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# Living & Working in the Presidio

A National Park & National Historic Landmark District

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# Welcome

to one of our nation's  
most cherished  
public places!



As both a national park site and a National Historic Landmark District (NHLD), the Presidio of San Francisco is a unique American treasure. Its 1,491 acres are renowned for spectacular vistas, rare natural features, and the history, artifacts, and architecture of native peoples and the militaries of three nations.

In the last decade, stewardship of the Presidio passed from soldier to civilian hands. Today, it is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), the largest urban national park in the world. Transforming this former military enclave into a public place that all can enjoy is one of America's most challenging historic and environmental preservation efforts.

You are part of a vibrant community living and working in the Presidio today. This guide explains the opportunities and responsibilities that come with inhabiting an historic place and sharing the natural world with plant and wildlife residents. It supplements your Welcome Binder in outlining resources that make community life rich and enjoyable.

Thank you for being a steward of this remarkable place!

Cover Photos (from left to right)

Top Row: Letterman District, hikers on the Ecology Trail, California Quail (copyright Alan Hopkins)

Bottom Row: habitat restoration volunteer program at Mountain Lake, archaeology program on Funston Avenue, neighborhood recycling

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## H I S T O R I C T I M E L I N E

- c. 700 Indigenous peoples inhabit the land.
- 1776 Spanish colonists establish the Presidio.
- 1822 Mexican independence results in Mexico's possession of the Presidio.
- 1846 The United States seizes control of California and the U.S. Army occupies the Presidio.
- 1861 The Civil War establishes the Presidio as a strategic military post and touches off a period of expansion.
- 1883 Major Jones' plan for foresting the Presidio is created.
- 1906 The Presidio serves as a refuge for San Franciscans following the earthquake and fire.
- 1915 Portions of the Presidio shoreline and the adjacent Marina are filled in to host the Panama Pacific International Exposition.
- 1921 The Army establishes Crissy Airfield.
- 1937 Construction of the Golden Gate Bridge is completed.
- 1941 The Presidio serves as a training center for troops headed to the World War II Pacific Theater.
- 1962 The Presidio is designated a National Historic Landmark District.
- 1972 The Golden Gate National Recreation Area is established; legislation determines that the Presidio will join the GGNRA should it become excess to the military's needs.
- 1989 The Base Realignment and Closure Commission designates the Presidio for closure.
- 1994 The U.S. Sixth Army departs and the Presidio officially transfers to the National Park Service.
- 1996 Congress creates the Presidio Trust.
- 1998 The Presidio Trust assumes management responsibility for the interior of the park; National Park Service manages coastal areas.

## What is a National Historic Landmark District (NHLD)?



National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places that possess exceptional value in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. On June 13, 1962, in recognition of its exceptional contribution to America's heritage, the Presidio became a National Historic Landmark. Today there are 2300 such landmarks in the country.

Hundreds of structures, roads, landscapes and archaeological features contribute to this status, including 469 historic buildings, San Francisco National Cemetery, the golf course, batteries, cannons, gates and archaeological features such as the remnants of the original Spanish adobe garrison. Even the park's forest—planted by the Army between the 1880s and 1940s—is a contributing feature, as are parade grounds and military gardens. Today, a major effort is underway to preserve and revitalize the park's historic resources, and share the site's history with the visiting public.

## Why is the Presidio Part of a National Park?

The Presidio is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), the world's largest national park in an urban area that links 75,500 acres to the north and south of the Golden Gate. The creation of the GGNRA was part of the federal "Parks to the People" program, an effort to make the national park experience more accessible to people living in urban areas.

The Presidio is one of several former military posts that are now included in the GGNRA (others are Fort Baker, Fort Cronkhite and Fort Funston). Though the Presidio is special because of its historic resources, it is equally cherished for its ecological heritage. More than 280 native plant species—16 of which are rare or endangered—find refuge here, as do more than 200 species of birds and a variety of mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The Presidio is also an invaluable recreational destination for visitors, who come to enjoy miles of trails and bikeways, quiet open spaces and sports like golf and windsurfing.



## Caring for the Presidio

The Presidio is managed through a partnership of the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service. The Trust manages the park's interior representing 80% of the Presidio. The National Park Service manages the coastal areas. The Trust and National Park Service cooperate to preserve open space, plan for the trails system, provide for public safety, and offer public programs. The Presidio also benefits from the support of the non-profit Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

## A Model of Sustainability

Sustainability is an important guiding principle at the Presidio. Inherent in the idea of sustainability is the long-term effect of our choices and our potential impact on future generations, both locally and globally. The park strives to operate efficiently, using its resources wisely. In recognition of this effort, the Presidio has been designated a Center of Environmental Innovation, one of just 20 sites singled out for the leadership role they play within the national park system and federal government as a whole.

## What is Stewardship?

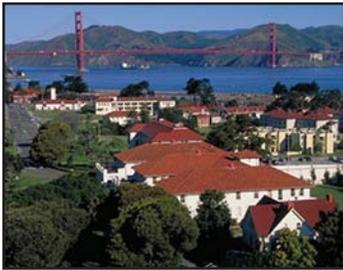
Stewardship means taking care of something. Your partnership is vital to the protection and sustainability of the park. Whether you call the Presidio home or workplace, or both, you can play a role as caretaker and supporter of this national park. The pages that follow describe how you can make choices every day that preserve and protect the park for future generations.

# PRESIDIO FACTS



Acreage	1,491 (991 acres of open space)
Buildings	768, of which 469 are historic
Community	As of 2004, 2,000 people work for a mix of 200 diverse organizations; 2,400 people live in 1,000 households (one-quarter occupied by Presidio-based employees)
Native Plant Communities	13 distinctive plant communities featuring 280 native plant species, 16 of which are rare or endangered, such as the Raven's manzanita
Historic Forest	300 acres; key species include Monterey cypress, Monterey pine and blue gum eucalyptus
Wildlife	More than 200 species of birds, including California quail, Great-horned owls, and snowy egrets; also home to a variety of mammals, reptiles and aquatic species such as native gray fox, the San Francisco alligator lizard and the three-spined stickleback fish
Key Natural Resources	Lobos Creek (the last year-round, free-flowing stream in San Francisco), Mountain Lake (the only natural lake in the GGNRA), Tennessee Hollow watershed, Crissy Field tidal marsh, serpentine grasslands and coastal bluffs
Architecture	Styles from every major military construction period since the 1850s, including Italianate, Greek Revival, Mediterranean and Mission Revival
Archaeology	Significant archaeology site, featuring prehistoric, 18th century Spanish, Mexican and American period artifacts
Recreation	Many miles of hiking, biking, and multi-use trails including the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and the historic Lovers' Lane; golf course, bowling alley, Rob Hill campground, picnic sites, tennis courts, ball fields, indoor swimming and gymnasium facilities, windsurfing, birdwatching, habitat restoration and more

# LIVING & WORKING IN PRESIDIO BUILDINGS



The Presidio boasts nearly 800 buildings: former barracks, gun batteries, warehouses, hangars, offices and homes. These structures, once vital to an active military post, are now finding new life as residences, workplaces and recreational facilities serving a civilian community.

A great deal of care goes into preserving and renewing the Presidio's historic and non-historic buildings. Living and working in these structures has many advantages, and also requires a special thoughtfulness. In this section learn more about the park's varied family of structures and how you can protect them.

## A Sampling of the Presidio's Diverse Architectural Styles

Greek Revival  
1840-1860



Italianate  
1860-1880



Queen Anne  
1880-1890



Colonial Revival  
1880-1940



Mission Revival  
1910-1940



Mediterranean and Italian  
Renaissance Revival  
1920-1940



World War II Era  
1940-1945



Post War Era/Modern  
1945-present



Utilitarian Style  
1860-present



# LIVING & WORKING IN PRESIDIO BUILDINGS



## Special Features

Each and every historic building at the Presidio has special features that define the overall character of the structure. A building detail, a material used, a construction technique or a division of space are all “character defining” features. You are encouraged to take a close look at the special features of the building you occupy and the original materials that are still intact. If you have any questions, call the Presidio Trust at (415) 561-5300.

## Building Rehabilitation

The Trust takes great care in rehabilitating and maintaining historic buildings. The Secretary of the Interior has developed “Standards for Rehabilitation” which guide how the Trust cares for historic materials and “character defining” features. The Standards leave room for upgrades or alterations for modern use. For example, older residential units did not have kitchens with microwave ovens and dishwashers. The Standards allow the Trust to incorporate these modern conveniences. Moreover, many of the architectural building techniques and materials used during the original construction are rare or obsolete today. The Standards advise that when repairs are needed, materials are replaced with the exact same style and construction method whenever possible. The Trust also follows Green Building Guidelines to maximize the use of durable, renewable and non-toxic materials, as well as recycled and salvaged components. These “green” practices go hand-in-hand with historic preservation at the Presidio.



## Hold Off on the Hammer, Saw and Paintbrush

Please remember that all Presidio buildings—historic and non-historic—are federal property and part of the NHL. Therefore, do not make any physical changes to your home or workplace.



# LIVING & WORKING IN PRESIDIO BUILDINGS

## YOUR STEWARDSHIP ROLES

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### Please do...

-  **Protect surfaces and hard wood floors.** For example, remove cleated shoes before entering, do not drag furniture, do not place a bed box spring or mattress directly on the floor, etc.
-  **Leave light fixtures and hardware as they are.** Polishing should only be done with a no-scratch cleaning agent.
-  **Protect against moisture damage in bathrooms.** To protect the wood window frames (and other sensitive building materials), please use a shower curtain to reduce water infiltration.
-  **Conserve energy.** Most buildings have been retrofitted with energy efficient lighting and appliances. Save energy by turning off electronics, lights, computers and appliances when not in use. When replacing light bulbs, use compact fluorescents; they use one-quarter of the energy and last up to ten times longer than incandescent lights.

### Do not...

-  **Make any physical changes to your home or workplace.** No walls may be painted, wallpapered, demolished or damaged in any way.
-  **Drill walls to secure heavy objects such as bookshelves, artwork, mirrors, etc.** Much of the wood and plaster used as architectural detail on Presidio buildings is irreplaceable. No electrical fixtures, decorations, or hanging objects may be installed or suspended from the ceiling without prior written permission. Pictures can only be hung with the use of brads or finishing nails. In buildings with plaster walls, the picture molding (about four-fifths up the wall) should be used to hang pictures. Please be careful not to strike these fragile walls with furniture.
-  **Use your fireplace.** In the rehabilitation process, many of the flues have been converted to act as a boiler vent or stove vent so they can no longer be used as fireplaces.
-  **Have water-filled furniture in your home.** The floors are not designed to carry the load, and if the furniture were to leak or burst, it could cause irreparable damage to the building.

# GARDENING, LANDSCAPING & EXTERIOR DECOR

The Presidio's landscapes shape its character and contribute to its NHLD status. The Presidio contains a mosaic of sensitive natural areas that provide habitat for native plants and wildlife that are diminishing elsewhere in the urban Bay Area. It also features a 300-acre planted historic forest and myriad parade grounds, gardens and cultivated landscapes. This cultural heritage and ecological diversity are key reasons why the Presidio is included within the GGNRA.

Today, park managers are restoring both the Presidio's human-shaped "cultural" landscapes and its wild open spaces. As a park resident or tenant, you can support the protection of these landscapes. Even small changes around your home or workplace could inadvertently diminish the overall coherence of the historic landscape, threaten a native species or affect valuable archaeological resources just beneath the soil's surface. This section explains special rules surrounding gardening, landscaping and home exterior décor. We hope this information will enable you to enjoy your home or workplace while helping to preserve the historic qualities and natural features that make the Presidio unique.

## The open space of the Presidio comprises three types of landscapes:



Historic Forest



Native Plant Communities



Landscaped Areas

## Beware of What Organisms You Bring to the Park

Many commercial nursery species can become aggressive competitors with native species and are difficult to eradicate once established. Some commercially available plants labeled "California Native" have the potential to hybridize with native plants in the park. This is a serious threat to the genetic integrity of the native plants that have evolved in the Presidio for millennia. For example, if you were to grow California poppies from seed purchased at a store, the pollen from the flowers would be then transported by bumblebees to native poppies growing in your neighborhood.



*Introduced non-native poppies at the Presidio*



*Archaeological features can be just a few inches from the surface*

## Don't Dig It!

### The Area Around Your Home May Be an Archaeological Site

Archaeological sites are non-renewable resources, and if they are dug up intentionally or unintentionally, they are destroyed forever. More than 50 known archaeological sites hover just beneath the Presidio's surface. In order to protect these areas (often unknown in their exact boundaries and contents), digging at the Presidio is always accompanied by careful prior review. Trust crews are specially trained to deal with sensitive sites they may encounter in their work. Residents, tenants and visitors are prohibited from disturbing the ground. If you do come across an artifact, please call the Trust at (415) 561-5300 and ask for the Presidio Archaeology Lab.

## Towards a Toxic-free Park

The Presidio has precious biological resources, a groundwater-fed drinking water source and storm water runoff that washes to the bay and ocean. This makes eliminating highly toxic pesticides and herbicides vitally important. Unauthorized use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides is prohibited because of the hazards that they pose to people's health and the park's ecological systems.



*Field crescent butterfly*

# GARDENING, LANDSCAPING & EXTERIOR DECOR

## YOUR STEWARDSHIP ROLES

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### Please do...



**Be wary of vines on buildings.** This type of vegetation can cause considerable damage to structures. If a plant is starting to "embrace" the building you live or work in, please call the Presidio Trust Work Order Desk at (415) 561-4270 so we can remove it.

### Do not...



**Plant, fertilize or alter the landscape in the Presidio.** Limit gardening to potted containers and do not buy plants labeled "California Native." See container plant guidelines in your Welcome Binder to learn about recommended park-friendly plants and prohibited plants.



**Dig or insert stakes or poles (such as those associated with sporting equipment or lawn furniture) into the ground.** Help protect archaeological artifacts.



**Leave an excess amount of play equipment, lawn furniture, ornaments, tools or outdoor equipment in public view.** Please consider the visual experience of park visitors, as well as fellow residents and tenants. In addition, personal items can interfere with grounds maintenance activities.



**Pick flowers, fruits, seeds or other vegetation.** Blackberries picked in reasonable quantities in designated areas are the only exception. Pick only the five-leaved variety.



**Discard soil or plant material anywhere on the Presidio.** Soil can contain seeds and organisms that impact the park's ecology.



**Use pesticides or herbicides.** If you have specific needs or questions regarding pest control, please call the Trust Pest Control Hotline at (415) 561-2763.



**Park on unpaved surfaces.** Parking on unpaved surfaces causes erosion and damage to lawns and other vegetation.



**Walk in undesignated or fenced areas.** Use of unofficial trails causes habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance, and erosion.

# SHARING THE PARK WITH WILDLIFE



*Great Blue Heron  
on Main Post*

Living and working in a national park has many benefits. One is the chance to be close to an unusually wide variety of wildlife rarely seen in the midst of a large city. The park's open space, including lawns, trees and natural areas, provides habitat for wildlife. If we work together as a community we can keep our wildlife wild and co-exist harmoniously with them.

We share the Presidio with more than 300 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fish and other aquatic life. Though centuries of human habitation and use has led to the decline of some species, the Presidio is considered one of the most biologically diverse urban parks in the country. In fact, the Presidio is part of the United Nations International Network of Biosphere Reserves, a network of ecosystems recognized for biological diversity.

## Meet Your Neighbors



### **Birds**

Birds provide the greatest wildlife diversity in the park, with more than 200 species spending at least some time here during the year.



### **Mammals**

We share the park with raccoons, skunks, gophers, bats, gray fox and even coyotes.



### **Reptiles & Amphibians**

Residents include the San Francisco alligator lizard, the western fence lizard, and California slender salamanders.



### **Aquatic Life**

Myriad wildlife abounds in the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay, from starfish to sea lions.



### **Insects**

Look closely for a diverse array of insects such as beetles, butterflies and bumblebees.

# SHARING THE PARK WITH WILDLIFE



*Barn Swallows are the most common migratory nesters on Presidio buildings*

## Your Seasonal Neighbors: Migratory Birds

The Presidio is part of the migratory route known as the Pacific Flyway. It offers much needed shelter, food and water for birds journeying hundreds of miles across the Americas. Springtime here means the arrival of more than 150 migratory bird species that have spent the winter in areas as distant as South America. Park staff follow strict guidelines between March 1 to August 15, avoiding tree-cutting, pruning and other activities that might disturb nests. The International Migratory Bird Treaty Act (and Trust regulations) decrees that all migratory birds (including eggs, nests and feathers) are fully protected.

## Learning to Love Gophers

Valley pocket gophers are native to the Presidio and are in every neighborhood in the park. They are an important food source for other wildlife, including hawks, fox and coyotes. Gophers themselves feed underground on roots, bulbs and seeds as well as insects. Their burrowing aerates soil. Please remember that they are an important part of the park's wildlife community.



## Co-existing with Coyotes

Since 2002, coyotes have been seen in the Presidio and other parts of the city. Coyotes are smart and adaptable animals and regular extended contact with humans will cause them to lose their natural fear of people and may in turn cause behavioral problems. In order to keep coyotes naturally timid of human contact please restrict food sources (pet food and trash) and keep your distance from coyotes. If you have a direct encounter with a coyote in the Presidio you may make a gesture to scare it away by making loud noises and/or waving arms.



# SHARING THE PARK WITH WILDLIFE

## YOUR STEWARDSHIP ROLES

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### Please do...

-  **Observe wildlife from a distance.** Be safe while helping to keep wildlife wild.
-  **Make sure your garbage cans are secured and not overflowing.** The availability of human food can create an unnaturally high population of raccoons and skunks, which can negatively affect other wildlife, notably birds. If dumpster lids are left open, raccoons can get trapped. If an animal becomes trapped in or near your home, call the Trust Work Order Desk at (415) 561-4270.
-  **Report injured animals or out of the ordinary wildlife sightings** to (415) 561-5300 and ask for the Trust Natural Resources Program.
-  **Drive carefully.** Stay alert for people and wildlife crossing roads.

### Do not...

-  **Disturb or harm wildlife.** Federal regulations prohibit the taking, touching or intentional disturbance or injury of any wildlife (or plants) in the Presidio.
-  **Feed wildlife.** Animals accustomed to being fed by humans spend less time foraging in natural areas and may lose their fear of people, possibly leading to aggressive behavior. Bird feeders may attract aggressive exotic species like starlings and pigeons which can drive out native birds.
-  **Invade the privacy of bird nests.** If there is a problem with the location of a nest (i.e. near a doorway) or if a baby bird is found on the ground, please contact the Presidio Trust Natural Resources Program at (415) 561-5300.
-  **Allow your pet to freely roam.** Free-roaming cats and dogs are prohibited and pose a serious threat to Presidio wildlife. Keep your pet under control and do not allow them to approach or chase wildlife. See the "Pets in the Park" section of this guide for more details.
-  **Use poisons of any kind for rodents or insects.** Poison is a danger to animals, especially those that feed on gophers or other rodents. Poison in burrows can also impact aquatic ecosystems by leaching into the ground water or storm water. If you feel gopher burrows are creating a safety hazard or if you have an indoor rodent problem, call the Trust Pest Control Hotline at (415) 561-2763.

# RECYCLING & TRASH MANAGEMENT



Managing trash is an integral part of living and working in the Presidio. Refuse management is not just about putting your garbage out on pick-up days. It also means being mindful of the materials that we use and dispose of. The park's wildlife as well as faraway environments where our trash is deposited in landfills may be affected by things we throw away. A commitment to stewardship includes a commitment to sustainable practices such as reducing waste, recycling and reusing materials. Recycling and reducing waste enables us to preserve precious natural resources, reduce pollution, minimize the amount of land needed for disposal and saves energy used to produce virgin goods.

This section describes simple ways to keep trash under control, protect wildlife and reduce waste. Working together, we can keep the Presidio clean and beautiful while protecting the environment beyond the park's boundaries.

**All of these items and more can be placed in your recycle bin.**



**Non-residential tenants: Please follow recycling guidelines in your building.**

# RECYLING & TRASH MANAGEMENT



## Composting: Nature's Way of Recycling

Composting is the act of transforming organic debris, such as kitchen scraps, into a nutritious food for soil. The Trust Regeneration Program promotes home and workplace composting by placing compost bins in residential areas and offices. If you'd like to learn more about home or workplace composting, call the Trust at (415) 561-5300 and ask for the Regeneration Program.



## Disposing of Household Hazardous Waste

Toxic materials may not be disposed of in the park. This includes batteries, paint, household chemicals and computers. The City of San Francisco provides residents with a safe place to dispose of unwanted toxic materials



from their homes at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. Use of the facility is free and is available to San Francisco residents only (including the Presidio). For questions about the facility, please call the SF Environment Hotline at (415) 554-4333.

## Keep Your Lids Shut!

When disposing of trash, make sure your bins and dumpsters are properly secured. Overflowing garbage negatively affects wildlife and pollutes the park. It also affects water quality. During the rainy season rain water can leach out toxins from your garbage causing pollution in the Bay.



# TRASH MANAGEMENT & REDUCING WASTE

## YOUR STEWARDSHIP ROLES

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### Please do...

-  **Reduce waste and recycle.** Take advantage of the recycling receptacles for safe and convenient disposal of residential trash and recyclables. The San Francisco Conservation Corps currently picks up recyclables from Presidio-based organizations.
-  **Pick up litter.** If you see litter in your neighborhood or in other areas of the park, help keep the park clean and protect wildlife by picking it up and placing it in a garbage bin.
-  **Compost kitchen scraps.** See your Welcome Binder for more information on composting guidelines.
-  **Refrain from filling dumpsters when you move or “clean house.”** Give unwanted personal items to friends, neighbors or charity. There is a Salvation Army drop-off at Crissy Field that takes clothing and household furniture. The Presidio’s garbage service offers a free twice yearly pick-up of bulky items. Call (415) 626-4000 to schedule a pick-up.
-  **Return your cans and bins to their proper storage area promptly after pick-up.**

### Do not...

-  **Throw toxics in the trash.** Batteries, paint, household chemicals, computers and all other hazardous materials should be disposed of properly.
-  **Leave trash outside of secured cans or dumpsters.** Refuse will not be collected if it is placed outside of the bin. If an unsecured bin is continually making a mess, you may be billed for the cleanup.

# *PETS IN THE PARK*

Every national park in the United States has rules regarding pets. In order to protect the Presidio's natural resources and historic places, and to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors, there are rules in place to promote responsible pet ownership. Park residents and employees are asked to be especially aware of these regulations, in part, because we set an important example for visitors. This section explains how pet guidelines respect the experience of park users while protecting the resources of the park.

## **Teaching park visitors by example**



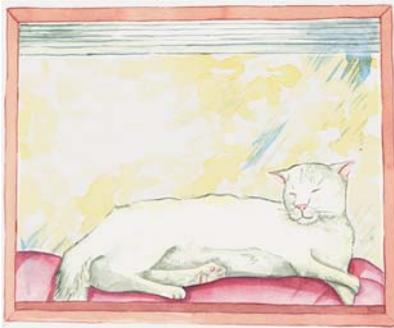
Free-roaming cats and off-leash dogs send a message to the public that the Presidio is not a safe refuge for wildlife, and that this behavior is allowed in the park.

Please note that pets are not permitted in non-residential (commercial) buildings.

# PETS IN THE PARK

## You & Your Dog

The most important responsibility of dog ownership in the Presidio is keeping your dog on leash, a requirement of all park visitors and lease-holders. Free-roaming dogs can prevent wildlife from feeding in open space. Hawks and other raptors will not take prey from the ground with free-roaming dogs present. Ground feeding mammals and birds like California Quail are at risk from dogs and will not venture into the open if free-roaming dogs are present. Unleashed dogs may become lost or injured, may frighten park visitors (especially children), may get into an altercation with other dogs or wildlife, or may be exposed to harmful plants like poison oak.



## Protecting Wildlife, Protecting Your Cat

The most important responsibility of cat ownership in the Presidio is keeping your cat indoors (or on-leash and supervised when outdoors). Doing so is a requirement of residents for the purpose of protecting wildlife as well as the health of your cat.

Cats are highly effective predators. Songbirds, small mammals and reptiles are at risk from free-roaming pet cats. Nesting species are especially vulnerable as parent birds are forced to venture further and feed faster in order to provide for their young. Nestlings and fledglings learning to fly are particularly vulnerable to cats. Well-fed cats are as likely to hunt as hungry cats. Bells are ineffective in alerting wildlife to stalking cats.

Statistically free-roaming cats have shorter life spans due to disease and injuries by motorized vehicles and encounters with carnivorous wildlife. Non-neutered cats are likely to impregnate or be impregnated by other free-roaming or feral cats.

# PETS IN THE PARK

## YOUR STEWARDSHIP ROLES

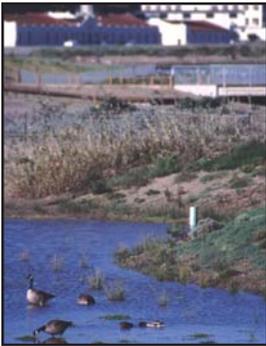
### Please do...

-  **Be mindful of park visitors and fellow residents.** Many visitors, especially children, are fearful of dogs, even if the animal is friendly. Please be sensitive to those around you by keeping your pet under control at all times.
-  **Keep pet food indoors.** Feeding your pet outdoors may inadvertently provide a food source for wildlife. Feeding wildlife is prohibited in the park.
-  **Protect historic places.** Please protect the building in which you live or work. Do not allow your animal to scratch walls or doors or otherwise harm the structure.

### Do not...

-  **Have more than one pet.** Only one pet is allowed per household in neighborhoods where pets are permitted. Signed pet agreements are required.
-  **Allow your pet to freely roam or be tied up unsupervised when outdoors in the park.** Do not leave your pet unattended outdoors, even if leashed, as it may disturb wildlife as well as other residents and visitors.
-  **Leave pet poop on the ground.** You are required to pick up after your dog or cat. See page 23 for more information about why this is important.
-  **Dump cat litter in the park.** All cat litter must be placed in a sealed plastic bag in appropriate trash bins.
-  **Walk your pet in fenced or signed sensitive natural areas in the park.** Some sites within the Presidio have recently benefited from reforestation or native plant restoration. Watch for signs and keep your pet out of fenced areas. This will also prevent your pet from coming into contact with poison oak which can be transferred to you.
-  **Allow your pet to dig in the park.** Holes can cause twisted ankles. Digging can also disturb important archaeological sites.
-  **Abandon a pet in the park.** Pet cats and other small mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians can disrupt the ecological balance of the park and abandoning them can cause them great stress.

# PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES



Crissy Marsh

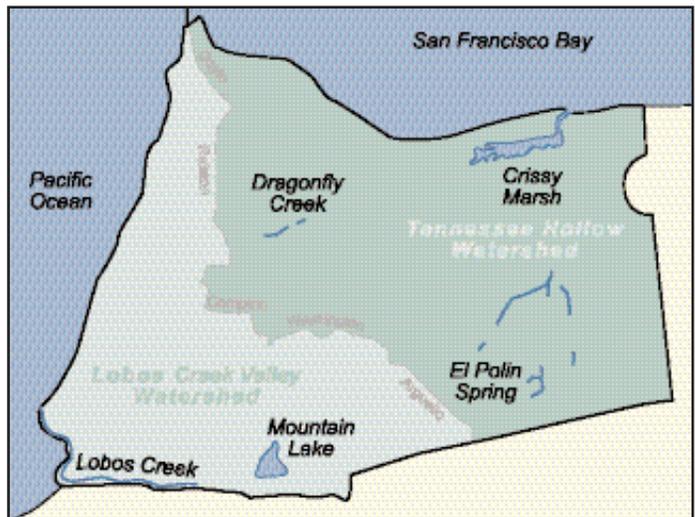
Where there's water there's life. Worldwide, wildlife and plants gravitate towards water bodies, and it's no coincidence that human settlements are built near rivers, bays and oceans. The Presidio is no exception. For hundreds of years the ocean, the marsh, bay and freshwater creeks here provided food and water for Ohlone people, Spanish, Mexican and American soldiers, and the emerging city. Today, visitors drinking from a fountain, residents brushing their teeth, and gray fox lapping from the creek shores are part of an unbroken millennia-old legacy of life-supporting Presidio waters.

This legacy is being preserved by the protection of the Presidio's natural springs, wetlands and creeks, as well as through the restoration of the Crissy Field marsh, Mountain Lake and Tennessee Hollow. In this section, learn more about the Presidio's water sources and how you can protect them.

## What Is a Watershed?

No matter where you are, you are within a watershed. A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common water body such as a lake or ocean.

The Presidio is part of two main watersheds: the Lobos Creek Valley watershed to the west and the Tennessee Hollow watershed to the east.



# PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES



*Our primary water source,  
Lobos Creek*

## Where Does Presidio Water Come From?

Today, while pipelines transport water from the Sierra to San Francisco, the Presidio's primary water supply is still local, sourced from Lobos Creek in the southwest corner of the park. Underground springs feed this half-mile creek, which empties into the Pacific Ocean at Baker Beach. Each day approximately two million gallons of freshwater are diverted from the creek to provide for the park's residents, tenants and visitors. The Trust is careful

never to divert too much water from the creek, so that the plants and wildlife that depend on it are also served. That is why conservation here is so critical.

## Where Does Our Water Go?



### Protecting Our Neighbors Downstream

Unlike the rest of San Francisco, most of the Presidio's storm drains flow directly to living ecosystems in the ocean, bay and wetlands. Toxins from cars, pesticides from lawns and hazardous materials dumped into storm drains can have a critical impact on our ecological neighbors downstream.

More than 100 bird species and myriad fish and invertebrates are living near Presidio storm drain outflows. The community downstream includes Great blue herons, crabs and even gray whales. People are affected by storm drain pollution too: children who play at Baker Beach, windsurfers and swimmers in the Bay and maybe even you on your barefoot walk in the surf.



# PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES

## YOUR STEWARDSHIP ROLES

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### Please do...

- 💧 **Make every drop count.** Be mindful of the water you use in your home and workplace.
- 💧 **Maintain the outdoor areas of your home/workplace according to Trust rules.** For Trust residents, please see watering restrictions appropriate to your neighborhood.
- 💧 **Repair leaks from your automobile.** Please keep in mind that every substance that enters Presidio roadways eventually reaches a living ecosystem.
- 💧 **Keep dumpsters and trash cans sealed.** Help prevent stormwater pollution.
- 💧 **Be aware.** You are your watershed's eyes and ears. If you notice sources of water pollution (car leaks, soil erosion, etc.) please contact the Trust Natural Resources Program at (415) 561-5300.

### Do not...

- 💧 **Wash your car in the Presidio.** It takes about five minutes for the soap and grime from car-washing in some neighborhoods to reach the Bay and ocean. Professional car washes reclaim and treat the polluted water run-off.
- 💧 **Dump anything in storm drains.** Do not dispose of paints, gasoline, oils, solvents, chemicals, batteries or cleansers in storm drains or near creeks. See page 16 of this guide for information regarding disposing of toxics.
- 💧 **Leave dog or cat waste on the ground.** Pet waste is a less obvious but significant source of water pollution. Rains wash bacteria into watersheds, potentially sickening children, swimmers and wildlife.
- 💧 **Use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.** This will prevent the run-off of pollutants from your yard.

# VOLUNTEER

Volunteer opportunities offer a meaningful connection to the park and are essential to nurturing and sustaining many park activities. Many programs are partnerships between the Presidio Trust, the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.



## Presidio Archaeology Lab

Professionals from the lab train volunteers in artifact recovery, collection, management and conservation. Duties include excavating, identifying, sorting, cleaning, mapping, screening artifacts, and historic research. Volunteer programs take place each Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Call (415) 561-5305 for more information.



## Presidio Trust Event Docents

In partnership with the Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association, volunteers assist and educate visitors at select events. If you are interested in being an event docent, please call (415) 561-5300 and ask for Trust Public Programs.



## Presidio Community Nature Programs

The Presidio's resident and employee community is invited to connect with the natural world of the park through special group programs. Schedule hands-on activities or a natural history slideshow for your office or neighborhood. To arrange for a presentation or group volunteer activity, call (415) 561-4449.

# OPPORTUNITIES



## Presidio Quail Recovery Project

Help improve the odds of survival for our state bird, the California Quail, by participating in hands-on habitat restoration and monitoring projects.

Volunteer opportunities are available for groups, students and individuals. Call (415) 561-4449.



## Presidio Park Stewards Habitat Restoration Program

Weekly volunteer activities span the full cycle of restoration: from seed collecting and planting at the restoration sites to weeding non-native invasive plants and monitoring the results of restoration efforts. Drop-in programs are held on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. Call (415) 561-4449.



## Presidio Native Plant Nursery

The Nursery is the heart of habitat restoration in the Presidio. Each week, community members and school groups help collect seeds, build compost piles, care for plants in the nursery, and much more. Drop-in programs are held on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. Call (415) 561-4830.



# IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**You are the eyes and ears of the park.**

If you witness any activities that you think are harmful to people or park resources, please call **U.S. Park Police** at **(415) 561-5505**.

In a **fire, police** or **medical emergency** call **911**.

(from a cell phone call **(415) 561-5656**)

<b>Non-Emergency U.S. Park Police</b> .....	(415) 561-5505
<b>Non-Emergency Fire Department</b> .....	(415) 561-4223
<b>Presidio Trust Work Order Desk</b>	
Residential .....	(415) 561-4270
Non-residential .....	(415) 561-2442
<b>Presidio Trust</b> .....	(415) 561-5300
<b>Presidio Residences (John Stewart Company)</b>	
Main Office .....	(415) 561-5454
Baker Beach Apartments Office .....	(415) 379-6840
<b>Non-residential property management</b>	
(Woodmont Real Estate Services) .....	(415) 561-2440
<b>Presidio Trust Pest Control Hotline</b> .....	(415) 561-2763
<b>Presidio Trust Archaeology Lab</b> .....	(415) 561-5300
To report the finding of an artifact	
<b>Presidio Trust Natural Resources Program</b> .....	(415) 561-5300
For questions about animals, plants and other natural resources	
<b>Presidio Trust Waste Reduction Office</b> .....	(415) 561-4260
For all refuse and recycling inquiries (except bulky waste pickups)	
<b>Golden Gate Disposal &amp; Recycling Company</b> .....	(415) 626-4000
To schedule a pick-up of bulky trash items	
<b>Presidio Trust Regeneration Program</b> .....	(415) 561-5300
For questions about composting	
<b>SF Environment Hotline</b> .....	(415) 554-4333
For questions regarding hazardous waste disposal	