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Presidio



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Preserving the Presidio
as a Sustainable
National Park

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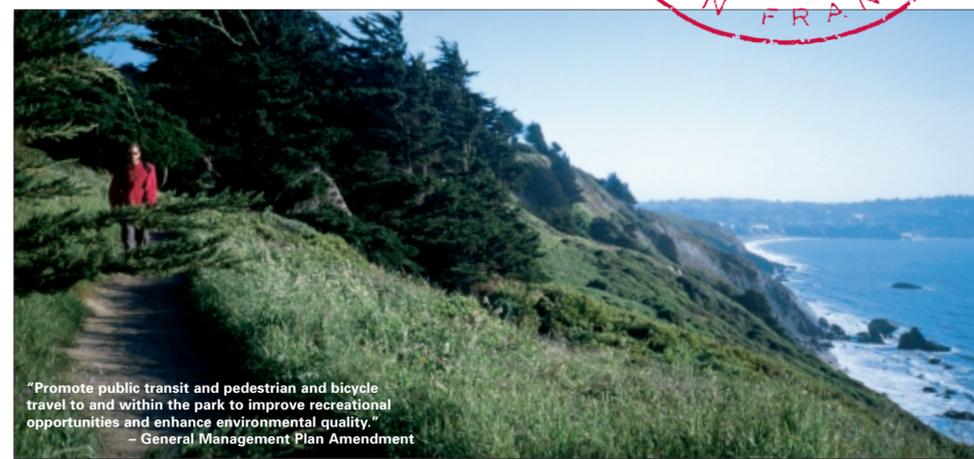
News Briefs

President Appoints New Presidio Trust Board Member

President Clinton has appointed Jennifer L. Hernandez to serve on the Trust Board of Directors. She succeeds Dr. Edward Blakely, who completed his term of service and has become the Dean of the Robert J. Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy at the New School University in New York City. Hernandez is a partner in the law firm Beveridge & Diamond LLP, specializing in land use and environmental law. Co-founder of the Environmental Law Forum, she serves on the Board of the California League of Conservation Voters, Sustainable Conservation and the California Center for Land Recycling. The author of numerous books and articles, she has developed and taught courses on military base conversions and the California Environmental Quality Act at the University of California at Berkeley (Extension).

Trust Offers Shuttle Bus Service to Presidio Public Meetings

In response to the community's request for improved access to Trust meetings for those travelling by MUNI, the "Trustmobile" will now shuttle guests from the Lombard Gate to its Monthly Planning Workshops and Presidio Forums. For the November Planning Workshop/Presidio Forum, the shuttle will pick up passengers at the turn-out just inside the Lombard Gate at 20-minute intervals between 5:30 and 6:10 p.m. Return trips will follow the meeting. Please call 415.561.5367 for more information.



"Promote public transit and pedestrian and bicycle travel to and within the park to improve recreational opportunities and enhance environmental quality."
- General Management Plan Amendment

ON THE TRAIL OF PARK IMPROVEMENTS

MAJOR PROJECT TO ENHANCE PRESIDIO TRAILS BEGINS THIS FALL

The Presidio Trust and the National Park Service are launching a public planning process next month with the aim of enhancing and expanding the Presidio's network of pedestrian trails and cycling routes.

The year-long effort, funded by a grant from the Department of Transportation's Millennium Trails Program, will conclude with the publication of the Recreational Trailways Master Plan, a strategy for improving the Presidio recreational experience and protecting sensitive resources by upgrading existing routes and increasing the miles of designated Presidio trails.

The 1994 General Management Plan Amendment for the Presidio suggests the potential for 11 miles of hiking trails and 14 miles of bicycle routes at the park. Currently, a total of seven designated trails crisscross the Presidio.

The planning process will assess the current state of Presidio trails and examine how to make them better for the thousands of visitors who use them for transportation and recreation. Issues to be considered include:

- accessibility for all types of users
- diversity of trail types and uses (hiking, bicycling)
- protection of natural and cultural resources
- signage and mapping
- amenities such as lighting, benches and drinking fountains
- linkages between key Presidio destinations
- linkages to regional trail systems
- coordination with Vegetation Management Plan implementation
- long-term maintenance and stewardship

Over the next several months, Trust and National Park Service staff will work with the planning firm Moore

Lacafano and Goltsmann to study and map existing Presidio trails and conduct surveys and workshops. Public meetings will be held this fall and winter to establish how the community is now using Presidio trails and to explore the kinds of enhancements trail users hope to see incorporated in the master plan. A scoping meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Golden Gate Club.

The Trust and the National Park Service are counting on trail-users to become actively involved in the care and maintenance of Presidio recreational routes. Volunteer participation in a planned Trail Stewardship Program will be instrumental to trail maintenance over the coming years. Partnership with existing trail organizations is also key to carrying out comprehensive trail improvements.

In a related project funded under the same grant, the 2.5 mile Presidio section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail is now complete and open for the public to enjoy. The route, winding from the Arguello Gate to the Golden Gate Bridge, links to a 400-mile trail that connects parks and open space throughout Northern California. Portions of the Presidio Ridge Trail's surface were formed using recycled materials, notably crushed concrete removed from the Crissy Field area as part of that site's ongoing restoration. As a result of the use of reclaimed resources, the Bay Area Ridge Trail was created without the importation of outside soils.

Are you interested in participating in a trail planning focus group? Please contact the Trust at 415-561-5418 or write to:
Michelle Rios
National Park Service
P.O. Box 29022
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, California 94129-0022
michelle_s_rios@nps.gov

Presidio Trails at a Glance

Ecology Trail
Two mile loop trail through forests, meadows, dune habitats, El Polin Spring and Lover's Lane.



Golden Gate Promenade
Four mile path running from Aquatic Park to the Golden Gate Bridge.



Lobos Creek Valley Trail
Half-mile boardwalk and trail through restored dune scrub habitat.



Lover's Lane
One mile historic footpath that originally connected the Presidio to Mission Dolores.



Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
Three mile route commemorating the 1775-1776 de Anza expedition.



Coastal Trail
Three mile path linking Baker Beach to the Golden Gate Bridge via the coastal bluffs.



Bay Area Ridge Trail
Newly completed two and a half mile route linking the Presidio to a 400-mile trail encircling San Francisco Bay.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARK

TRUST ASSUMES SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITTING DUTIES

On October 1, the Trust assumed responsibility for issuing special use permits in Area B of the Presidio. Permits are required for all public events including sporting activities, concerts and festivals, as well as for certain private functions that impact other park users. The Trust will schedule a mix of activities that minimize impacts on the park community while allowing visitors to fully enjoy the Presidio's natural, cultural and recreational resources. If you are interested in renting a Presidio venue such as the historic Log Cabin for an event, please call 415.561.5300.



SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Members of the Society for Ecological Restoration convened at the Presidio's Golden Gate Club for their 11th Annual International Conference. Co-sponsored by the Trust, the National Park Service, the Golden Gate National Parks Association and the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, the event focused on natural environment improvements, particularly community-based stewardship projects and restoration efforts on public lands. More than 1,000 people participated in 85 technical sessions, 11 field trips and 6 workshops. Visitors learned about the Presidio's thirteen native plant communities and the restoration efforts under way at Baker Beach and Crissy Field.



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



KNBR BRIDGE TO BRIDGE RUN

About 11,000 people sought relief for aching muscles at the Presidio's Main Parade Ground following the KNBR Bridge to Bridge run. Live entertainment and food re-energized those who completed the 12k event.

TRUST RECEIVES SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

The California Integrated Waste Management Board has named the Presidio Trust as a 1999 Waste Reduction Awards Program winner. The Trust is being honored for improving the environment and promoting resource efficiency through its sustainability programs to reduce, reuse and recycle resources throughout the park.



Sustainability Spotlight

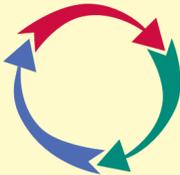
What is "Environmental Sustainability?"

The 1994 General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) envisions the Presidio as a center for excellence in sustainability. But what does "sustainability" really mean? How is it defined and applied at the Presidio?

One widely accepted definition of sustainability evolved from the 1987 United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development – "The ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The GMPA broadens this definition to include the specific goals that make the concept real at the Presidio:

"[The Presidio will demonstrate] practices and technologies that reduce environmental impacts or produce environmental benefits in energy generation and conservation, solid waste management, transportation, water conservation and reclamation and sewage treatment. Park facilities will be designed, constructed, retrofitted, and operated to minimize adverse effects on natural and cultural resources, reflect their environmental setting, and maintain and encourage cultural and biological diversity. All decisions – from initial concept through design, construction, and operation – involve cooperation among people, reflect the inseparability of humanity and nature, minimize the use of nonrenewable resources...and avoid pollution of water, land, or air."



"Sustainability" is the topic of the joint November Planning Workshop/Presidio Forum. The meeting will be held on November 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Golden Gate Club.

In practice, sustainability means fewer cars on our roads, pure and abundant drinking water, and healthy air – not just for ourselves, today – but for communities worldwide for generations to come. Sustainable practices improve our quality of life without depleting natural resources or polluting the environment. When we think sustainably, our approach to problem solving is holistic. We no longer think only about ourselves but about how our choices affect the entire planet and impact our children and their children.

The Presidio Trust is striving to put sustainability into action. Please look to this column in the coming months to learn about our Green Building Design Guidelines, our Reuse and Recycling Center, our Natural Resources Awareness and Stewardship Program and the other initiatives that we hope will make the Presidio a model of sustainability for other facilities, parks, and communities.

Board Members

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

Jim Meadows
Presidio Trust Executive Director

Did You Know...?



HOW IS THE TRUST ENHANCING THE PRESIDIO'S NATURAL RESOURCES?

Please join the Presidio Trust's Board of Directors for a public meeting that will focus on the draft Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for the Presidio. The meeting, a valuable opportunity to discuss strategies for enhancing the Presidio's diverse landscapes, will take place at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, November 17 at the Golden Gate Club.

While it is apparent that buildings and infrastructure need constant care, it is less intuitive that the natural environment requires similar vigilant stewardship.

At the Presidio, nearly 800 of the park's 1,480 acres are open space. These resources can be thought of in three categories – historic forest, native plant communities and landscaped areas.

The Trust and the National Park Service, with support from the Golden Gate National Parks Association, have prepared a draft Presidio VMP to guide the long-term care and regeneration of the park's rich natural environment.

The proposed Plan aims to preserve and enhance the Presidio's vegetation resources and maintain their historic character. The proposed VMP would also result in increased species and habitat diversity, reflect the park's status as a National Historic Landmark District and increase the amount of open space by 25 percent to 1,000 acres.



The draft Vegetation Management Plan proposes a framework for protecting and enhancing the Presidio's environmental resources over several decades.

Implementation of the VMP, once adopted next year, will be gradual. Improvements will be carried out over thirty to fifty years. Public input, an essential element of all our planning, will continue to be a vital component of VMP implementation.

As the Trust and National Park Service shape this important plan, we look to the community for feedback. We have listened to your ideas, questions and suggestions at our June Monthly Planning Workshop, at two on-site workshops and at three meetings of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission. Our Board now looks forward to learning your views at this public meeting.

For those wishing to contribute personally to the enhancement of the Presidio's natural environment, the Parks Association has established an endowment fund in the name of a long-time champion of our national parks. To learn how to contribute to the James R. Harvey Presidio Restoration Fund, please call the Parks Association at 415.561.3000.

I look forward to seeing you at the November 17 meeting of the Board of Directors.

PRESIDIO TENANT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

PRESIDIO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Born of tragedy but sustained by commitment to public safety, the Presidio Fire Department has been the Presidio of San Francisco's trusted guardian for 82 years.

Though Presidio troops came to San Francisco's aid during the earthquake and fires of 1906, the military post had no formal fire department until a 1917 blaze took the lives of Brigadier General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing's wife and three of his four children. This misfortune led the Army later that year to establish at the Presidio the first permanent fire company with trained civilian firefighters on any U.S. Army post. A modest station constructed of materials salvaged from the Panama-Pacific International Exposition was raised for just over \$2,000.

A decade ago, the Presidio Fire Department earned the gratitude of the San Francisco community when Engine Number 2 was the first on the scene following the Loma Prieta earthquake, a tremor which devastated



The rededication of the Presidio Fire Station motivated a new generation of firefighters.



portions of the Marina District. Their quick reaction prompted commendations from Congresswoman Barbara Boxer, the Marina Neighborhood Organization and the Phoenix Society, a highly regarded firefighters' organization.

The Presidio Fire Station has recently undergone a comprehensive rehabilitation which will allow the facility to meet the needs of the park's growing live/work community. Many features of the historic structure have been restored, and a new wing accommodating modern equipment and a larger staff has been added. Last month, the Fire Station was rededicated in a ceremony which brought together former fire chiefs, fire fighters who responded during the Loma Prieta earthquake and members of the community whom the department serves. To contact the Presidio Fire Department in non-emergency situations, please call 415.561.5505.

DESTINATION PRESIDIO

EXPANDED EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WILL IMPROVE THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

HOW CAN THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE BE ENHANCED?

- ❖ What interpretive activities and programs would you like to see at the Presidio, particularly at the Letterman Complex, the Main Post and the Public Health Service Hospital Complex?
- ❖ What stories are important to tell at the Presidio?
- ❖ What tools should be used to tell the Presidio story?
- ❖ What memorable visitor experiences have you had in other locations that may apply at the Presidio?
- ❖ How could electronic/multi-media tools be used to tell Presidio stories?

Please forward your ideas to planning@presidiotrust.gov.

PRESIDIO VOICES

"THE PRESIDIO WILL BE HOME TO AN EXCITING ARRAY OF VISITOR ACTIVITIES. PROGRAMS WILL INSPIRE VISITORS TO LEARN ABOUT THE PRESIDIO'S MILITARY HISTORY, THE DIVERSITY OF PEOPLES WHO HAVE LIVED AND WORKED HERE, AND ITS SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES."

- GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

Listen carefully and you may hear the clink of shellfish dropped in a basket as members of an Ohlone tribe gather food along the shores of the bay. . . the sound of shovels digging in unison as thousands of eucalyptus and cypress trees are planted in celebration of the first Arbor Day. . . the roar of engines as soldiers depart by plane and boat to fight in distant lands. . .the laughter of children on their first nature hike spotting a raccoon scurrying across a trail.

The Presidio we know today has been formed by thousands of people over generations. How to communicate their extraordinary legacy in a way that educates and inspires the four million visitors who arrive here each year was the subject of a recent Trust/National Park Service Planning Workshop. About 40 members of the community gathered at the Golden Gate Club to discuss the development of programs and services that help to tell the stories of this unparalleled place.

The National Park Service, in accordance with the Presidio Trust Act, provides interpretive services, visitor orientation and educational programs at the Presidio. The Trust is working in close cooperation with the Park Service to expand and enhance the visitor experience at the park.

"Interpretation," the process of creating a personal connection between a site and its visitors, can be carried out through a variety of means – guided walks and talks, tours, demonstrations, wayside displays, historic re-enactments, museum exhibits, educational programming, special events and interactive media. The goal is to increase visitors' understanding of significant resources, nature, history and parks, and connect people physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually with the Presidio.

To guide interpretive planning, the General Management Plan Amendment suggests five overarching interpretive themes:

- Historical significance under three flags
- Evolving cultural landscape
- Biological diversity & open space
- Crossroads of culture
- Protecting park resources/history of park management

The Trust and the National Park Service are collaborating to create a mix of programs and services that will bring these concepts to life. Several projects are currently underway:

- Next year, kiosks will be installed at more than a dozen park locations to provide information on transit, hiking and biking routes, points of interest and noteworthy attractions.
- Interactive computers are being developed that will make up-to-the-minute information about park programming and activities a click away.

- Plans are underway to upgrade the Visitor Center and improve interpretive services on the park's Main Post, a site which will enliven dramatically over the next year as a dozen non- and for-profit organizations inhabit rehabilitated historic buildings.

Early next year, the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service will host a two day symposium to explore ways to enhance the visitor experience at the Presidio. Professionals in military history, media, technology, architecture, museum development and education, among others, will be invited to share their expertise. Comments received at the recent planning workshop and from the public via mail and email will form a foundation for the discussion. Please share your ideas for creating an unforgettable Presidio experience.



The National Park Service and the Trust plan to increase the number and variety of Presidio tours in the coming years.



Special events such as the Archaeology Open House offer an interactive opportunity for visitors to learn about Presidio history.



Wayside exhibits provide valuable information to visitors enjoying self-guided tours.

OVERHEARD AT THE PLANNING WORKSHOP

"The Presidio should be a place for all people, ages, cultures and abilities to experience and enjoy. It is a living experiment."

"The visitor experience should include a range of activities and hands-on, interactive and physical experiences, using all types of interpretation techniques."

"Information materials should be provided at park entrances."

"The park stories should explore the relationship of the Presidio to the larger context of the Bay Area, the West Coast and world history."

"The Presidio should be a place that encourages participation and teaches stewardship of our environment and national heritage."

"Provide volunteer opportunities for the visitor."

"Educate visitors on how they can take back the Presidio experience to their own communities."

A SUMMARY OF ALL COMMENTS CAN BE VIEWED AT WWW.PRESIDIOTRUST.GOV.

November

Saturday, November 6, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Reenactment of the Spanish War Era

Join Michael Cawelti, the "Spanish War 1898" actors, and the National Park Service for a lively exploration of the military styles and customs of the late 19th century. Meet at the William Penn Mott, Jr. Visitor Center. Call 415.561.4323.



Sunday, November 7, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

How Light is Your Footprint?

Do you wonder how small day-to-day decisions impact our environment? The Pachamama Alliance presents an evening with Vicki Robin, founder of the New Roadmap Foundation and co-author of *Your Money or Your Life*. Robin will describe how each of us can "lighten our footprint on the Earth" without sacrificing our quality of life. Meet at the Fort Mason Center, Landmark Building A. Call 415.561.4523 to purchase tickets.

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

Public Planning Workshop on Sustainability

How is the Trust making the Presidio a model for sustainability? Share your ideas for improving the Trust's programs. This month the Planning Workshop and the Presidio Forum are being held jointly, with the participation of Trust Board member Amy Meyer. The meeting will be held at the Golden Gate Club. Call 415.561.5300 for more information.

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

Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission

Offer comment on the draft Vegetation Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Presidio. The meeting will be held at the Manzanita Recreation Center in Marin City. Please call 415.561.5300 for more information.

Wednesday, November 17, 9 a.m. to Noon

Public Meeting of the Presidio Trust Board of Directors

Share your thoughts on the draft Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and Environmental Assessment with the Presidio Trust Board of Directors. A public comment period will follow a presentation by Trust and National Park Service staff. For more information, call 415.561.5300.

Friday, November 19, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association

Based on the 1806 journals of visitors to the Spanish Presidio of San Francisco, *The Romance of Nikolai Rezanov and Concepcion Arguello* by Eve Iversen chronicles the relationship between the daughter of Commandante Arguello and a Russian Count. Please join the Historical Association for a reception and book signing. Meet at the William Penn Mott, Jr. Visitor Center. Call 415.921.8193 for reservations.

