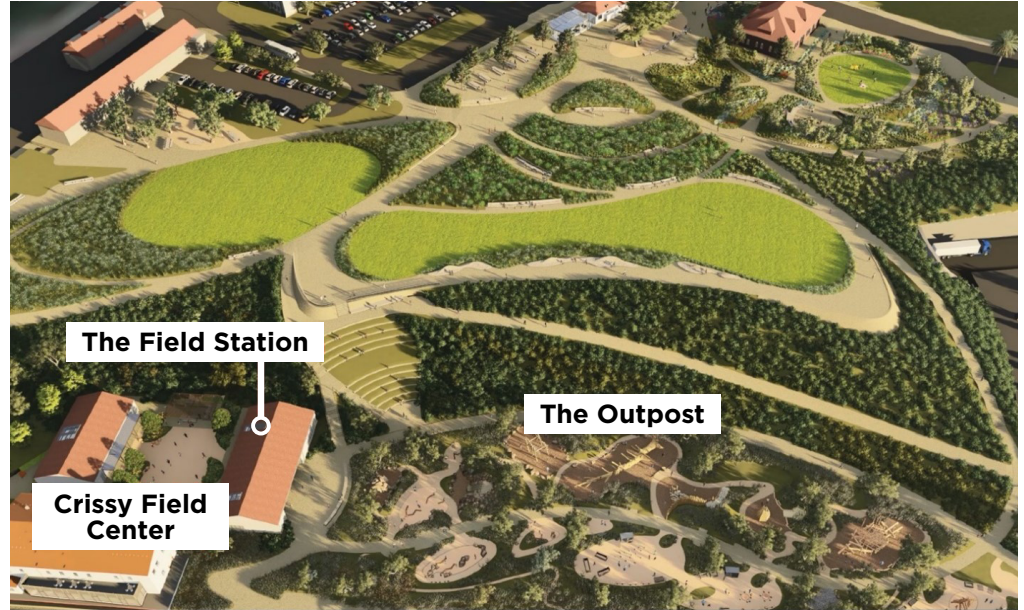


FACT SHEET



PresidioTunnelTops.org

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES



New and rehabilitated facilities for youth at the Presidio Tunnel Tops will provide extraordinary park experiences and evoke a unique spirit of adventure and connection to our national parks.

The **Outpost** is a two-acre, free, choose-your-adventure outdoor destination full of fun physical challenges and creative play with features that evoke the natural and cultural history of the Presidio (such as a hydro-tunnel, bluff slide, fallen tree, and oversized bird's nest). Set in a natural landscape of native wildflowers, trees, logs, boulders, and water features, the Outpost connects kids to the natural world in a unique national park setting. It's free and open seven days a week. 9:30am-6pm Daily (closes at 4:30pm Nov. thru March)

The **Field Station** is a new, free indoor park facility filled with an abundance of real objects, field specimens, tools and reading resources that connect visitors with the park's natural and cultural history. Sensory-based activities with seasonally changing content encourage curious exploration, discovery, and investigation of the real Presidio. Wed-Fri 11am-4pm, Sat-Sun 10am-5pm (Closed Mon & Tues)

For more than 20 years, the **Crissy Field Center** has offered park programs that support academic achievement, environmental literacy, and leadership and career development for young people across the region. The Crissy Field Center's programming will reside in two buildings (one renovated and one brand new) with two new labs, a spacious outdoor courtyard, and classrooms that will be fully accessible and updated to increase program capacity. A dynamic hub for the Presidio and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the Center is a model program of the National Park Service, the Presidio Trust, and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. For a list of public youth programs please visit:

parksconservancy.org/programs/crissy-field-center.

**PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE
PRESIDIO**



**PRESIDIO
TRUST**

**GOLDEN GATE
NATIONAL
PARKS
CONSERVANCY**

FAQS

THE OUTPOST

What is it?

The Outpost is a unique, two-acre landscape of recreational features and interactive spaces connecting with the Presidio's natural and cultural heritage. Its immersive spaces are set in native plantings in three "zones"—the Presidio's coastal dune, coastal bluff, and coastal woodland plant communities. The majority of the materials in the Outpost are natural, for example, plantings, sand, water, boulders, pebbles, logs, wood chips.

Who designed it?

Its overall design is by James Corner Field Operations. The following features were designed and fabricated by Canadian design-build firm Earthscape in collaboration with JCFO: Hydrotunnel, Bowline Swing, Fallen Tree, Woodland Wall, Bird Nests, Forest Den.

What is the concept?

The Outpost is intentionally designed to be challenging, advancing physical skills and building confidence in the outdoors through the concept of beneficial risk. Play features increase physical challenge gradually from east to west so kids can self-select the level of difficulty. Designed to be inclusive of all abilities, the Outpost offers a variety of activities that are creative, fun, and connecting to the park.

How did the concept develop?

Consultation with pediatricians, psychologists, and educators advised that unstructured exploration and play in the natural world improves mental and physical health, fosters lifelong connections to the environment, and enhances social skills. San Francisco is one of more than 20 cities participating in a nation-wide initiative to equitably connect children and nature, and the Outpost will be the largest of a growing constellation of Nature Exploration Areas in the city.

Who is the Outpost for?

The Outpost's play features will likely appeal most to children ages 2 to 12, although all visitors will enjoy exploring the site and engaging with creative and investigative activities.

What can I do in the Outpost?

You can explore the Outpost's play features:

- **HYDROTUNNEL** - A tunnel for crawling and hiding—a wooden tunnel built through a boulder landform. Its inspiration is a historic water supply project built in the 1850's to pipe fresh water from Mountain Lake to the city of San Francisco.
- **WATER FLUMES** - A series of small wooden troughs and channels with water pumps that kids manipulate. Its inspiration is the water flumes built by the Army to bring water for the soldiers from Lobos Creek around the coastal bluffs to the Main Post.
- **BLUFF SLIDE** - This slide evokes the geology of the Presidio's coastal bluffs. Kids climb up and slide down this feature.
- **BOWLINE** - A large swing made of masts, ropes, and nets hearkening to the maritime heritage of the bay. It is a social activity, where all stand together and rock in unison, as though rocking on a ship.
- **FALLEN TREE** - Inspired by the Presidio's aging forest and fallen trees, this large 250-year-

old reclaimed white oak was sculpted into three pieces. Kids can crawl inside the hollowed-out section and climb or balance on the rest of the tree.

- **WOODLAND WALL** – A large wall of tree trunks with nooks and knots for climbing. Inspired by the dense forest planted by the Army, its handholds mimic those that occur naturally for birds and insects.
- **BIRD NESTS** – One nest resembles a hanging oriole nest and can be entered from the top or bottom for kids with differing abilities. It has two levels created with nets for climbing and perching. The other nest, draped in living willows, looks like a Red-tailed Hawk's and is a social nook for hanging out.
- **FOREST DEN** – A pile of large logs and giant rope webs, like fallen debris on the forest floor, it is designed for crawling, balancing, and hiding. Not unlike a home for the orb-weaver spider and the garter snake.

Curated Activity Areas

In addition to the physical play features, the Outpost offers four distinctive activity pods that range from a Discovery Area for young children, two art and science themed areas with activities, and a Builder's Area where you can use your creativity to build with natural materials from the park.

THE FIELD STATION

What is a field station?

Field stations can be found around the world, typically set up in remote areas where scientific research is taking place. Adjacent to the Outpost, the Presidio Field Station also functions as a base camp where visitors can deepen their outdoor park connection to the Presidio and beyond.

What is the experience at the Field Station?

This investigative facility sparks visitors' curiosity and sense of wonder. A curated microcosm of the Presidio, the Field Station is filled with an abundance of real objects, artifacts, field specimens, tools, and place-based images collected from the Presidio. Visitors are invited to explore seasonally changing-activities which reward curiosity, creativity, and patient observation.

Who designed it?

Studio Terpeluk designed the interior Field Station environment. EHDD Architecture designed the building.

Who is the Field Station for?

Visitors of all ages will find meaning and value in Field Station activities and experiences.

What can I do at the Field Station?

Discover the extraordinary in the ordinary by focusing on the natural and cultural objects of the Presidio. Use your curiosity to make connections and learn that nature is everywhere if you practice noticing and observation. With friendly support from Adventure Guides and Park Guides, you will take home fun park memories and new tools to continue exploring back in your neighborhood and wherever you explore. There are distinctive sub-spaces in the Field Station:

- **Sensing Stations** – Sensory experiences invite use of “the tools you’re born with” - the five senses - to learn about the unique plants and objects that can be found in the Presidio.
- **Park Stewards Lab (or Field Projects)** – Step into the worlds and lives of park staff and get insight into the behind-the-scenes of how natural and cultural heritage are studied and cared for.
- **Field Notes Gallery** – Add to the crowd-sourced collection of recent field observations, drawings, photos, and made objects or questions for park staff to be answered.
- **Investigating Lab** – Use scientific tools such as a hand lens, microscope, magnifying glasses, specimen trays, or tweezers to look, sort and classify materials and objects recently brought to the Field Station (e.g. Identify an object with the tools of an archaeologist).
- **Field Library** – Explore field guides and a variety of other print media that feed your understanding of the Presidio’s natural and cultural history.
- **Art Lab** – Sharpen observation skills with creative tools and natural materials.
- **Mapping Lab** – Study historic, contemporary, or future maps of all kinds or create a customized map based upon your own park adventures.
- **Self-guided Experiences to Go** – Choose from a menu of self-guided adventures and field kits for use in the Field Station, Outpost, and larger park.

What are Adventure Guides?

Adventure Guides welcome and connect visitors of all ages to fun and meaningful park experiences. They are young adults, many who have graduated from the Parks Conservancy’s suite of youth development programs, and are trained, hired, and supervised, to create welcoming spaces for both first time and regular visitors. Adventure Guides:

- Welcome and orient visitors at the Outpost and Field Station.
- Lead activities at the Field Station that connect to senses and adventure.
- Practice and promote wellness.
- Grow their leadership skills through this program.

CRISSY FIELD CENTER

What is the Crissy Field Center?

Crissy Field Center offers youth and community engagement programs in the Presidio and across the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Crissy Field Center youth programs encourage new generations to become bold leaders for thriving parks, healthy communities, and a more environmentally just society. The buildings house staff offices, gathering spaces, classrooms, and labs to support programs, rather than drop-in opportunities.

Who can sign up for programs?

Crissy Field Center offers programs for Bay Area middle and high schoolers, along with leadership and workforce development opportunities for youth. The Center has strong partnerships with schools and community centers in underserved areas, providing most programming for free, with a focus on engaging people who traditionally have had little to no access to national parks.

How can people sign up for youth programs?

Find a full list of Crissy Field Center youth programs and register on the [Parks Conservancy's website](#). Teachers can check out the [National Park Service](#) and [Presidio Trust](#) websites for more resources.

Who operates the Crissy Field Center building?

Crissy Field Center is jointly managed by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the Presidio Trust, and the National Park Service.

Are there hours of public access?

Buildings 602 and 603 were designed to support enrolled participants in Parks Conservancy and National Park Service programs, buoy collaboration with community partners, and support Presidio Tunnel Tops operations by housing visitor services staff. The buildings are not open for public access as Crissy Field Center needs to be maintained as a secure environment for park workforce and program participants.

What is the history of the Crissy Field Center in these buildings?

Building 603 was the home of the Crissy Field Center from 2001-2010. The Center then moved temporarily to Building 1199, near East Beach at Crissy Field. Building 1199 also housed a café and bookstore at one time but is not currently open to the public. Visitor amenities have been moved to the Presidio Visitor Center and Presidio Tunnel Tops environs, and the Crissy Field Center has moved back to its original home.

Who designed the Center?

Renovation of the existing Crissy Field Center and design of the new lab building are by the award-winning firm EHDD Architecture.

How was Presidio Tunnel Tops funded?

Led by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the Presidio Tunnel Tops campaign raised \$98 million. The new park site is a gift to people and the City of San Francisco from generous donors and community members who have helped deliver the vision of Presidio Tunnel Tops from the early stages of park and program design to fruition. The overall project budget is \$118 million, with the Parks Conservancy raising \$98 million and the Presidio Trust contributing \$20 million towards the project.

**PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE PRESIDIO**



###