



June 2009

To Our Cherished Park Supporters:

After the Parks Conservancy annual report went to press last month, the Golden Gate National Parks lost its beloved leader, General Superintendent Brian O'Neill. All of us—who either knew Brian personally or shared his dedication to the parklands—mourn the loss of his exuberant and big-hearted presence, but celebrate with keen admiration his legacy of accomplishment across the Golden Gate National Parks.

Serving as General Superintendent since 1986, Brian led decades of positive park transformation. He was a powerful voice for many Bay Area conservation causes, a tireless environmental visionary, an outstanding National Park Service public servant, and a role model for park executives the world over. Indeed, Brian was the consummate park maker. Evidence of his remarkable handiwork can be found in every corner of the park—from Crissy Field and Fort Baker to Alcatraz and the Presidio—and on every page of this annual report that highlights the many programs and places shaped by his inspiration.

Brian was also, most fundamentally, a community builder. Over the three decades of our close friendship, I marveled time and time again at how countless communities of people—within the National Park Service and Parks Conservancy, from all over the Bay and across the nation—rallied to Brian's strength of purpose. Brian was as beloved as the Golden Gate National Parks he built. His memory is as treasured as our most historic landmarks and his impact as indelible as the redwoods in Muir Woods, the insistent crash of the surf, the rolling fog through the Golden Gate.

Brian's legacy endures beyond his time and extends beyond our parks. A special fund, "The Brian O'Neill Youth Leaders Fund," has been established in his honor. We invite you to contribute and help ensure Brian's vision for national parks will continue to flourish. Please contact Kathryn Morelli at (415) 561-3050 or kmorelli@parksconservancy.org for details.

Like so many of you, I will miss Brian dearly. I look forward to greeting all of you, Brian's special friends, in the national parklands where we honor his memory, share in beauty, and feel the presence of life fulfilled. I think Brian would be very happy knowing that we were enjoying the place he helped create—the place that always, always brings us together.

With gratitude and thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Moore
Executive Director



PARKS FOR ALL FOREVER™



PARKS FOR ALL FOREVER™

Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123 (415) 561-3000 www.parksconservancy.org

2009
report to the community

golden gate national parks conservancy board of trustees

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dear members of our park community,

THE YEAR 2008 WAS ONE FOR BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS. The Parks Conservancy shattered records for volunteer participation and financial support to the Golden Gate National Parks. We reached out to new communities that previously had few opportunities to enjoy these national parklands. And we extended our efforts in Bay Area public lands to the greater challenge of realizing a more sustainable global environment.

Our *2009 Report to the Community* celebrates your support of Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy projects and programs. Join us for a tour of our accomplishments last year—in partnership with the National Park Service and the Presidio Trust—along expanding circles of impact locally, nationally, and internationally.

We start close to home, with the people by the Bay, who most directly benefit from Parks Conservancy initiatives to educate school-children, welcome underserved populations, and engage the community through volunteerism.

Then we move to a national perspective, as the Conservancy strives to protect American treasures—from Fort Baker and the Presidio to Muir Woods and Alcatraz Island—that represent the country’s rich biodiversity and historical legacy.

Finally we arrive at the international stage, upon which the Conservancy aims to foster exchanges of learning—a mission reflected in the new Institute at the Golden Gate, dedicated to catalyzing collaborative environmental action all around the world.

But how do these ripples of influence—traveling beyond our parks and through the Golden Gate—begin? The journey begins with every park friend, donor, supporter, and volunteer. It begins with your commitment and persistent vision of future generations enjoying these parklands and this planet’s wonders—just as you do now. You contribute to the parks in our backyard. You protect the natural and cultural heritage of a nation. You support innovative programs that inspire community-led conservation worldwide.

In making this leap from the personal to the universal, over borders and across sectors, we hope our work transcends all places but remains rooted in this one. We dream our results span all time but start right in this moment. We know our parks exist for all but thrive because of you.

With deep appreciation and gratitude,

Mark Buell

Mark Buell
Chair, Board of Trustees

Greg Moore

Greg Moore
Executive Director



Greg Moore (left) and Mark Buell by Crissy Field Marsh



a cross-section of our accomplishments

The projects and programs of the Parks Conservancy range as widely as the lands themselves. Sweeping 80 miles from north to south and covering over 80,400 acres, this map is a panoramic snapshot capturing the scale of these national parklands—and the scope of our work within them.

- 01 Grew native plants to support restoration at McKennan Gulch and 66 other projects
- 02 Held community gathering—featuring park founders Amy Meyer and Dr. Ed Wayburn—to celebrate Muir Woods’ 100th anniversary
- 03 Launched visitor-access

- design work to support Redwood Creek Watershed project
- 04 Protected mission blue butterfly habitat
- 05 Completed Fort Baker “post to park” revitalization, with National Park Service and Fort Baker Retreat Group
- 06 Led public Hawk Talks

- illustrating Golden Gate Raptor Observatory work
- 07 Helped secure funds for replacing pedestrian bridge to Point Bonita Lighthouse
- 08 Restored historic Alcatraz Gardens alongside the Garden Conservancy
- 09 Placed new informa-

- tional kiosks and signage
- 10 Provided environmental programs at Crissy Field Center
- 11 Partnered with the Presidio Trust on improving trails and overlooks
- 12 Established new overlook and trailhead at Lands End
- 13 Supported San Francisco

- State University researchers in conducting visitor-use surveys at Ocean Beach, Lands End, and the Presidio
- 14 Managed native plant nursery at Fort Funston
- 15 Engaged Oceana High School students in growing and planting native plants to restore sensitive habitat

- 16 Improved habitat for endangered San Francisco garter snake and the threatened California red-legged frog
- 17 Mapped vegetation communities and collected data in support of general management plan
- 18 Performed natural resource inventory and assessed “social trail” impacts for future work

*Park volunteer helps restore
Crissy Field; visitors enjoy a
trail through Gerbode Valley
in the heart of the Marin
Headlands*



bay area spirit

Where do we begin? Along a Marin Headlands trail? On a work-glove finger tip? The parks begin—and take root for future generations—wherever your eyes roam, your feet follow, and your dedication pours across these lands. They begin with you.



The remarkable conservation ethic of the Bay Area created the Golden Gate National Parks in 1972. Naturally, the work of the Parks Conservancy gives back to those people and communities that started it all, steward them today, and will sustain them forever. We are inspired not just by landscapes and wildlife but by your constant care and promise to preserve them. We feel it in our work. You'll find it everywhere in the parks. Through the passion of Parks Conservancy volunteers, supporters, and staff, we see clearly that the parks are not just where we do our work. They're where we remember to live.

local ties: building and bridging communities

STEWARDS OF THE LAND
With new voices in leadership and the urgent challenges of our time, there is a reinvigorated commitment—from coast-to-coast—toward shared community responsibility. We're proud to do our part in the Bay Area. The Parks Conservancy—alongside the National Park Service and Presidio Trust—helped coordinate a record-breaking turnout of over 22,000 volunteers in 2008, totaling 414,000 hours of stewardship parkwide.

Inspired by President Obama's call to action and Dr. King's dream, more than 1,500 people volunteered in the parks on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service 2009. Through your support, Parks Conservancy volunteers carry the spirit of that singular moment through every day of the year.

YOUTH IN THE PARKS
Green jobs. A better environment. A brighter future. But how do we get there? The Conservancy's educational programs open a pathway for Bay Area youth. From the age of 2, when children experience nature in "Fantastic Friday" programs at Crissy Field Center, kids grow, learn, and make friends in our parks. For kids in grades 1–6, the Center's camps teach ecological principles through fun and hands-on activities. In middle school, young people volunteer through Teens on Trails and the LINC (Linking Individuals with the Natural Community) program. High school students join I-YEL (Inspiring Young Emerging Leaders), a program that prepares youth to be advocates for environmental change.

At its base, this ladder of learning is built on the strength of our members and supporters like you.

PARKS FOR ALL
Places like these parklands may be rare and our experiences unique, but the opportunity to enjoy them should never be scarce. That's why the Conservancy works to ensure all communities benefit from the parks' natural and cultural resources. In the second season of Camping at the Presidio (a program of the Crissy Field Center, Presidio Trust, and Bay Area Wilderness Training) nearly 1,000 schoolchildren experienced tent camping—many for the first time. Another Center program, Urban Trailblazers, brings diverse San Francisco middle schoolers together for real-world conservation lessons through restoration projects.

We're also reaching out to underserved communities through the "Untold Stories" project, developed in conjunction with the 2009 airing of Ken Burns's documentary "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." With

support from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, this campaign aims to explore how the parks can be shared by all of us.

GATHERING SPACE
Throughout 2008, the Parks Conservancy—like the parks themselves—brought people together in praise and inspiration. We applauded local environmental activists at the Crissy Field Center's Community Heroes Award Ceremony, and global conservation leaders with a reception for Goldman Environmental Prize recipients. Hundreds of park lovers attended commemorations at Lands End, Mori Point, and Fort Baker in recognition of our work. From winter family campfires to Earth Stroll in the spring to the Trails Forever dinner in the fall, Parks Conservancy events remind us that these parks are not just a cause to celebrate—but lively places for celebrating.



22,000 volunteers
contributing over 414,000
hours of service and stewardship in the Golden Gate
National Parks

53,000 community members
of all ages served through
Crissy Field Center programs
and outreach activities



america's treasures

Whether soaking up a coastal vista or spotting an endangered snake, people who love and support our parks see the big picture. These lands—our bayfront backyards and special spaces held in common—are also part of America's natural and cultural heritage.

The endangered San Francisco garter snake makes its home at Mori Point; site of an intensive habitat restoration effort involving new ponds and wetlands



national parklands: improving our cherished places



\$23.2 million total aid to the parks provided by the Parks Conservancy in 2008

75 miles of trail maintained, enhanced, or built last year along 45 trails

THE PRESIDIO

Propelled by the historic \$15 million gift from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, the Parks Conservancy—and our partners the Presidio Trust and National Park Service (NPS)—are working to realize the Presidio’s potential as a park of many pursuits and for all people.

Thanks to contributions to the Haas, Jr. Fund’s matching grant for Presidio Trails, Bikeways, and Overlooks, a remarkable system of public access points, vistas, and parkland is being implemented at the Presidio. The new Batteries to Bluffs Trail has become an instant favorite. In summer 2008, the Presidio Trust, together with the Parks Conservancy, opened the impressive Crissy Field Overlook, the third of eight planned overlooks. The approaches to the Golden Gate Bridge near Battery East were made safer and more accessible for hikers and bicyclists. Through the Pre-

sidio Trust, renovation is also underway at Rob Hill Campground—the only overnight camp facility in San Francisco.

LANDS END

At this rugged corner where the City meets the surf and cultural history crosses paths with native ecology, the Parks Conservancy completed a series of major improvements in 2008. The first phase of work culminated in an enhanced Merrie Way trailhead and promenade, new Pacific overlook and Coastal Trail signage, greater wheelchair accessibility, improved parking area, and restored landscape.

The Lands End transformation is made possible through a lead gift of the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Foundation, with additional support from the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, California Coastal Conservancy, Parks Conservancy members and volunteers, and community stewards like you.

MORI POINT

After a history of bootlegging, quarrying, and motor-biking, this spectacular Pacifica promontory is now a prime spot for sunset strolls, a haven for California red-legged frogs and endangered San Francisco garter snakes, and the focus of a multi-pronged community engagement effort.

Last year, our Site Stewardship Program, NPS, and Trails Forever staff improved habitat ponds, restored wetlands, converted old roads into trails, removed damaging social trails, and monitored wildlife. In addition to hundreds of volunteers working on-site, the broad support for Mori Point is also reflected in contributions from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, California Coastal Conservancy, Oracle, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the wonderful neighbors in Pacifica, and members of the Parks Conservancy.

FORT BAKER

In June 2008, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi helped officially open the “new” Fort Baker—a crowning post-to-park achievement led by the Parks Conservancy, National Park Service, and Fort Baker Retreat Group. This cooperative nonprofit/public/private triumvirate guided a 10-year revitalization project that restored the site’s architectural heritage, protected natural habitat, and laid a foundation for its new chapter of service.

Fort Baker is now home to Cavallo Point—the Lodge at the Golden Gate, a sustainably built national park lodge that is the first of its kind in the 21st century, and the Institute at the Golden Gate, a new Conservancy program in partnership with the NPS dedicated to fostering cross-sector collaboration for environmental preservation and global sustainability.




Historian Wallace Stegner once said: “National parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.” Here in the Golden Gate National Parks, we connect with loved ones and living things; rediscover our history; and express some of this country’s most exemplary qualities of vision, volunteerism, and audacious optimism. As Parks Conservancy projects restore habitat, create trails, and revitalize old forts, we’re building an environmentally “more perfect union” right here in the parks. After all, they belong to us. They’re where we are one.



global connections

From an Army post at Fort Baker once charged with securing the American continent, the Institute at the Golden Gate now strives to help protect the global environment. In founding the Institute, we recognize that a sustainable Earth demands the broadest possible definition of what we call home.



*Golden California poppies
brighten many hillsides in the
parks; 2008 marked the cul-
mination of the “post to park”
revitalization of Fort Baker*



From the heights of the Marin Headlands to the bluffs of the Presidio, you can see how it all comes together. For 40 miles to the north and 40 to the south, the Golden Gate National Parks straddle one of the world’s most famous gateways. They’re where the mainland greets the ocean, the fog meets the redwood tops, and the Bay Area swaps big thoughts with the world. Just as these parks constitute our common lands at the Golden Gate, they embody conservation solutions shared across the globe. They’re where the continent drops away and the conversations pick up. They’re where bridges begin.

international community: collaborating for a sustainable world

WORLD-CLASS DESTINATIONS

Last year, more people visited the Golden Gate National Parks than visited the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Yellowstone combined. Over 16 million people enjoyed these parklands, which include world-famous sites such as Muir Woods National Monument and Alcatraz Island. In Muir Woods’ Centennial year, the Parks Conservancy helped organize an historic “birthday party,” enhance trails, restore the Redwood Creek Watershed, and serve one million visitors.

Alcatraz saw major improvements to visitor amenities—from new exhibits to a new wayfinding system. In partnership with the Garden Conservancy and through volunteer energy, we also completed a significant phase of restoration on the historic Alcatraz Gardens.

‘COMMON’ KNOWLEDGE Thanks to our supporters, Parks Conservancy programs have

become nationally and internationally recognized models of stewardship. We share not only our experiences in managing community conservation activities and youth leadership initiatives but also our contributions to a growing pool of scientific research.

Our “citizen science” programs marked a banner year in 2008. In addition to growing over 136,000 native plants to restore habitat, Native Plant Nurseries continued to refine their sustainable practices and advance botanical study. The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory tallied more than 23,000 birds of prey and banded over 1,500 raptors during the fall migration—while helping produce four articles in renowned academic journals.

YOUTH STEP UP

Youth training and growing the “green” sector have emerged as priorities for economic recovery and environmental protection. In this field the Parks Conser-

vancy has a head start, as former I-YEL interns and grads of youth leadership programs like LINC launch their eco-careers.

In late 2007, I-YEL alumnus Jie Chen traveled with Crissy Field Center staff to the International Conference on Environmental Education in Ahmedabad, India. Jie—who spoke to a youth group about I-YEL’s impact—currently serves as an educator at Crissy Field Center. Avy Mallick, a fellow I-YELer, shared his story at the International Union for Conservation of Nature in Barcelona—where he met environmental activists from across the globe. Avy continues to build connections through his new position with the Institute at the Golden Gate.

INSTITUTE AT THE GOLDEN GATE

Situated within a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, at the revitalized national park site of Fort Baker, and on the campus of Cavallo Point, the Institute has already

become a force for convening difference makers.

The Institute—a program of the Conservancy in partnership with the National Park Service—assembles leaders from across sectors for collaboration on global sustainability. Since it began operation in May 2008, the Institute has hosted groups ranging from The Nature Conservancy to ambassadors on a U.S. State Department visit. The Institute also partnered with Conservation International on a public lecture series that brings world-renowned eco-innovators to the Bay Area—building yet more bridges for learning, inspiration, and action.

Special thanks go to the Marin Community Foundation, the Pisces Foundation, and Bank of America for their support in advancing the Institute’s mission.



136,000 native plants grown in nurseries last year for 67 restoration projects parkwide

16 million visitors to the Golden Gate National Parks in 2008 benefiting from the Conservancy’s work

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position for the year ended September 30, 2008. (With summarized financial information for the year ended September 30, 2007.)

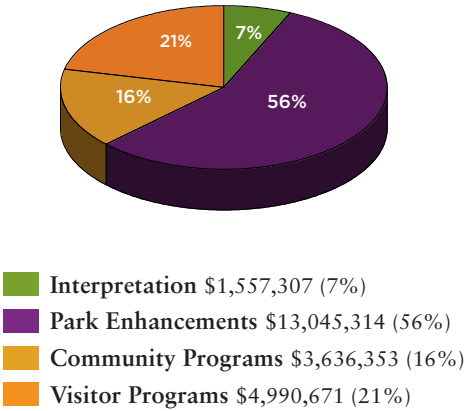
Financial information on these pages is derived from the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy’s financial statements, which were audited by an independent registered public accounting firm. Copies of the complete audited financial statements are available upon request by calling the Chief Financial and Operations Officer at (415) 561-3000.

ASSETS	2008	2007
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,374,599	\$ 7,882,293
Accounts receivable	5,181,266	3,500,300
Contributions receivable, net	1,638,148	993,380
Investments	20,311,198	17,655,885
Inventories	1,857,062	1,659,534
Furniture, fixtures and equipment, net	685,308	463,369
Prepaid expenses and other assets	<u>543,644</u>	<u>357,855</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 33,591,225</u>	<u>\$ 32,512,616</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,047,127	\$ 1,866,081
Accrued payroll related expenses	1,016,603	1,150,546
Capital lease obligations		42,411
Deferred revenue	<u>641,134</u>	<u>535,950</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>3,704,864</u>	<u>3,594,988</u>
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	7,813,102	5,053,813
Board-designated for park projects and programs	<u>6,047,584</u>	<u>6,256,030</u>
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	13,860,686	11,309,843
Temporarily restricted:		
For park projects and programs	11,356,398	13,839,954
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>4,669,277</u>	<u>3,767,831</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>29,886,361</u>	<u>28,917,628</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 33,591,225</u>	<u>\$ 32,512,616</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for the year ended September 30, 2008. (With summarized financial information for the year ended September 30, 2007.)

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
Fiscal Year 2008 Aid to the National Parks



Total Aid: \$23,229,645

Total Aid to the Parks (1982-2008):
More than \$140 million

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total 2008	Total 2007
Support and Revenue:					
Gross program revenue	\$ 20,756,107			\$ 20,756,107	\$ 18,186,681
Cost of goods and services	<u>(4,645,781)</u>			<u>(4,645,781)</u>	<u>(4,201,294)</u>
Program Revenue, Net	16,110,326			16,110,326	13,985,387
Contributed income	1,854,694	\$ 6,825,471		8,680,165	8,835,284
Investment income	293,422	226,158		519,580	363,610
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	(977,043)	(787,156)		(1,764,199)	1,233,035
Mitigation awards	11,936			11,936	18,993
Other income	51,670			51,670	94,927
Cooperative agreement reimbursements	5,713,338			5,713,338	4,094,444
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>7,846,583</u>	<u>(7,846,583)</u>			
Total Support and Revenue	<u>30,904,926</u>	<u>(1,582,110)</u>		<u>29,322,816</u>	<u>28,625,680</u>
EXPENSES					
Program Services					
Aid to the Parks:					
Interpretation	1,557,307			1,557,307	1,333,036
Park enhancements	13,045,314			13,045,314	7,661,354
Community programs	<u>3,636,353</u>			<u>3,636,353</u>	<u>2,662,264</u>
Total Aid to the Parks	18,238,974			18,238,974	11,656,654
Visitor Program Services	<u>4,990,671</u>			<u>4,990,671</u>	<u>3,902,543</u>
Total Program Services	23,229,645			23,229,645	15,559,197
Fundraising	1,112,933			1,112,933	758,310
Management and General	<u>4,011,505</u>			<u>4,011,505</u>	<u>4,295,936</u>
Total Expenses	<u>28,354,083</u>			<u>28,354,083</u>	<u>20,613,443</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	2,550,843	(1,582,110)		968,733	8,012,237
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>11,309,843</u>	<u>12,938,508</u>	<u>\$ 4,669,277</u>	<u>28,917,628</u>	<u>20,905,391</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 13,860,686</u>	<u>\$ 11,356,398</u>	<u>\$ 4,669,277</u>	<u>\$ 29,886,361</u>	<u>\$ 28,917,628</u>

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are the soul of the park. Their contributions reflect the conservation ideals and community-based stewardship upon which the Golden Gate National Parks were created and continue to thrive. Through the collaborative efforts of the Parks Conservancy, National Park Service, and Presidio Trust, our volunteer program achieved levels of participation in 2008 unmatched by any national park in the country. The photo at right, on the Great Meadow at Fort Mason, features just some of the over 22,000 volunteers who helped grow plants, enhance trails, monitor raptors, lead education and public programs, and restore habitat and landscapes in 2008.

Just as we wish all of these dedicated individuals could be pictured in our annual report, we wish we could highlight all of the more than 350 organizations and clubs that served in our parks. The following is a partial list of the volunteer groups that made exceptional contributions to the Golden Gate National Parks in the past year (between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008). For their commitment and unflagging energy, we extend our admiration and sincere thanks to all of our volunteers.

AAA of Northern California, Nevada & Utah • Adobe Systems Inc. • Adventures Cross Country • Aim High • American Hiking Society • American Park Network • Amgen • Aquarium of the Bay • Audubon Society • Babcock & Brown • Bank of America • Bay Institute, STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) • Big Year • Boy Scouts of America • Burners Without Borders • California Coastal Commission • California Native Plant Society • Camping at the Presidio, Crissy Field Center • Cedars of Marin • Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership of Marin • Charles Schwab • Chevron • Chico State University • Children's Day School • City College of San Francisco • Clear Seas Communications Inc. • Deloitte • Dominican University of California • Downtown College Preparatory High School • Drew School •



Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association • Galileo Academy of Science and Technology • GAP • Gateway High School • Genentech • Girl Scouts of the USA • Goldman Sachs • Google • Grace Hill AmeriCorps Rangers • Hands On Bay Area • Headlands Institute • Hoover Middle School • Hotel Vitale • Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation • I-YEL (Inspiring Young Emerging Leaders), Crissy Field Center • Jewish Community Center • JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps), San Francisco High Schools • Junior Ranger Ecologists • KPMG, LLP • Landmark Volunteers, Youth Across America • LaunchSquad • Levi Strauss • LINC (Linking Individuals with the Natural Community), Site Stewardship Program • Live Oak School • Marin Conservation Corps • Marin Country Day School • Marine Mammal Center • Marriott Hotels • National Parks Conservation Association • Ocean Beach Foundation • Oceana High School • Oracle • PG&E • Presidio Hills School • Presidio Trust Archaeology Camp • PriceWaterhouseCoopers, LLP • Project WISE (Watersheds Inspiring Student Education) • REI • Ritz Carlton • Salesforce.com • San Francisco Clean City • San Francisco Community Clean Team • San Francisco Conservation Corps • San Francisco Day School • San Francisco Department of Public Works • San Francisco Department of Recreation and Parks • San Francisco Department of the Environment • San Francisco Triathlon Club • San Francisco Zoo • San Jose Downtown College Preparatory • Schools of the Sacred Heart • Slippery Rock University • Student Conservation Association • Sunset Scavenger Company/Golden Gate Disposal & Recycling Company • Surfrider Foundation • Take Pride in America • Tauck Foundation, SPARKS Youth Program • Teens on Trails, Trails Forever Initiative • Toolworks • Treasure Island Job Corps • Triage Consulting • Unilever • United Way of the Bay Area • University High School • University of San Francisco • Urban Trailblazers, Crissy Field Center • Volunteer Center • Volunteer Match • Volunteers for Outdoor California • Wells Fargo • Western Union • Working Assets

giving to the parks

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to the Parks Conservancy's 14,283 members and donors whose generous financial contributions help build and maintain trails, protect habitat for endangered species, support our amazing volunteers, and provide opportunities for fun and learning for young people.

There are many ways to contribute to our invaluable work. You may designate a contribution for general purposes, or you may provide direct support to a specific project or program area. To learn more about gift-giving options, please contact Kathryn Morelli, director of development, at (415) 561-3050 or kmorelli@parksconservancy.org.

THE WILLIAM KENT SOCIETY
Your contribution provides significant funding for conservation, restoration, educational, and volunteer programs

throughout the parks with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more. Member benefits include invitations to extraordinary park experiences, opportunities to learn about plans for the future, and special events with other Kent Society members.

EVELYN AND WALTER HAAS, JR. FUND PRESIDIO TRAILS CHALLENGE
The Parks Conservancy must raise \$7 million to trigger a generous contribution of \$10 million from the Haas, Jr. Fund to build and upgrade the Presidio's 24-mile system of hiking and biking trails and scenic overlooks. We're almost there! Join us as we near the finish line and see your gift more than doubled by the match.

GOLDEN GATE KEEPERS
You provide important support for the parks while reducing paper use and postage costs when you contribute monthly by credit card or electronic funds transfer. It's

the "greenest" way to give. Members receive a Conservancy calendar and special updates on park news.

SILVER LUPINE CIRCLE
Help protect the parks for future generations through a bequest, life income trust, or other estate gifts. Your gift will provide a legacy of exceptional trails, natural wonders, historic treasures, and scenic beauty—and you will enjoy special benefits as a member of the Silver Lupine Circle.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS
Your endowment gifts are carefully invested to yield a steady source of income in perpetuity. Endowment funds provide essential resources for youth education, leadership training and recreation programs, and trails and natural resource stewardship.

TRIBUTE AND MEMORIAL GIFTS
Pay lasting tribute to a loved

one or commemorate one of life's milestones by making a tribute gift or establishing a named fund.

MATCHING GIFTS
Make your gift go twice as far by asking your employer to match your contribution to the parks.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARKS
Volunteer in the national parklands you love by maintaining trails, restoring habitat, monitoring raptors, growing native plants, and more. It's a great way to enjoy the parks and makes a real difference in their sustained vitality. All ages welcome and no experience necessary. For more information on how to get involved, visit www.parksconservancy.org, call (415) 561-3077, or e-mail volunteer@parksconservancy.org.

volunteer opportunities

Stewardship of 125 square miles worth of national parkland would not be possible without the people power supplied by our volunteers. Teaming with the National Park Service and Presidio Trust, the Parks Conservancy harnesses the tremendous community pride in these parks. During the last year, we:

01 *Organized* nearly 12,000 volunteers—contributing almost 40,000 hours of service to the parks—through the direct efforts of the Parks Conservancy volunteer management team.

Matched over 350 corporate or civic groups through the last year—almost one per day—with projects throughout the park; many groups volunteered multiple times.

Marshaled the community conservation efforts of 262 volunteers with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory and 5,126 volunteers in the Native Plant Nurseries.

Coordinated projects in the Golden Gate National Parks in celebration of California Coastal Cleanup Day—another record-breaking event with

2,300 community members turning out.

Organized nearly 1,200 youth volunteers from nine local schools for Kids Adopt-a-Beach Day, coordinated by the Headlands Institute and sponsored by the California Coastal Commission.

02 *Built* on success of Trail Keepers program's pilot year, as 20 volunteers now monitor trail conditions and greet fellow visitors two times a month at sites from the Marin Headlands to Mori Point.

03 *Continued* a growing tradition of strong Trails Forever volunteer opportunities for youth, including Teens on Trails (turning days off from school into volunteer days) and Urban Trailblazers (an intensive

program for middle schoolers).

Led a very successful Muir Woods Earth Day in January, with 170 volunteers—from groups ranging from Student Conservation Association to the Boy Scouts—restoring habitat and maintaining trail.

04 *Engaged* 114 trail enthusiasts on National Trails Day 2008 at project locations in Tennessee Valley, Mori Point, and the Presidio.

Hosted 34 American Hiking Society volunteers from across the country during five-week long "volunteer vacations" in the Golden Gate National Parks.

Broadened stewardship skills of 473 volunteers, interns, and staff through 42 Park Academy classes in 2008.



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site improvements

We never stop working to make the Golden Gate National Parks better, safer, and more accessible. Explore a new trail. Enjoy a new exhibit. Connect with the natural world. Through your support, we enhance the places and experiences that enrich us all. In 2008, with the National Park Service and Presidio Trust, the Conservancy:



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01 *Improved* the Bay Trail at Battery East in the Presidio by building new trails, repaving an existing trail for multi-use purposes, and adding new wayfinding and interpretive signage.

Helped complete a vital new trail connecting Immigrant Point to the California Coastal Trail in the Presidio, preserving access to exceptional views while replacing informal trails that had caused erosion and habitat damage.

Forged ahead with planning for construction of a multi-use Coastal Trail segment in the Presidio and two associated vista points (Pacific Overlook and Golden Gate Overlook) through thorough data collection, studies, and surveys.

Supported habitat enhancements, through active engagement of the public, at El Polin Springs in the Presidio—part of a larger Tennessee Hollow Watershed revitalization project.

02 *Planned*, designed, and implemented trail improvements throughout Marin County, at sites such as the Marin Headlands, Muir Beach, and Dias Ridge.

03 *Controlled* and removed 77 acres of non-native plants that were impacting mission blue butterfly habitat in the Coastal Trail corridor through the southern Marin Headlands.

Developed a new natural resources exhibit on Alcatraz, “Birds of Water,” which highlights the island as a unique

spot to observe colonial nesting waterbirds and informs visitors of the ongoing monitoring, study, and protection of the birds.

04 *Designed* and placed an intuitive wayfinding system on Alcatraz Island, installing approximately 120 signs (including building identification, directional, and regulatory signage), two brochure kiosks, and a wayfinding kiosk.

Upgraded native plant nursery facilities and infrastructure as part of a master plan to improve safety and accessibility for volunteers, visitors, and staff.



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interpretive programs & visitor services

The Golden Gate National Parks tell the tale of the American experience, hundreds of years in the making—as well as the epic of natural history, many times older than that. At the Parks Conservancy, we find new ways to share our stories—and provide places for you to share yours. In 2008, we:

01 *Served* 1.4 million visitors annually through Alcatraz tours; provided the Alcatraz Evening Tour to over 110,000 visitors.

Developed and delivered, through the efforts of nine Conservancy interpretive staff members, over 100 tours and narratives to Alcatraz visitors in the Evening Program.

Operated the Sustainable Easy Access Transport (SEAT), an electric shuttle on Alcatraz that annually assists 70,000 individuals with mobility needs up the 13-story-tall hill to the cell house.

02 *Welcomed* 1 million visitors to Muir Woods and served over 1 million people in park visitor centers and interpretive stores parkwide.

Developed new community trailhead at the Presidio YMCA to create another entry point for recreational opportunities.

Assisted the Presidio Trust with development and production of “A Lover’s Line,” an award-winning multimedia tour along a historic footpath in the Presidio; the project—spearheaded by artist Jeanene Przyblyski—included a guidebook, downloadable map, cell phone narration, on-site signage, and temporary trailhead at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

03 *Served* millions of park visitors by providing park information and interpretive materials at visitor centers and park bookstores.

04 *Expanded* understand-

ing of the parks’ natural and cultural resources through over 30 new books and unique products, including an Alcatraz comic book and “dining magazine;” also developed a stationery line featuring John Muir’s botanical collection.

Researched and designed new Muir Woods self-guided tour map and brochure highlighting its cultural history.

Continued quarterly production of *Gateways*, the member newsletter of the Parks Conservancy; *Park Adventures*, a free events calendar (in partnership with the National Park Service); and *Park E-ventures*, our monthly e-newsletter.

Advanced outreach by growing the Conservancy’s Facebook presence.



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restoration projects & programs

We repurpose Colonial Revival-style buildings of the past and protect old-growth forest into the future. We revitalize houses for soldiers from a bygone age and habitat for salmon still to come. The Parks Conservancy preserves not only what once was—but the hope of what will be. In 2008, we supported work that:

01 *Maintained*, enhanced, or built 75 miles of trails (on 45 trails) through Trails Forever program staff and volunteers in the last year.

02 *Achieved*, alongside the National Park Service and the Fort Baker Retreat Group, the dramatic revitalization of Fort Baker that included 44 acres of landscape restored, 33 National Historic District buildings preserved and restored, 10 acres of endangered mission blue butterfly habitat restored, and historic central parade ground returned to vibrancy.

Removed and restored 3,320 feet of trail in endangered species habitat at Mori Point—with 1,900 feet of new trail added to improve

access while bypassing the most sensitive areas.

Hand-collected seed of over 300 species of native plants from 18 watersheds (totaling 260 pounds of seed!) for Native Plant Nurseries.

03 *Cared* for key park areas through Site Stewardship Program work—ranging from controlling invasive plants to offering educational and volunteer activities (77 school programs, 14 events for community and youth groups, and 38 drop-in volunteer events in 2008).

04 *Recorded* the burgeoning evidence of successful habitat restoration at Mori Point; in 2008 monitoring period, seven endangered San Francisco garter snakes and 39 California

red-legged frog egg masses were seen in and around the ponds.

05 *More than doubled* the area of restored Alcatraz Gardens through 2008 (from 15,000 to over 36,000 square feet), bringing an era of history back to vibrant life through a unique volunteer program in cooperation with the Garden Conservancy.

Advanced research on sexual propagation of the Raven's Manzanita, the most endangered plant species in the United States (the only genetic individual resides in the Presidio).

Formulated plans for restoring mission blue butterfly habitat as part of a larger Hawk Hill project in the Marin Headlands.

awards & milestones

Through the tremendous support of the Golden Gate National Parks community during the last year, the Conservancy was able to set new records for both financial support and volunteer hours. Thank you for making 2008 such an incredible year of achievement. During the last year, the Parks Conservancy:

Provided over \$23 million in support to park projects, programs, and visitor services—a record-setting annual figure and a 50 percent gain over the previous year.

01 *Energized* 22,121 volunteers who gave 414,256 hours—an all-time high—through coordinated efforts with the National Park Service and Presidio Trust.

02 *Increased* Crissy Field Center camp scholarships to a record amount in 2008, further expanding access to the park's educational resources.

Received five 2008 Media & Partnership Awards from the Association of Partners for Public Lands; *Park Adventures*, the Alcatraz Visitor Experience Enhancement Project, and our *2007 Report to the Community*

were Winners in their respective categories, while *Gateways* newsletter and our website www.parksconservancy.org won Honorable Mentions.

03 *Garnered* a 2008 Beautification Award from the San Francisco Beautiful civic organization, recognizing accomplishments at the Presidio's Immigrant Point and Batteries to Bluffs Trail through the collaborative efforts of the Conservancy, Presidio Trust, and National Park Service.

04 *Honored* four groups and individuals as Community Heroes, through a Crissy Field Center program to recognize outstanding grassroots efforts to improve the Bay Area environment.

Experienced significant surge in usage—across all metrics—of the Parks Conservancy website (www.parksconservancy.org) as a portal for park news and information.

05 *Developed* and held a memorable Centennial Celebration at Muir Woods, commemorating its 100 years as a National Monument—a designation that directly resulted from a remarkable donation of land by William Kent and Elizabeth Thacher Kent, a historic gift that continues to inspire citizen-driven stewardship and conservation today.

Completed year-long visual documentation of Muir Woods for its Centennial, by local environmental photographer Stephen Joseph.



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A PARK FOR ALL FOREVER

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education & community programs



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As one of the world's largest national parks in an urban area, the Golden Gate National Parks present an exceptional opportunity for people—especially young people—to learn from and grow to love the greater environment. The Parks Conservancy fosters connections to these cherished lands. In 2008, the organization:

01 Served 53,000 community members through Crissy Field Center programs and outreach initiatives during the last year, totaling over 110,000 contact hours with participants through activities ranging from community events to eco-learning opportunities.

02 Expanded programming at Crissy Field Center for young visitors; a total of 650 toddlers and their caregivers attended weekly “Fantastic Friday” sessions; 73 four- and five-year-olds enrolled in kindergarten camps.

Engaged 50 diverse urban youth in Project WISE (Watersheds Inspiring Student Education), a year-long science program—a partnership project of Crissy Field Center, Urban Watershed Project, and

Galileo Academy of Science and Technology—centered on the Presidio's Tennessee Hollow Watershed.

Received encouraging results from academic studies charting the positive impacts on young people in education programs such as Project WISE and Camping at the Presidio (aimed at introducing underserved young people to camping).

Greeted seven Goldman Environmental Prize winners at a Crissy Field reception, bringing youth leaders and community members together with renowned activists.

Built on the success of I-YEL (Inspiring Young Emerging Leaders), a Crissy Field Center program that expanded to two teams of 12 interns in 2008.

03 Led 16 teens in a six-week-long summer program for high schoolers, LINC (Linking Individuals with the Natural Community), a Site Stewardship program combining restoration projects with hands-on ecological lessons.

04 Conducted 30 Golden Gate Raptor Observatory docent-led talks and demonstrations during the 2008 fall migration season, which saw 1,200 visitors to Hawk Hill.

Hosted 27 groups through Institute at the Golden Gate programs and collaborations (including events with The Nature Conservancy and Conservation Study Institute) since the Institute began operations in May 2008.



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Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

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www.parksconservancy.org

Parks For All Forever™

our public agency partners



The National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior charged with managing the preservation and public use of America's most significant natural, scenic, historic, and cultural treasures. Established in 1916, the NPS manages 391 sites across the U.S.—including the Golden Gate National Parks. For more information, call (415) 561-4700 or visit www.nps.gov/goga.

BRIAN O'NEILL
General Superintendent
MAI-LIIS BARTLING
Deputy Superintendent
HOWARD LEVITT
*Chief, Division of Interpretation
Liaison to the Parks Conservancy*



The Presidio Trust

Responsible for the transformation of the Presidio from an historic Army post into a premier national park that is financially self-sustaining, the Trust is leading the nation's largest historic preservation project, restoring the park's buildings and landscapes, and creating innovative programs. For more information, call (415) 561-5300 or visit www.presidio.gov.

DAVID H. GRUBB
Chairman, Board of Directors
CRAIG MIDDLETON
Executive Director



the golden gate national parks represent one of the world’s largest national parks in an urban setting. They also constitute one of the most visited units in America’s national park system.



the golden gate national parks conservancy is the nonprofit membership organization created to preserve the Golden Gate National Parks, enhance the experiences of park visitors, and build a community dedicated to conserving the parks for the future. The Conservancy has become one of the most effective park partners in the country, contributing over \$23 million in aid to the parks in 2008 and more than \$140 million since its inception in 1981.



ALCATRAZ ISLAND The infamous former prison gives visitors a closeup look at a maximum-security, minimum-privilege life.

BAKER BEACH This mile-long beach offers spectacular views of the Marin Headlands and the Presidio.

BOLINAS RIDGE The top of this secluded and scenic crest presents views of the San Andreas Rift Zone.

CHINA BEACH Legend says this sandy patch was named for Chinese fishermen who, long ago, anchored their junks nearby.



CLIFF HOUSE Giant windows present a direct view of the Pacific—allowing you, as one historian put it, “to confront nature from the comfort of an armchair.”



CRISSY FIELD It was a home for Ohlone Indians and later hosted Spanish and Mexican

ships, a historic army airfield, and a Coast Guard station. The environmental center on the site now offers a host of recreational and educational activities.



FORT BAKER The stately buildings of this former army post were once occupied

by military brass. Today, it has been transformed into a lodge and environmental institute that opened in 2008.

FORT CRONKHITE The fort has one of the only restored barracks in the West that reflects its original appearance, complete with period furnishings that span the 20th century.



FORT FUNSTON Steady winds and dunes reaching 200 feet make this rugged stretch a premier hang-gliding spot.



FORT MASON In bygone times, Fort Mason housed Spanish soldiers, the US Army,

earthquake refugees, and port authorities. Today, piers and waterfront warehouses constitute the facilities of the nonprofit Fort Mason Center.



FORT POINT Imposing Fort Point kept vigil over the bay for almost half a century, and now

visitors can explore its brick casemates and grand arches and participate in cannon drills.

GERBODE VALLEY A hiker’s paradise, this wilderness backcountry offers a chance to smell fennel and sage, or spy a bobcat or bush rabbit.



KIRBY COVE Nestled at the foot of the Marin Headlands, the cove is a pristine beach

wedge with fabulous views of the Bridge and the City.

LANDS END San Francisco’s wildest coast features wave- and wind-carved headlands, intriguing shipwrecks, and new trails and overlooks.



MARIN HEADLANDS This is the place to see migrating birds of prey—as well as bird’s-eye

views of the famous Bridge.

MARTINELLI RANCH Hikers here enjoy undulating grasslands, a beautiful freshwater pond, and a stunning Tomales Bay overlook.

MILAGRA RIDGE Habitat for threatened species like the California red-legged frog, this ridge also affords impressive views of Pacifica and the ocean.

MORI POINT Home to a dazzling endangered snake, this dramatic promontory rewards visitors with gorgeous wildflowers and coastal vistas.

MUIR BEACH Picnics are pleasant in this quiet cove and the overlook trail stands out—literally—as a great place to spot gray whales.



MUIR WOODS Serene streams, canyon paths, and the redwood giants. It is—in the words

of namesake John Muir—simply “the best tree-lovers’ monument” in the world.

OAKWOOD VALLEY This swath is home to coyotes, owls, mission blue butterflies, and the Parks’ largest stand of oak and bay forest.

OCEAN BEACH A recreational paradise for generations, San Francisco’s western flank remains perfect for sunset walks, brisk jogs, and gulps of fresh briny air.



OLEMA VALLEY Grazing cattle and Victorian farms grace this area between Boli-

nas and Inverness ridges.

PHLEGER ESTATE This wildlife corridor at the Parks’ southern tip reveals traces of 19th century logging—like remnants of steam mills.



POINT BONITA Adventurers relish the steep climb and heart-stopping footbridge that lead to the Lighthouse (first lit 1855).



PRESIDIO Topping San Francisco’s crown, this emerald park was once among

the oldest continuously used military posts in the nation.

RODEO BEACH Rodeo Valley opens to this windswept beach speckled with colorful pebbles.



STINSON BEACH One of the best swimming beaches in northern California, this three-mile

stretch of white sand provides invigorating surf and barbecue spots.



SUTRO HEIGHTS The lands of former San Francisco mayor Adolph Sutro showcase the

Cliff House, Sutro Baths ruins, and the splendid Garden.



SWEENEY RIDGE Explorer Gaspar de Portola first saw San Francisco Bay more than 200 years

ago from the 1,200-foot-high summit.



TENNESSEE VALLEY This peaceful valley meanders to a pocket beach near the shipwreck of the SS Tennessee.

ON THE COVER

View toward Point Bonita, from Hawk Hill in the Marin Headlands

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