



Presidio Share Chairs

Part of our mission within the Presidio Trust is to welcome the public and invite visitors to explore and enjoy their national park. To do this well, we need public feedback and guidance which can be translated into action. Whether we're looking to make physical park enhancements, provide new visitor services, seek better ways to communicate, or develop relevant programming, we value and depend on input from our community to ensure the Presidio fulfills its public promise.

In response to public feedback about ways to make the historic Main Parade Ground a more welcoming and comfortable space for visitors, as well as lessons learned from other parks around the world, we're introducing new moveable and versatile seating – our new "Share Chairs." The Share Chairs are one small example of incorporating visitor feedback into making the park a more welcoming place. We plan to observe how the Share Chairs are used; get feedback from the public on their usability, comfort and functionality; and apply that knowledge for future management of the park. This approach, what's referred to as "prototyping" of ideas by making small bets and iterating with the benefit of applied experience and public input, has proved to be a powerful tool for integrating feedback, and we look forward to continuing this practice with the help of the public. Background on the chairs, the Main Post District, and where they'll be launched is provided below.

The Setting

As the historic administrative headquarters for the post for over two centuries, the Main Post is the central visitor district in the Presidio. A series of significant, transformative visitor-oriented projects have recently been completed or are in progress on the Main Post – for instance, the Presidio Officers' Club opened recently, and Tunnel Tops – a magnificent new 14-acre landscape that integrates the San Francisco Bay waterfront with the Presidio's historic core – is currently under development.

At the center of the Main Post is the historic Main Parade Ground, a platform for large public gatherings and programs – including Presidio Picnic, Presidio Twilight, Stargazing Parties, and major events like the Kite Festival – and a spot increasingly used informally by the public for other outdoor activities like yoga, picnics, or lawn games. The Share Chairs will be placed on the Main Parade Ground and will be available for all to enjoy.

The Chairs

In developing the Presidio Share Chairs, we wanted to create a piece of furniture for the Main Post that's comfortable, welcoming, and encourages people to come to the Presidio and enjoy their visit. We also wanted the piece to promote social interaction and be sturdy yet light enough that it can be moved around by the users. The Share Chair's three main sitting positions support different uses and needs, making it easy and fun to linger on the Main Post's lawn. When developing the Presidio Share Chairs we also looked to other parks for inspiration.

Fast Facts

- The Share Chairs are available for everyone to enjoy.
- The Share Chairs were specifically designed for the Main Parade Ground by Gehl (Blaine Merker, Ghigo DiTommaso, and Celsa Dockstader), a firm focusing on improving the quality of life in public spaces. To help develop the chairs, Gehl carried out an ergonomic study to make the chairs comfortable for people of all ages and with different ranges of mobility.



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- Each chair is 2" long x 44" wide x 37" high.
- The material used for the Share Chairs is a linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), also known as #4 plastic. LLDPE is recycled into products, such as lumber, landscaping ties, floor tiles, compost bins, and shipping envelopes. The chairs are fabricated in California.
- We wanted the chairs to be made in a strong color, so we chose red. This is a vibrant color that's fun and stands out nicely on the fresh green of the Main Parade ground. It's also compatible with the emblematic Presidio colors and can exist in harmony with the background of the brick barracks, red tiled roofs, and the bridge beyond.
- Designed to promote social interaction, each chair seats up to four people and is light enough to be moved, flipped, and reconfigured by users. The chair offers four main sitting positions: Beach Chair (1) and Classic Chair (2) on one side; Lounger (3) and Hammock (4) on the other. And flipping it over allows the chair to be used as a table or provides another seating position. The tapered shape of the chair also allows for the chairs to be configured side by side to create an arc, circle, or an "s" arrangement for group seating. All seating and configuration options should make it easy and fun for visitors to linger on the Main Post's lawn and take full advantage of the beautiful Bay views the park has to offer.
- Protecting the Main Parade lawn was a goal the designers kept in mind when developing the chairs. This means, no point pressure will be exerted on the lawn by the Share Chairs, helping us prevent any damage to the lawn. They're also light enough to be moved around by people and can also be moved by using a new, special attachment on our lawn mowers.
- The Presidio Share Chairs will premiere at Presidio Picnic, Sunday, October 2, with a sneak peek of a few chairs at Film in the Fog Saturday, October 1, 2016.
- We invite the public to share their Share Chair experience – tag us on Instagram at #presidiosf. Or send your feedback to presidio@presidio.gov, including your ideas for future park features and programming.