

# WHAT IS TENNESSEE HOLLOW?

At 270 acres, Tennessee Hollow is the Presidio's largest watershed. Its spring-fed tributaries once provided a year-round fresh water source for native people and colonial settlers. Though mainly hidden today beneath roadways and storm drains, the flow of the creek persists, providing an oasis for wildlife. Tennessee Hollow is framed by historic Presidio neighborhoods, and its forests, trails, and playing fields welcome the community. It provides visitors with a rare opportunity to experience an entire watershed – from springs to San Francisco Bay – in just an afternoon hike.

In 2008 the Presidio Trust completed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Tennessee Hollow Upper Watershed Revitalization Project. The EA outlines plans for restoring creek and wildlife habitat, creating new trails, establishing stewardship and outdoor education opportunities, reorganizing and upgrading playing fields, and welcoming the public to explore the watershed's rich history. Army-era landfills are also being addressed as part of the Presidio's environmental remediation program.



Thompson's Reach



Lovers' Lane



Presidio Clarkia at Inspiration Point

## Past Revitalization Projects

### THOMPSON'S REACH

A former landfill site on the Main Post is now beautifully restored. In 2005 as part of the Presidio Trust's environmental remediation program, 77,000 tons of debris were removed, and a portion of the creek was brought above ground (or daylighted). More than 35,000 seedlings from Presidio Nursery were planted to create wildlife habitat. The number of nesting birds has increased dramatically, and stickleback fish are now seen swimming in the creek.

### LOVERS' LANE

In 2008, the surface of the Presidio's oldest footpath was repaired, the historic brick bridge was cleaned and rehabilitated, and a new boardwalk was added. Plans to improve the lighting fixtures along the trail are underway.

### INSPIRATION POINT

The area below Inspiration Point Overlook contains one of the few serpentine grasslands within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and is home to two federally listed plant species, including the endangered Presidio clarkia. Restoration of native habitats and the historic viewshed has been underway here for a decade. Trees have been gradually removed from the native plant zone, and volunteers and staff have planted thousands of grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs grown at the Presidio Nursery. Poppies, irises, buttercups, blue-eyed grass, yarrow, buckwheat, wild onion, mission bells, sanicles, and an amazing array of native grasses can now be seen.

# GET INVOLVED

## WALKING TOURS

Please join us for a 90-minute walk to learn about upcoming projects in the Watershed. Meet at El Polín Springs. RSVP to 415/ 561 5418 or [presidio@presidiotrust.gov](mailto:presidio@presidiotrust.gov).

- ▶ Wednesday, September 30th, 6 to 7:30 pm
- ▶ Saturday, October 3rd, 10 to 11:30 am
- ▶ Saturday, October 17th, 10 to 11:30 am

## VOLUNTEER

Regular Tennessee Hollow habitat restoration workdays take place every fourth Saturday of each month from 9 am to Noon. Visit [www.presidio.gov/volunteer](http://www.presidio.gov/volunteer) for details. The 25th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day is on Saturday, September 19th from 9 am to Noon. Cleanups will take place at Crissy Field and Thompson's Reach. To register for either activity, call 415/ 561 5333.

## GIVE

To make a gift in support of Tennessee Hollow restoration, email [kmorelli@parksconservancy.org](mailto:kmorelli@parksconservancy.org) or call 415/ 561 3050.

## INFORMATION

View the *Tennessee Hollow Upper Watershed Revitalization Project Environmental Assessment* at [www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov). If you have questions about the project or would like to be added to the mailing list, call 415/ 561 5418. To learn about the environmental cleanup at Tennessee Hollow and elsewhere in the park, visit [www.presidio.gov/nature/cleanup](http://www.presidio.gov/nature/cleanup).

To learn about plans for playing fields in the park, visit [www.presidio.gov/trust/projects/fields.htm](http://www.presidio.gov/trust/projects/fields.htm). If you have questions on this Update or would like to be added to the mailing list, please call 415/ 561 5418.



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Our Walking  
Tours!



**UPDATE**  
**TENNESSEE HOLLOW WATERSHED**  
**Fall 2009**

# TENNESSEE HOLLOW WATERSHED



# UPCOMING PROJECTS

## REMEDICATION OF ARMY-ERA LANDFILLS

### Fill Site 1 (FS1) and Landfill 2 (LF2)

In 2009-2010, the Presidio Trust will remediate two Army-era landfills in the upper watershed. They contain waste debris from the 1940s through 1970s, which consists of building rubble, construction debris, and municipal-type waste, including ash from former incinerator operations. The chemicals of concern include metals, pesticides, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

FS1 covers 2 acres and contains about 32,000 cubic yards of waste material. LF2 covers 1.5 acres and contains about 28,000 cubic yards of waste material.



Fill Site 1

In advance of remediation, more than 200 trees, particularly around LF2, will be removed in November and December of 2009. Tree removal will take approximately six weeks and will require the temporary closure of portions of both the Ecology Trail and the parking lot near Paul Goode Field. A temporary road to allow truck access to the work site may be constructed near Pop Hicks Field; the road would ultimately be converted to trail.

The landfill removal will occur from May to October 2010, pending regulatory approvals. During this period, the Ecology Trail, the spur trail to El Polín Springs, and the parking lot near Paul Goode Field will be closed. Once the waste is removed, the area of LF2 will be restored as historic forest. The area of FS1 will be restored to support future



West Pacific Grove

recreational facilities, trails, and native plant communities.

**The Presidio Trust is developing a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to propose this final remedy for FS1 and LF2. The Draft RAP is scheduled to be released for public review in fall 2009 and will be available at [www.presidio.gov/nature/cleanup](http://www.presidio.gov/nature/cleanup). After the public comment period ends, the Presidio Trust will respond to comments and prepare a Final RAP. We invite you to participate. To learn more or be added to the RAP mailing list, call 415/ 561 5418.**

## REFORESTATION AT WEST PACIFIC GROVE AND JULIUS KAHN PLAYGROUND

The park's most ambitious reforestation site to date is along the southern border west of the Presidio Gate. Since 2003, declining Monterey Cypress and pine have been gradually



Julius Kahn Reforestation

replaced with young trees. Work continues in 2009 as a half-acre of declining trees are removed to allow for the planting of 100 Monterey Cypress trees. Tree removals took place in August 2009, and replanting will begin in the winter as rainy season begins.

Further west, reforestation of the aging groves near Julius Kahn Playground continues with the removal of 30 declining Monterey Cypress in August 2009. As winter rains begin, 100 young Monterey Cypress trees will be planted.

## TRANSFORMATION AT EL POLIN SPRINGS\*

El Polín Springs is the heart of the watershed. Efforts here to restore natural habitat and reveal the Presidio's early human history are progressing. Native Elderberry plants will be relocated from the Doyle Drive construction area and planted at El Polín where they once flourished. Trees and invasive weeds and shrubs are being removed from around El Polín loop and the meadow east of MacArthur Avenue. Volunteers will establish at least 15,000 native plants here in fall/winter 2009 (see [GET INVOLVED](#)).



Boardwalk at El Polín Springs

The history of El Polín is important to our understanding of the development of San Francisco and the Bay Area. Archaeologists from Stanford University have discovered the foundation of an adobe colonial residence believed to be the home of the prominent Briones and Miramontes families. Extensive archaeology research continues at the site. The El Polín area also features historic stone channels and an iconic stone well that were likely constructed in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration.

As part of the overall interpretation of the Presidio's history, the Trust intends to make improvements to the area that welcome visitors, encourage exploration, and provide an outdoor classroom and a venue for public engagement in archaeological excavation and research. The existing asphalt roadway will be replaced with a boardwalk and trail; picnic areas, public restrooms, and benches will provide comfort. Historic features such as the stone well will be rehabilitated, and interpretive gardens will reflect what we have learned about how the families who settled the area once lived.

*\*The Trust and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy are actively fundraising for this project; stay tuned for updates.*

## PLAYING FIELD UPGRADES

The Trust intends to improve the playing fields in Tennessee Hollow and to increase the number of fields throughout the park. The opportunity to build a new field at Fill Site 1 will become available once remediation of the site is completed late in 2010. In anticipation of this

opportunity, the Trust will issue a request for proposals for construction and use of the new field as well as for use of an existing field, Paul Goode. Once the landfill at Pop Hicks is remediated, it will also be restored as a playing field. Pop Hicks remediation is tentatively scheduled for 2011. Other field upgrades and improved recreational facilities are planned for the watershed as remediation and creek restoration continue. If you would like to receive a copy of the upcoming RFP, call 415/ 561 5418.