an emergency? The Presidio Fire Department is offering free training to help citizens be self-sufficient in a disaster situation by developing multi-functional teams, cross-trained in basic emergency skills. Presidio residents, tenants and volunteers, as well as members of the general public, are invited to participate. Visit www.pdfnert.8k.com or call 415.561.4065 for more information.

October 21 – November 5

"Saving America's Treasures" Conference

Presidio Trust Executive Director Jim Meadows will mark the 50th anniversary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation by speaking at the National Preservation Conference 2000 in Los Angeles. The theme is "Saving America's Treasures." Participants will study trends affecting historic preservation. Selected case studies will include the Presidio, Fort Baker and Ellis Island. Visit www.nationaltrust.org to register.



Library Hours:
 Weekdays
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Saturday
 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Presidio Profiles

Ryan Jones

An urban youth with a dream of finding a little bit of country in the city has found a home at the Presidio.

While a student at Galileo High School, Ryan Jones started working at the Presidio as one of the first participants in the Park Stewards Program. Ryan now works as part of the National Park Service's Stay in School Program as a Student Biological Technician. When he is not busy leading a volunteer program, doing habitat restoration, or taking college courses, he picks up a paintbrush and pursues his passion of illustrating.



Jones' illustrations can be seen in several Presidio pamphlets.

"It is a great way to communicate. I feel my art has drawn people to messages."

His illustrations can be found in Presidio brochures, interpretive panels, and other publications.

Ryan's projects have included a pamphlet educating park users about how to protect the Presidio's delicate watershed.

"My job at the Presidio has combined my love of art and the outdoors. Working here keeps me aware of what is going on in the environmental community. It gives me motivation."

Ryan's work has come full circle. He started in the Park Stewards Program and has now returned to lead his former high school's program, teaching students about preserving the park.

Ryan is also taking classes at San Francisco City College. He plans to continue his education at U.C. Santa Cruz where he will study Environmental Studies/Biology and pursue a certificate in Scientific Illustration.

PRESIDIO VOICES

UPDATING THE PRESIDIO PLAN

This month we host the second of three public scoping workshops seeking public input for the update of the Presidio's General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA). As part of the update, the Trust will propose and study a range of plan alternatives, including a financial analysis of each alternative.

At the September workshop, our discussion will center on how to sustain the Presidio far into the future as a great national park, while meeting Congress' mandate that the Trust preserve and protect the Presidio without tax dollars after 2013. How should we finance the long-term maintenance of buildings and infrastructure, the preservation of natural areas and open space, and the hosting of visitor programming?

Information on this topic can be found on p. 20 of the booklet, "Presidio Trust Implementation Plan," mailed to everyone on our mailing list in July. If you are not on our mailing list and would like a copy, please email ptip@presidiotruster.gov, call 415.561.5418 or forward us your contact information (see below).

We are eager to hear your views on this topic and invite you to join us on **Wednesday, September 13, from 6 to 9 p.m.** at the Presidio's Golden Gate Club (130 Fisher Loop). You may also write to us at the address below.

name _____
 address _____
 city/state/zip _____
 phone (day) _____ phone (evening) _____
 fax _____ email _____

Thanks for your help in saving and preserving the Presidio!

Presidio Trust • P.O. Box 29052 • 34 Graham Street
 San Francisco, CA 94129 • ptip@presidiotruster.gov

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, September 13, 6 to 9 p.m.
 Topic: Financial Planning Concepts
 Golden Gate Club

Wednesday, October 11, 6 to 9 p.m.
 Topic: Presentation of Conceptual Alternatives
 Golden Gate Club