“Play is as important as breathing, as eating, as love. Play is an essential part of the development of a human being.”
—Ron Holthuysen, Artist and Environmental Designer

The Tunnel Tops is a world-class civic project that will reconnect Crissy Field to the Presidio’s Main Post by creating 14 acres of brand-new parkland. Featuring thoughtfully designed landscapes and new park facilities for youth and families, the Tunnel Tops will be welcoming and accessible to all with free, fun opportunities for play and discovery.

The new facilities and outreach programs will ensure that the Presidio will be within reach of every neighborhood, every community, and every young person in our city, generation after generation.

Imagine 2014
Design 2015-2018
Build 2018-2021
Celebrate 2021

The team
The Presidio Tunnel Tops is a partnership project of the Presidio Trust, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and National Park Service. Our design partner, New York-based James Corner Field Operations, is a leading-edge design and landscape architecture firm best-known for its work on the High Line.

Learn more at PresidioTunnelTops.org
Share on social media: #tunneltops
A TRACK RECORD OF INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

Urban families need access to nature and safe, healthy outdoor experiences. Every child in San Francisco deserves nothing less, and the Presidio is uniquely positioned to secure that vital right.

For over 15 years, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservation Association, Presidio Trust, and National Park Service have been offering park programs that support academic achievement, environmental literacy, and leadership and career development.

Crissy Field Center, a hub of that collaborative effort, provides more than 300,000 hours of award-winning programming to young people every year. The Center serves youth (and the mentors and organizations that support them) by providing a cutting-edge facility for enriching school-based education—while also offering a safe and vibrant space for developing leadership skills, exploring careers in and beyond the parks, examining themes of environmental and social justice, and fostering a sense of self and community.

Over time, demand and enthusiasm from schools and community groups have grown to exceed the capacity of existing facilities.

Through the Presidio Tunnel Tops project, the Crissy Field Center youth campus will be expanded, dramatically increasing the number of youth currently served—from roughly 30,000 across our Presidio and NPS programs to more than 100,000. That’s nearly every child in San Francisco. The Tunnel Tops project will expand Crissy Field Center facilities, build a new Field Station, and create a three-acre Playscape.

A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The staff at the Crissy Field Center—comprising a passionate mix of educators, artists, and youth workers—represent 10 different ethnicities and speak a total of five languages. Their tireless work elevates and amplifies the impact of park programming to every neighborhood of San Francisco and beyond.

Since its opening in 2001, Crissy Field Center has partnered with more than 125 community-based organizations, 60 public schools, and 9 colleges and universities. Leveraging those partnerships, the Tunnel Tops will serve, inspire, and delight kids and their families from all of our diverse communities.

PARTIAL LIST OF PARTNERS

African American Art & Culture Complex
Bayview MAGIC (B-MAGIC)
Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco
Edgewood Center for Children and Families
Hamilton Families
Mission Neighborhood Center
San Francisco Public Libraries
San Francisco Unified School District
San Francisco Recreation & Park
San Francisco YMCAs
San Francisco Recreation Centers

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE MORE YOUTH

Through the Presidio Tunnel Tops project, the Crissy Field Center youth campus will be expanded, dramatically increasing the number of youth currently served—from roughly 30,000 across our Presidio and NPS programs to more than 100,000. That’s nearly every child in San Francisco. The Tunnel Tops project will expand Crissy Field Center facilities, build a new Field Station, and create a three-acre Playscape.

CRISSY FIELD CENTER

Rehabilitated and renovated with accessible classrooms, a new lab building, and outdoor kitchen/gathering area

FIELD STATION

New visitor destination equipping and encouraging outdoor explorers of all ages to discover the Presidio and other national parks

PLAYSCAPE

Free space for exercise and unstructured play, designed to correspond with the Cities Connecting Children to Nature initiative and the San Francisco Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights