



Crissy Field Fee Parking Proposal – West Bluff/Battery East

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is initiating public outreach on a proposed parking fee at West Crissy Field, in Presidio Area A – the portion of the Presidio managed by the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to implement a parking fee on its lots adjacent to the portion of the Presidio managed by the Presidio Trust (Trust) - West Crissy Field when the Trust implements its fee parking program in this area.

Background

Charging fees for parking was included in the NPS 1994 General Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Presidio as a strategy to manage parking, encourage alternative transportation and to offset the costs of providing transit.

The Trust is instituting fee parking throughout much of the Presidio in their management area (Area B), which is immediately adjacent to the NPS- managed area (Area A). This is consistent with the Trust's Congressional mandate to be financially self-sufficient by 2013, and with the 2002 Presidio Trust Management Plan, in which the Trust commits to the implementation of a comprehensive Transportation Demand Management program that incentivizes visitors to use transit and reduce the use of private automobiles.

The Presidio Trust is ready to implement their Area B-wide fee parking program in parking areas directly adjacent to NPS parking lots at West Crissy Field. This is expected to result in a shift in use to adjacent NPS Area A, Crissy Field park visitor parking lots, which would have no parking fee.

The NPS West Bluff parking lot, located in Area A, is the primary parking area for park visitors to West Crissy Field, a popular visitor destination that includes the grassy historic airfield, the West Bluff picnic area and amphitheatre, the Warming Hut, beach and the Bay Trail, and is also close to Fort Point. Battery East parking is the next closest NPS visitor parking lot in this area.

The 2001 NPS transformation of Crissy Field into a popular waterfront park destination and the recent successful rehabilitation and leasing of historic buildings by the Trust in Area B at West Crissy Field have led to an increased demand for parking in this area.

Trust tenants in this area include:

- Planet Granite - an indoor climbing and yoga fitness gym
- La Petit Baleen – a swim school for children
- House of Air – an indoor trampoline park
- University of San Francisco - satellite campus called “USF at the Presidio”
- Roaring Mouse Bikes –a bike store

The time and length of visits to these new facilities and businesses are very similar to that of visitors to the adjacent open space and the NPS Warming Hut at Crissy Field. Free visitor parking spaces in the adjacent NPS lots are expected to become more heavily used by Area B

tenants, employees, and visitors competing with other park visitors when parking fees are implemented in the adjacent parking lots managed by the Trust. This could significantly limit available parking for park visitors to the West Bluff and Warming Hut areas of Crissy Field.

Proposal

The NPS is proposing to implement fee parking at the West Bluff parking lot and the Battery East parking lot in Area A at the same time as Presidio Trust fee parking is implemented in adjacent lots at West Crissy Field in Area B.

The NPS's proposed parking fees would be identical to the Trust's in order to discourage parking in NPS parking lots by users and employees of the adjacent facilities and businesses, to ensure there is a conveniently located and adequate parking supply for park visitors. The Trust's Area B parking rates are \$1/hour and \$6/day.

Other Options Considered

- **No action:** NPS could continue to manage the Area A West Bluff and Battery East Parking lots without a fee when fee parking is implemented in the Trust's adjacent West Crissy lots. It is anticipated that this would result in a high level use of this parking for employees and non-park users of the facilities in the West Crissy buildings who would choose the free parking areas before parking in the paid parking lots.
- **Time limits without a parking fee:** Using signs and enforcement to implement time limits (such as 1-hour parking or 2-hour parking) has been considered, however, land uses in Area B experience turnover similar to that of park users. This would make time limits an ineffective deterrent to discourage use by non-park visitors.

Proposed use of Parking Revenue

If implemented, fee parking revenue from Area A and Area B at West Crissy Field would be used to provide funding towards projects with a direct visitor benefit. These could include:

- accessibility improvements
- improvements to trails, picnic areas and restrooms
- other visitor serving improvements
- improved transportation services, such as:
 - supplementing PresidiGo (the Presidio Trust's free shuttle)
 - funding "charter" shuttles for transportation to Presidio community program participants, including underserved communities and schools
 - initiating a new northern waterfront shuttle.

Information about the Trust parking regulations can be found at:

<http://www.presidio.gov/directions/parking.htm>

Pay and Display parking machines are being installed in public lots throughout the Presidio. Visitors are required to purchase short-term parking permits from these machines. The cost for short-term, hourly parking permits is \$1/hour and capped at \$6/day. Regulations are typically in effect Monday to Friday, 8 am to 6 pm, and are enforced by the U.S. Park Police. Regulations differ slightly from lot to lot. At West Bluff and Battery East, parking regulations would likely be in effect 7/days a week.

How to learn more and provide comments

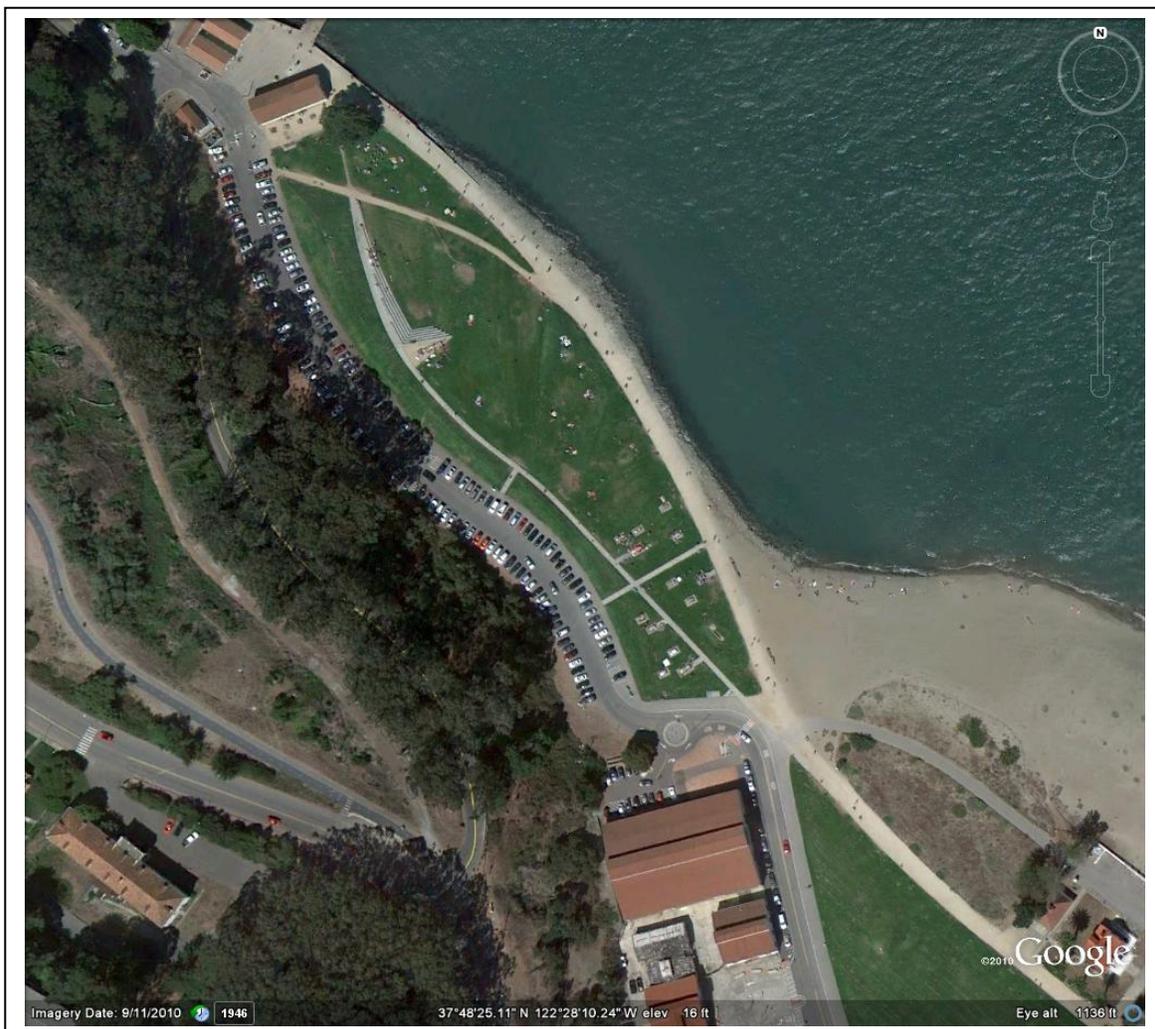
Park staff will be available to discuss this project and accept comments at two meetings:

- Open House August 17 – 4:30-6:30 pm
Bay Model Visitor Center
2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito
- Open House August 30 – 4:30-6:30 pm
At the temporary Crissy Field Center at East Beach (near Mason and Lyon Streets)

You can provide comments using any of the following methods:

- In person at one of the public meetings listed above
- Online at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/CF_FeeParking
- Or by mail to:
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Building 201 Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

The public comment period on this proposal ends on September 23, 2011.



Aerial image of the West Bluff parking area at Crissy Field