



San Francisco

CRISSY FIELD

The Coastal Conservancy has worked with the people of San Francisco for more than 30 years on a wide range of projects to improve the quality of life for residents and attract visitors to this beautiful city. These projects have made the waterfront and parks more open and enjoyable, created miles of public trails, restored wetlands and other wildlife habitats, and supported master planning for some of the most beloved of the City's open spaces and natural areas.

POPULATION: >800,000

SIZE (MAINLAND): 29,998.6 acres (~7x7 miles)

PARK AND NATURAL LANDS: 5,755 acres

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS: >50

CONSERVANCY FUNDING: >\$19 million

San Francisco is a dynamic destination for tourists, a force for creative development, and a great place to call home. Known for its dramatic hills, stunning views, and an innumerable list of places to leave one's heart, it is also blessed with world-class urban parks, trails, natural areas, and a working waterfront. These resources greatly benefit the people living and working here, providing clean water, clean air, habitats for wildlife, fresh-caught sea food, and places to hike and enjoy.

San Francisco lies between the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast, San Francisco Bay, and the world's largest ocean. While only 3% of its land is considered "natural," San Francisco is a biological hotspot with more than 350 species of native plants, 20 of which are rare and endangered. Its popular park lands include the renowned Golden Gate Park; the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, with Fisherman's Wharf and Hype Street Pier; and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, with such notable landmarks as Lands End, Ocean Beach, and the Presidio's Fort Point and Crissy Field. The San Francisco Bay Trail, Bay Area Ridge Trail, California Coastal Trail, and other hiking and biking trails provide recreational opportunities for residents, workers, and millions of annual visitors.

Parks and Trails

The great majority of Conservancy-supported projects in San Francisco have been aimed at expanding recreational opportunities and helping people to enjoy the City's spectacular natural setting. High priorities have included completion of regional trails, improving points of access, and integrating recreational sites with natural lands. The Conservancy has worked with many partners on these projects, most notably the City and County of San Francisco, the Port of San Francisco, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Golden Gate Bridge District, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the Presidio Trust, California State Parks Foundation, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), and San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR).

PARKS

- The restored **Crissy Field** has become one of the City's most popular outdoor gathering places and the Crissy Field Center engages young people in the protection of the environment and healthy communities.
- The restoration of 11 ½ acres of natural lands at **Yosemite Slough** in Candlestick State Park was a boon to wildlife and to people who can enter the area on a new ½-mile section of the San Francisco Bay Trail.
- The **Ocean Beach Master Plan**, developed by SPUR through an extensive interagency and public process, provides a comprehensive vision to address sea level rise, protect infrastructure, restore coastal ecosystems, and improve public access to one of the country's foremost urban beaches.
- The master plan for **Glen Canyon Park**, developed by TPL, is guiding the City's improvements to this oasis of natural land in the center of the City.
- The **Visitacion Valley Greenway** near McLaren Park was improved with a native plant garden and outdoor classroom for environmental education.
- The **South Windmill in Golden Gate Park** is again operational after restoration of its foundation and mechanisms and replacement of its cap and sails.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL & BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL

- The **Land's End Coastal Trail** features a visitors center and grand trailhead perched on a rugged cliff, with improved parking and access to public transit.
- Recreation in the **Presidio** benefits from an additional 1 ½ miles of Coastal Trail and Ridge Trail, with two ocean overlooks and a connection to the Ben Davis campground.
- The **Golden Gate Bridge South Visitor Plaza** is being improved to better accommodate visitors and help hikers, bikers, and wheelchair riders get from the base of the bridge to the Ridge Trail, Coastal Trail, and Bay Trail.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL

- Nearly 1,000 feet of new Bay Trail along the **Pier 43 Promenade** at Fisherman's Wharf features the historic Pier 43 Ferry Arch and spectacular views of San Francisco Bay and Alcatraz Island.



CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL AT LANDS END



FERRY TERMINAL PUBLIC PIER



EXPLORATORIUM'S WAVE ORGAN



OCEAN BEACH



CRISSY FIELD



OPENING DAY, ECOCENTER AT HERON'S HEAD PARK



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE SOUTH VISITORS PLAZA



TALL SHIP, SAIL SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL *continued*

- The San Francisco Chronicle's John King wrote of the **Ferry Terminal Public Pier** at Pier 14: "There's no better place to experience the fusion of city and bay than on this 15-foot-wide, 637-foot-long concrete breakwater topped by metal railings that make it feel as though you're on a catwalk above the depths. Tough and sleek at once, the narrow path doesn't try to upstage its surroundings. But it's not shy either; and in a setting like this, there's no better response."
- Improvements to the Bay Trail in **Fort Mason** at Marina and Laguna Streets included repair of a "pinch point" that had resulted in multiple accidents where the trail comes downhill from the Great Meadow.
- A ¾-mile gap in the Bay Trail in the Bayview/Hunters Point neighborhood was closed along **Cargo Way** with a bicycle and pedestrian pathway separated from heavy trucks by a safety barrier.

The Waterfront

The prime waterfront location of San Francisco has lent itself to groundbreaking projects that support the City's economy and promote public awareness of the working waterfront's history. Conservancy partners have included the Port of San Francisco, San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, Literacy for Environmental Justice, and the Exploratorium.

- The **EcoCenter**, an off-the-grid environmental education center next to the wetlands at **Heron's Head Park**, serves the Bayview/Hunter's Point neighborhood.
- Exhibits about the science and history of San Francisco Bay are part of the **Exploratorium's** public promenade and Bay Observatory at its new location on Piers 15 and 17.
- A 720-foot long trail and other improvements help people reach the Exploratorium's **Wave Organ**, a unique wave-activated acoustic sculpture on the jetty of the San Francisco Marina Yacht Harbor.
- **Tall Ships Festivals** in the summers of 2005 and 2008 included parades of historic sailing ships from around the world and activities that highlighted the significance of the San Francisco Waterfront.
- Improvements to **Islais Creek** in Southeast San Francisco include a segment of the Bay Trail on a new bridge over the creek, removal of creosote-treated pilings in the creek, and restoration of the historic Copra Crane, a waterfront labor landmark.

"The Bay Area Conservancy is a great model for how a regional government agency can work creatively with a broad spectrum of interests and get work done in a 21st century city."

Gabriel Metcalf, Executive Director
San Francisco Urban Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR)



BAKER BEACH

The Coastal Conservancy is a State agency, established in 1976, that protects and improves natural lands and waterways, helps people get to and enjoy coastal areas, and sustains local economies along California's coast. The Conservancy works along the entire length of the coast, within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The Conservancy is non-regulatory and achieves its goals by joining forces with local communities, nonprofit organizations, other government agencies, businesses, and private landowners.

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS:

- Protect, restore, and improve natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Help people get to and enjoy the outdoors by building hiking and biking trails, acquiring and improving parks and beaches, and creating campgrounds and hostels
- Keep our waterways clean and healthy for people and wildlife
- Help communities revitalize their waterfronts
- Support floodwater management and integrate flood-control projects into the life of a community
- Conserve commercial fisheries, working farmland, and forests.

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