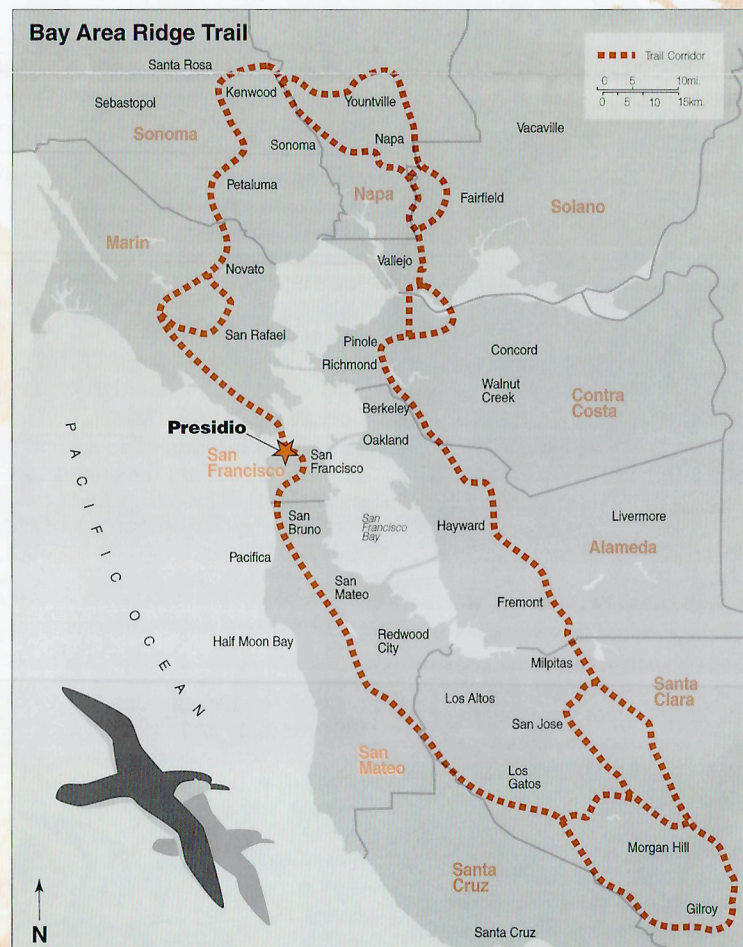


The Bay Area Ridge Trail

The San Francisco Bay Area's stunning vistas, diverse recreational opportunities, and temperate climate draw many to visit or settle here. The Bay Area's ridge lands, places of solace and sweeping views, provide a wonderful setting in which to exercise and to experience nature. Given the strains of modern living, now more than ever, people need trails, open spaces, and public parks for recreation as well as contemplation.

Some thirty years ago, conservationist William Penn Mott, Jr. envisioned a single trail circling the San Francisco Bay, running along the ridgeline. He imagined a trail along which residents and visitors alike could reconnect with their natural surroundings and rejuvenate their spirits. Today, Mott's vision is becoming a reality as the Bay Area Ridge Trail connects the parks and open spaces surrounding San Francisco Bay. When completed, the Ridge Trail will offer over 400 miles of continuous multi-use trail.



Illustrations: Ryan Jones
Photographs: GGNRA Park Archives and Record Center & NPS staff
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The Bay Area Ridge Trail in the Presidio of San Francisco

The National Park Service, the Presidio Trust and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council have worked together to connect the Presidio alignment to the rest of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Construction of the new alignment is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Millennium Trails Program. The new Presidio segment is 2 1/2 miles long and accommodates both hikers and bicyclists. Equestrian use is not permitted within the Presidio.

The trail enters the Presidio from the south, at Arguello Gate and then continues north, under the canopy of the Presidio forest and past residential communities towards Fort Winfield Scott (please see map for specific information). The trail also connects along the way with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the California Coastal Trail. All three trails converge with the San Francisco Bay Trail at the Golden Gate Bridge. The existing alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail may be subject to change based on Presidio-wide trail planning currently underway.

Accessibility Information

Because of steep grades and unpaved sections, the Bay Area Ridge Trail is not wheelchair accessible in the Presidio, except for a 1/4 mile section through Fort Winfield Scott. At Fort Scott you can see Mission Revival style barracks and good views of the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco.

Parking and Public Transportation

- Suggested trail parking in the Presidio is at Inspiration Point, near the south end of the trail and at Battery East parking lot, near the north end.
- MUNI routes 28, 29 or 43 provide bus service at the Presidio.

For Your Safety

- Some of the trail follows along Presidio streets. Please be particularly alert when you are on busy streets or crossing streets on crosswalks.
- Please be careful along the coastal bluffs, especially during strong winds and fog. Stay on the trail for your safety and to protect fragile ecosystems.
- **Emergency:** Please call 911.

Trail Etiquette

- The Bay Area Ridge Trail is a multi-use trail; please be considerate of others. Bicyclists should yield to all other users. When walking, please keep to the right to enable others to pass.
- Please stay on the trail and do not disturb any wildlife or plant life. The Presidio is home to several endangered plant species and users can help preserve this sensitive environment by following established trails and staying out of fenced areas.
- The Presidio is a community where people live and work. Please respect the privacy of residents as you walk near housing areas.



As this is a newly built trail, we would like to hear from you. Please give us your comments and thoughts on your trail experience.

For More Information

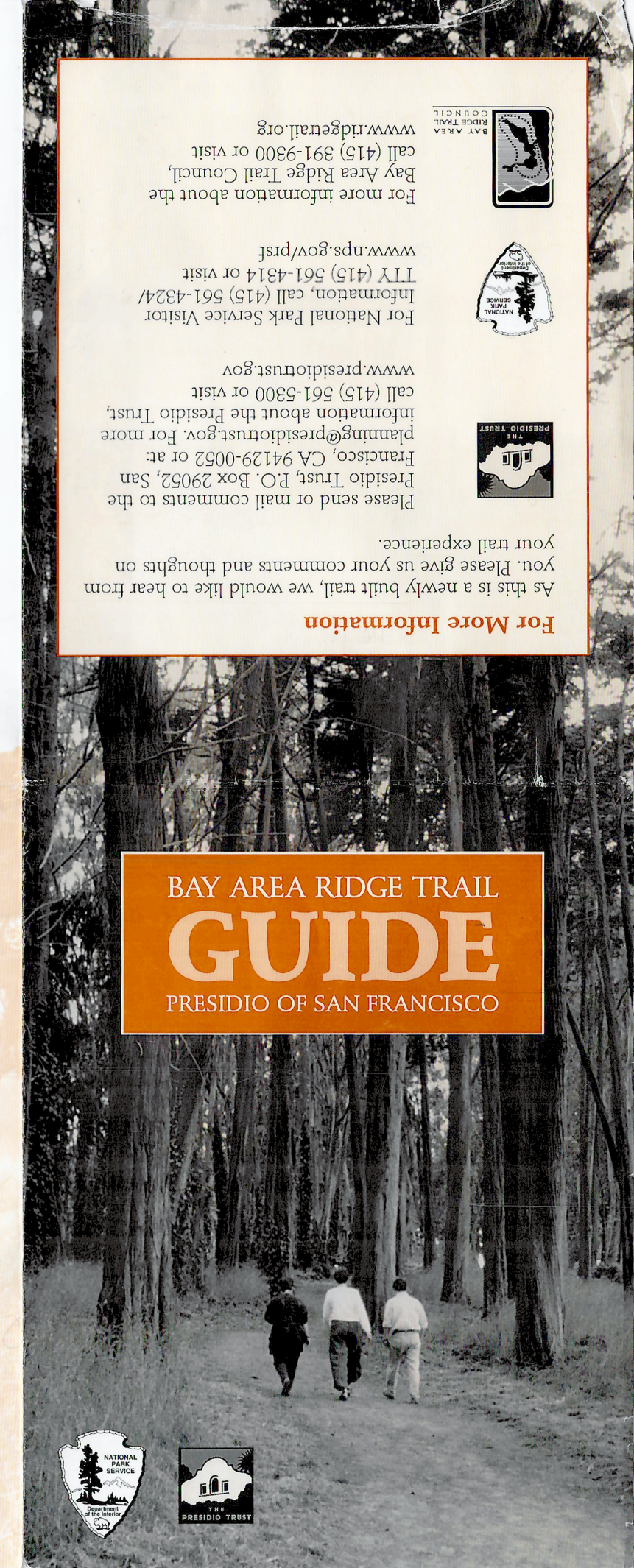
Please send or mail comments to the Presidio Trust, P.O. Box 29052, San Francisco, CA 94129-0052 or at: planning@presidiotrust.gov. For more information about the Presidio Trust, call (415) 561-5300 or visit www.presidiotrust.gov

For National Park Service Visitor Information, call (415) 561-4324/TTY (415) 561-4314 or visit www.nps.gov/prsf

For more information about the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, call (415) 391-9300 or visit www.ridgecouncil.org



BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL GUIDE PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO





Inspiration Point

Inspiration Point, the suggested trailhead parking area, overlooks one of the most biologically rich areas within the Presidio and contains a diverse collection of native plant species, including the endangered *Presidio clarkia*. Inspiration Point is also one of the only intact remnant serpentine grasslands on the San Francisco peninsula.



Arguello Gate (1897)

This decorative masonry gate, one of the first formal entrances into the Presidio, was designed to mirror the Arguello Avenue entrance to Golden Gate Park.



Presidio Golf Course (1895)

Founded in 1895, the Presidio Golf Course is one of the oldest on the West Coast. The historic course was used as an earthquake refugee camp in 1906 and provided a site for soldiers to train during World War I. The Arnold Palmer Golf Company now operates this public golf course.

Presidio Forest (1880s-1940s)

Starting in the 1880s, the Army planted a forest of Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, and eucalyptus in the higher elevations of the Presidio to make the post appear larger, to provide protection from the strong winds, and to beautify the area. Forest management will balance the preservation of the historic forest with the needs of the adjacent native plant communities.



San Francisco National Cemetery (1884)

The West Coast's oldest national cemetery can be seen from a spur off the main Ridge Trail, where an overlook also provides spectacular views of the Golden Gate and San Francisco Bay.

Battery McKinnon-Stotsenburg (1897)

This battery defended the bay entrance with sixteen 12-inch mortars that fired 800-pound projectiles. Test firing of the guns in 1903 broke windows as far as a 1/2 mile away.



Central Magazine (1938)

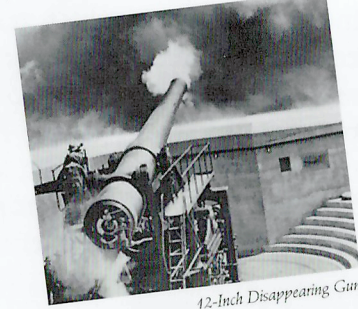
This bomb-proof ammunition storage facility was used to store anti-aircraft shells, 155mm rounds, and 16-inch projectiles for the coastal defense guns at Fort Funston during World War II.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

This national trail commemorates the 1775-1776 Anza expedition route through Arizona and California. Anza led 30 soldiers and their families on this journey to found a presidio and mission on San Francisco Bay. At the Presidio, three miles of the trail follow Anza's course from Mountain Lake to the Golden Gate.

Batteries Godfrey (1895), Boutelle (1900), Marcus Miller (1891) and Cranston (1897)

This series of reinforced concrete, gun batteries protected the San Francisco Bay entrance. Their 5, 10 and 12-inch rifled guns were made obsolete with the advent of air power.



Rob Hill

The eucalyptus forest at the top of Rob Hill is the highest point in the Presidio. In the spring, behind the stands of eucalyptus trees, this area is a colorful palate of lupine, dune gilia, beach evening primrose, yarrow and poppy.



Coastal Bluffs

The bluffs offer sweeping views of the Pacific coastline and are home to some of the last undisturbed native plant communities in the area. The National Park Service is replacing non-native plants with native species and restoring endangered and threatened species like Raven's manzanita, *Presidio clarkia*, *San Francisco lessingia* and Marin dwarf flax.



Fort Winfield Scott (1908-1915)

Fort Scott, built as headquarters for the coast artillery in the San Francisco area, remained a separate sub-post until World War II. Mission Revival style buildings and a non-traditional, U-shaped parade ground characterize this site.

California Coastal Trail

The Coastal Trail traverses the entire Pacific coastline of California. In the Presidio, the trail passes windswept plants, coastal bluffs of serpentine rock, and sweeping vistas of the Pacific coast on a three mile route from Baker Beach to the Golden Gate Bridge.

Golden Gate Promenade

This walk from Aquatic Park to the Golden Gate Bridge passes through the Presidio along a restored dune and marsh system once utilized by Native Americans. Spectacular views of the city, bay and Golden Gate form a backdrop to dunes, marsh, historic Crissy Airfield and Fort Point.

