

# PRESIDIO TRUST

## FACT SHEET | Sustainability

Since it took over management of the Presidio in 1998, the Presidio Trust (Trust) and its partner agencies, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service, have worked to transition the Presidio's operations and infrastructure from those of an outdated Army base to a model of sustainable management. Currently a key priority in the strategic plan of People, Planet and Performance, the Trust has established programs and upgraded infrastructure to reduce waste, water consumption, and CO2 emissions, striving to become carbon-neutral park.

### Historic Reuse

One of the most effective ways to keep debris out of the waste stream is to reuse whenever possible. Of the 800 structures in the Presidio, 600 contribute to its designation as a National Historic Landmark District, the nation's highest classification of historic significance. Almost 80% have been fully or partially rehabilitated for public use. The U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards were adopted for all large rehabilitation projects beginning in 2010, and 28 projects have been LEED-certified and four are in-process. The park's Public Health District was the first LEED-ND (for neighborhood development) awarded project in the U.S. The Trust is recognized by the California Heritage Council with awards for adaptive reuse in the Presidio Officers' Club (2015), the Inn at the Presidio and Building 103 (2016), the Presidio Visitor Center (2017) and Lodge at the Presidio (2018). The Inn and the Lodge are members of California Green Lodging and are certified as San Francisco Green Businesses. Awards from the American Institute of Architects include Historic Preservation Honor Award, San Francisco (Inn, 2014) and Chapter Award for Historic Preservation (Lodge, 2019). It is the only park in the U.S. to have a Green Flag certification for its operations (2019-2023).

### Green Hospitality

The Trust owns two hotels in the Presidio, the Inn at the Presidio and the Lodge at the Presidio. Both hotels are LEED Gold certified and prioritize sustainability in their operations. Aspects of Presidio Lodging's operational practices include energy efficient heating, plumbing, electrical systems and appliances, natural ventilation, and lighting. Recycled jean scraps were utilized for insulation in the roof and walls. Presidio Lodging also follows green housekeeping practices and has a rigorous recycling and composting program that diverts most of its waste from landfills. Water is conserved both inside the hotels and in their exterior landscaping. Both hotels were rehabilitated under the principles of adaptive reuse and were recently named [Sustainability Champions](#) by Historic Hotels of America (2022).

### Waste Reduction

The Trust's park-wide Waste Reduction Program consistently reaches a diversion rate of 70 percent or higher. Highlights of the program include an in-house yard-waste compost program that recovers most of the green debris generated in the park and composts it onsite. Compost is converted into high-quality soil amendment that is approved for use in the Presidio Native Plant Nursery, on landscapes, and for Presidio forestry projects, producing regular savings in avoided transit and disposal fees.

The Waste Reduction Team coordinates the contract for curbside recycling/compost/refuse collection in the park, for a residential population of 3,000 and over 200 commercial tenants and is committed to waste diversion for large public events at the Presidio Tunnel Tops, Main Parade Lawn, and Rob Hill Campground. This includes providing on-site recycling, composting, and alternative transportation outreach to attendees. At the mobile food program Presidio Pop Up, vendors are required to use recyclable and compostable food service ware and may not use disposable plastic water bottles.

Such programs are regularly recognized by the by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's with its national WasteWise awards, and the Federal Green Challenge Award for Leadership in Waste Diversion.

### **Landscape Stewardship**

The Presidio has 991 acres of open space, as well as extensive residential landscapes and historic gardens. Since taking over management of the park, the Trust has improved landscaping and irrigation practices to significantly reduce the use of pesticides, eliminate water waste, and divert landscape debris out of landfills (in Fiscal Year 2020, water consumption was reduced by 20% over the previous year). The team follows best practices of ecological stewardship, prioritizing the selection of drought tolerant plants and methods for increasing biodiversity.

Over the last 25 years, the partnership agencies have worked together to convert 180 acres of impermeable asphalt into new, ecologically rich parklands and to restore streams and wetlands buried by the U.S. Army over a century ago. Combined with ecological restoration, this has created new nature-based approaches to managing Presidio stormwater, reducing the incidence of flooding in the park. Another example is the use of bioswales in the designed landscape at the Public Health District, the Main Post, and Crissy Field to reduce stormwater and increase groundwater infiltration.

### **Transportation**

Since 2002, the Trust has made major progress toward promoting alternative transportation in the Presidio. A Transit Center is strategically located at the Presidio Visitor Center to serve residents, employees and park visitors with public transportation and its own Presidio Go Shuttle, operating two routes – an express to downtown, and around the park. The very first electric Presidio Go bus will be put into service in 2023, and the electric shuttle fleet will expand over the next several years.

The Trust partners with electric bike share companies, docking them at the Transit Center and at three other locations around the park. Ample bike racks encourage commuting by bicycle. The Presidio is making a pilot Slow Streets program permanent, calming traffic in the park, and creating safe spaces for pedestrians and bikes to recreate.

### **Solar Power**

In 2023, the Presidio Trust and the Golden Gate National Parks will receive a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy if \$3 million can be raised to match it. The \$6 million total funds will then be used by to install solar panels in the Presidio to generate electricity, with an expected savings of \$150,000 in annual electricity costs, and a large reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from operations.