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Presidio



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Preserving the Presidio
 as a Sustainable
 National Park

What's Inside

- Sustainable Future
- Meet the Trust Board
- Heart of the Presidio
- Transportation
- Presidio Alliance
- Events on the Presidio
- News from Around the Park

News Briefs

Architects Sought

The Presidio Trust is seeking architects to assist with the restoration of historic Presidio residences. The Request for Qualifications is currently available, and responses will be due by mid-December. Contact the Presidio Trust for more information.

Housing Update

With new households moving to the Presidio each week, the residential community is growing quickly. Approximately 450 households now live on the Presidio, and a quarter of those units are occupied by Presidio-based employees. In the long term, the Presidio workforce will rent all Park housing.

Planning a Priority

The next phase of planning for the Presidio took center stage at the December 2 Presidio Trust Board of Directors meeting. Firms seeking to conduct the next level of planning at the park made presentations, and community members shared their ideas about priorities.

Staff Member Honored

Daniel Hernandez, the Presidio Trust's Housing Manager, was honored last month by the Mission Housing Development Corporation, where he was previously Executive Director for eight years. He earned the award for "his vision and passion" that inspired the organization to pursue innovative strategies for supportive housing, community organizing and resident leadership.



GREEN BUILDINGS: The salvage operation at Letterman Hospital will remove more than a million dollars worth of steel and other materials as part of the building's deconstruction.

NATIVE HABITAT RESTORATION: AmeriCorps members and volunteers prepare to plant native vegetation on reconfigured dunes at Crissy Field. Volunteers are encouraged to help with the planting on Saturdays December 12 and 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 561-3034 ext. 3445 for more information.



WASTE MANAGEMENT: Beverage container recycling bins have been placed in public areas throughout the park.

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

PRESIDIO PROJECTS MODEL SUSTAINABILITY

As the Presidio Trust accelerates park improvement efforts, there are a myriad of opportunities for the Presidio to model sustainable practices. The Presidio will incorporate resource conservation and environmental awareness as it seeks new tenant organizations, restores historic buildings, improves natural areas, and conducts everyday operations.

Environmentally sustainable practices range from designing efficient transportation systems to restoring native plant habitat. They include reducing energy consumption and salvaging obsolete building materials. Techniques can be as simple as allowing fresh air to circulate through workspaces or as complex as developing water treatment systems to reuse gray water for irrigation.

While the Presidio Trust must be financially sustainable by 2013, its success will also be measured by the degree to which the park becomes environmentally sustainable. The key concepts of the Trust's sustainable development program are outlined below. The staff is always on the lookout for good ideas, so suggestions are welcome and encouraged.

GREEN BUILDINGS

The vast majority of the Presidio's 800 buildings will be rehabilitated and reused. Recycling buildings in this way – even those a century old – is a sustainable practice that minimizes the need for landfill space and the demand for new

construction materials. "Green" building guidelines are being developed to guide new construction and rehabilitation efforts. Especially unique to the Presidio is the dual goal of preserving the historic fabric of the oldest buildings while rehabilitating them in the most efficient and environmentally healthy way possible. The guidelines will help tenants minimize environmental impacts, practice responsible resource use, maximize indoor air quality, and reduce energy consumption. Extensive green building and sustainable development resources will soon be available in the Presidio Trust library.

Where new construction must occur to replace obsolete, non-historic structures, buildings will be deconstructed instead of demolished. This allows building materials to be salvaged and reused elsewhere.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Water conservation enhances the park's environmental quality. Riparian corridors that once carried watersheds from underground springs will be restored. To reduce the draw on fresh water sources, the Trust will reuse "gray water," or treated sewer water for irrigation. Storm water runoff will be treated using nature's own techniques by traversing restored wetlands at Crissy Field before seeping into the Bay.

Demand-side management practices will conserve energy by encouraging alternatives to standard rates of consumption.



JOBS/HOUSING BALANCE: Providing housing for people who work on the Presidio will minimize traffic and environmental impacts.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: The Presidio Trust Facilities Division replaced lead joints in pipes to improve water quality.

NATIVE HABITAT RESTORATION

Native plant habitat is being restored throughout the Presidio, thanks in large part to the National Park Services' Natural Resources group and the support of the Golden Gate National Parks Association. On Crissy Field, Lobos Creek dunes, and throughout the park, clusters of native plant species are replacing intruders like Ice Plant and French Broom.

Native plant communities provide balanced ecosystems that sustain animal life. Rare and endangered plant species are found

continued on page 3...

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARK

NEW LEAD INTERPRETIVE RANGER BRINGS ENTHUSIASM AND EXPERIENCE

Presidio interpretation and visitor services have had an influx of energy with the selection of Naomi Torres as Site Supervisor. Torres comes to the Presidio after six years at Alcatraz, where the interpretation programs she oversaw won numerous awards. Her vision for the Presidio includes providing more public services, increasing environmental awareness, and working with the Presidio Trust and park tenant organizations. Torres will supervise a staff of seven National Park Service rangers.



WATERCOLORS EXHIBIT OPENS

Rowland Salley, bass guitarist of the music group "Chris Isaak and Silvertone," will present his watercolor paintings at the Presidio's William Penn Mott, Jr. Visitor Center beginning December 5. A self-taught artist, Salley has painted scenes from as far away as the Caribbean and as local as the Presidio. This exhibition will showcase some of his original art inspired by scenes in the Golden Gate National Parks. For more information about the opening celebration from 2 to 5 p.m. on December 5, please call 561.3037.



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



ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

A survey crew from the Federal Highway Administration is conducting a comprehensive study of paved roads and parking areas in the Presidio and the rest of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The detailed information resulting from the road survey will enable the Trust to develop an effective maintenance and improvement program for the road infrastructure.

PRESIDIO VOLUNTEERS WIN AWARD

The Presidio Park Stewards, a group of volunteers that restores natural areas of the park, has won the Trust For Public Land's Lackmann-Soulages Open Space Stewardship Award for outstanding restoration of the Lobos dunes. The restoration project, which was funded by the Golden Gate National Parks Association, is located near the 25th Avenue gate, where Lobos Creek runs along the Presidio's southern border.



Board Profile

Mary G. Murphy brings her expertise in real estate law to the Board of Directors, where she serves on the Committee on Finance and Budget and the Housing and Real Estate Committee.

As a partner with Farella Braun & Martel LLP of San Francisco, which she joined in 1987, Ms. Murphy has a transactional business practice devoted to real estate. Her expertise in commercial real estate law includes acquisition, financing, land use and development, management and leasing.

"The Presidio is more than a national park with centuries of history to impart, acres of nature to explore, and dozens of activities to enjoy," said Ms. Murphy. "Its location makes it an accessible park. Through our efforts, more people, particularly children and families, can come here to learn about history and habitat and experience nature. I hope the Presidio will honor its rich past and contribute to our nation's future."



Ms. Murphy is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Foundation for St. Catherine's College, Oxford, and a Trustee of the Hamlin School in San Francisco. She was the Vice President of the Board of Permit Appeals for the City and County of San Francisco and Co-chair of Neighborhood Associations for Presidio Planning.

Ms. Murphy received a B.A., *cum laude*, with distinction in her major from Yale University in 1981. As a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, she earned a Honours B.A. She received her J.D., *cum laude*, from Harvard University in 1986 and served as law clerk to two judges in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Board Members

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

Facilities and Maintenance

Almost sixty percent of Presidio Trust employees come from the National Park Service. Three-fourths of the 182-person staff work in the facilities and maintenance division, and approximately 40 Trust employees are employed in other areas. Call 561.5300 for information about job opportunities.



Deputy Director for Facilities

IN PRACTICE

Implementation of sustainable practices often relies on the Presidio Trust Facilities Division, which oversees maintenance of buildings and natural areas in non-coastal portions of the park. On a daily basis, we are rehabilitating historic structures, making deferred infrastructure repairs, and conducting general maintenance around the park.

Just recently, we salvaged thousands of pounds of scrap copper from obsolete cables and removed equipment and materials from the Letterman Hospital and research building, which will soon be replaced. Our goal is to reuse these salvaged materials in order to reduce landfill waste and save irreplaceable resources. Similarly, we will be conducting building energy use audits in order to assess a baseline for everyday energy use at the Presidio. Our goal is to reduce energy consumption by 20 percent by 1999 and by an additional 10 percent by 2000.

Described in more detail on the front page, these and many other efforts are underway as we rapidly begin the process of transforming the Presidio into a self-sufficient, model community where people will come from around the world to participate in our success.

Yours very truly,

Bruce Anderson

HEART OF THE PRESIDIO

The Main Post has been the center of activity on the Presidio since its first structure was built in 1776. Selected by Spaniards for its wind-sheltered location and commanding views of the Bay, the Main Post now comprises 149 buildings of a wide range of architectural styles. Collectively, these buildings represent the most substantial Civil War-era military complex in the Far West.

During Army days, administrative buildings surrounded the central parade ground, where a cannon was fired twice daily with the raising and lowering of the flag. Housing was also an integral part of the Main Post, with several enlisted men's barracks buildings and a distinctive row of officers' houses.

With the departure of the Army in 1994, many Main Post buildings have been sitting vacant. A new era of activity, however, is on its way. The Presidio Trust is now seeking organizations to lease space in twelve Main Post buildings built between 1862 and 1941.

Almost all of the available buildings were once used as barracks and mess halls, though many had more novel uses - a bakers' school, wagon shop and military police office, among others. Former officers' homes, the Main Post Chapel, and a former civilian personnel building are also available for new occupants.

The first tenants could move into these buildings as early as six months from now, bringing new energy into the heart of the Presidio. With additional interpretative displays and features, the Main Post will better showcase military history and building architecture while providing a



The 30th Infantry Regiment marches on the Main Post parade ground on May 5, 1925. Three of the former officers' homes (bottom left) and two former enlisted men's barracks buildings (bottom right) shown here are among the twelve historic buildings on the Main Post currently available for lease.

Photo courtesy of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Archives.

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

PRESIDIO PROJECTS MODEL SUSTAINABILITY

...continued from front page

throughout the park, and their preservation is key to sustaining the Presidio's uniqueness in the national park system.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Presidio can be a model of a self-contained "closed-loop" community, where waste and refuse is managed on-site and strain on local landfills is eased. Programs underway include large-scale composting for landscape materials, education of residents and organizational tenants about recycling and composting, salvage and reuse of trees and woody material, and an intensive on-site recycling program.

JOBS/HOUSING BALANCE

One of the single most effective ways to minimize traffic and environmental impacts on the Presidio is to provide a balance between jobs and housing. The park will eventually have about 4,800 jobs and up to half that many people living in Presidio housing. This will minimize commuting and vehicular trips outside of the park.

TRANSPORTATION

Improving access to and within the Presidio while reducing traffic congestion and air pollutant emissions is a key objective of the Trust.

The Trust will expand bike lanes, explore the feasibility of an internal alternatively-fueled shuttle system, consider water-based transportation systems, and encourage walking by improving trails and walkways.

The Trust is working with Golden Gate Transit to make the system's buses available to bring passengers from downtown to the Presidio. The Trust is also working with the City of San Francisco to improve access to the park via MUNI.

In addition, a compressed natural gas station is now in place to supply fuel for a fleet of natural gas-powered vehicles in the park.



TRANSPORTATION: New bike racks have been installed throughout the Presidio.

PRESIDIO TENANT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

PRESIDIO ALLIANCE

A year after the Presidio's 1994 General Management Plan was completed, 150 professionals from the public, private and nonprofit sectors convened for a three-day workshop focusing on innovative ways to implement the Plan's sustainability goals. Many of the participants continued to meet regularly as volunteers, and the next year they formed the Presidio Alliance as a project of the Tides Center.

Now in its second year, the Alliance promotes the Plan's vision for the Presidio as a model of sustainability. The organization implements education programs and develops model projects that

showcase innovations and concepts in environmental sustainability.

"Everyone who lives, works or visits the Presidio can play a role in helping the park become a model of sustainability," said Executive Director Laura Keresty. "Simple actions such as taking public transportation or walking to the Presidio instead of driving, recycling as much as possible, and conserving energy, all make a difference in the impact that each of us has on the park."

The Alliance is a membership organization that relies heavily on volunteer support. Its recent accomplishments include: Creating an energy conservation partnership with the U.S. Department of

Energy's Rebuild America program; raising funds for park-wide beverage container recycling bins; and hosting a panel discussion with the Presidio Trust about sustainable practices for replacement construction in the Letterman Complex.

Call 561.3993 for more information.



December

Wednesday, December 9, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Connecting Partners with Parks Tour

People who work on the Presidio are invited on a park-wide tour guided by National Park Service ranger Lisa Hillstrom. The tours are scheduled for every second Wednesday of the month. Call 561.4318 to reserve your spot.



Saturday, December 12, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

The Beautiful Tree: Processing of Acorns Documentary

The California Indian Museum and Cultural Center will sponsor this documentary presentation at the William Penn Mott, Jr. Visitor Center. Call 561.3992 for more information.



Sunday, December 13

Walt Stack 10K Run

Join the San Francisco Dolphin South End Runners Club for a 10K run that crosses Crissy Field and Fort Point. Call 978.0837 for more information.



December

Sunday, December 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ephemera '98 Sale of Bay Area Collectibles

The San Francisco History Association will sponsor this collectibles fair at the Herbst International Exhibition Hall in the Presidio. Call 750.9986.

Monday, December 14

Responses to the Officers' Club Request for Qualifications Due

Organizations interested in leasing the historic Presidio Officers' Club for a dining, conference or related use must submit responses to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) by 5 p.m. Copies of the RFQ are available by contacting the Trust at 561.5300.



December 30 and 31, 3 p.m. to 3 p.m.

24-hour Sing for your Life

Join members of Bobby McFerrin's a cappella group at the Main Post Chapel for 24 hours of singing. Call 561.3931 for more information.