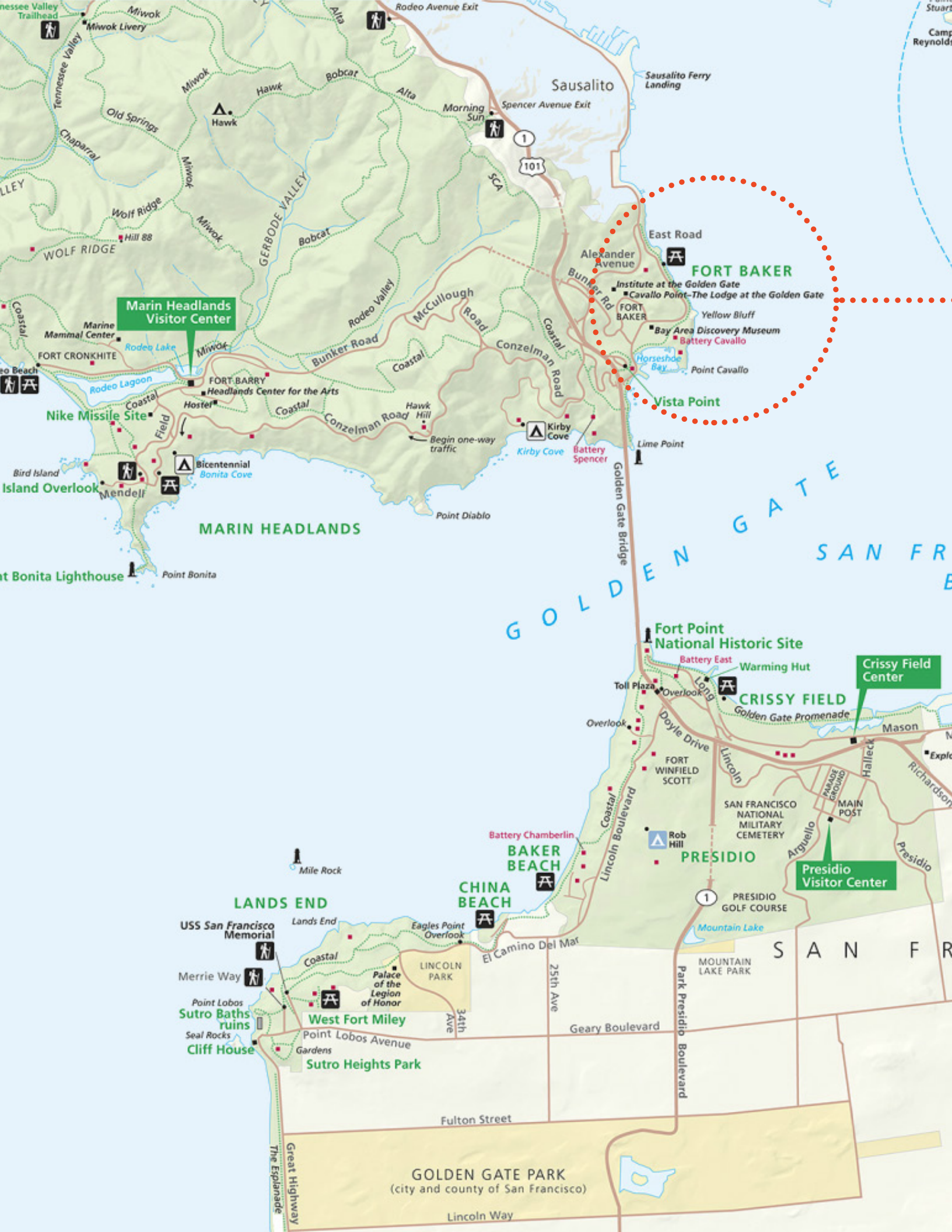


FROM POST-TO-PARK

FORT BAKER

BEHIND THE SCENES OF A GREAT NATIONAL PARK IN AN URBAN AREA

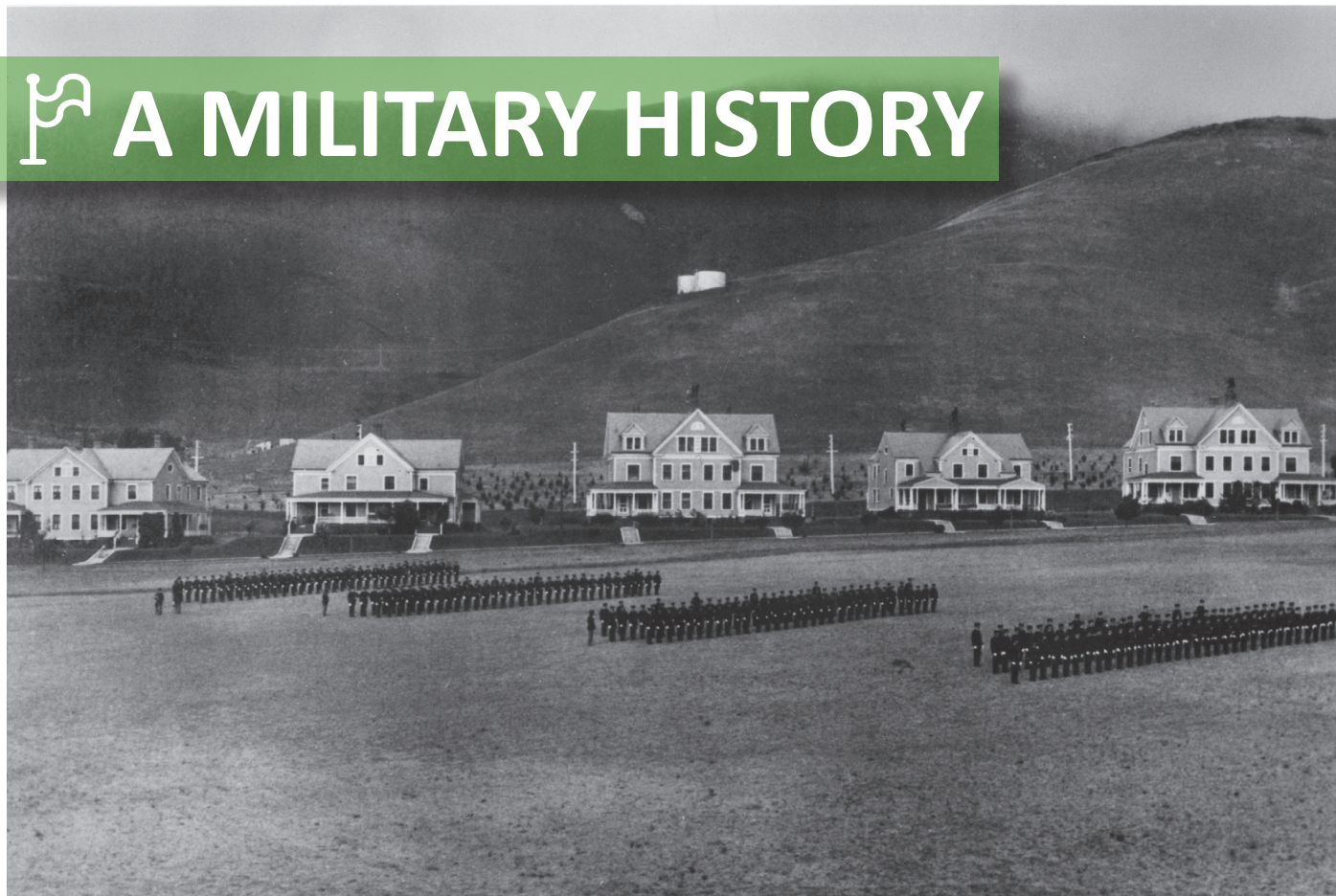


The 335 acres set in a cove at the northern end of the Golden Gate Bridge is home to Fort Baker, a beautiful historic area that offers quiet solitude with expansive views of the Bay Area. With over a dozen historic military buildings and a world-class eco-friendly lodge, Fort Baker is a significant national park whose transformation was no easy feat. When the National Park Service took over the land after military occupation, the site posed a significant challenge due to the extremely poor conditions of the buildings and infrastructure. To rehabilitate the post-military base to a habitable public park, the National Park Service needed a large infusion of resources and community support.

What's Here Today?

- Bay Area Discovery Museum
- Brick fortifications of Battery Cavallo
- Cavallo Point – Lodge at the Golden Gate
- Habitat for the endangered mission blue butterfly
- Healing Arts Spa
- Historic Architecture
- Pier with beautiful views of the golden Gate
- Trails in and around Fort Baker
- Travis Sailing Center
- U.S. Coast Guard

A MILITARY HISTORY



Fort Baker was the ninth and final “Post-to-Park” conversion in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area during a period of demilitarization across the Bay Area. The transfer to the National Park Service happened over the course of ___ years. Throughout this gradual departure of the Army after the Cold War, the site was poorly maintained. Almost all of the buildings were seismically unsafe, lead paint had seeped into the soil around many of the buildings, and most of the utility systems had to be repaired. This posed a great challenge, and the National Park Service partnered with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to find innovative approaches to overcome it.

What was here before?

- The Coast Miwok tribe inhabited the Fort Baker area prior to exploration and settlement by Europeans
- Fort Baker was formally established in the 1890’s with massive concrete batteries with long range guns built along the bluffs
- Fort Baker was a small piece of a larger military reservation along the Marin Headlands created by the U.S. government to safeguard San Francisco Bay
- The fort included eleven Colonial Revival-style officer’s homes, barracks, and community buildings for the troops, laid out around a grassy parade ground



THE VISION

To preserve the natural and cultural resources and values of the national parks system. To enhance the park visitor experience and build a community dedicated to conserving the parks for the future.

Planning for the future of Fort Baker, the National Parks Service and the Parks Conservancy shared resources, knowledge, and skills with in order to create a park that could connect with the communities of the Bay Area. They acknowledged the need to preserve the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the site all the while establishing new uses and programming that would create a national park with a public purpose. The vision for Fort Baker was to incorporate a retreat and conference center with a beautiful place for convening that would promote learning, exchange, and enjoyment for the communities within the Bay Area and beyond.





A PROJECT BUILT ON PARTNERSHIP



In order to complete their vision, the National Park Service sought a developer who not only had the means to fund the redevelopment but also shared deeper values for the environment. Through a selection process that involved much community input, the National Park Service found the perfect private partner for the project who shared their vision for the site and goals for sustainability in their work. The Fort Baker Retreat Group was chosen for their experience in supporting sustainable development, historic renovation, and environmental and social responsibility. The group was able to earn credibility with past projects that embodied the shared values as well as experience in working within parks. They also had strong ties and experience with local projects, which helped to preserve the sense of place at Fort Baker all the while gaining the confidence of local residents in surrounding communities.



The National Park Service (NPS) is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Interior charged with managing the preservation and public use of America's most significant natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources. Established in 1916, the NPS manages over 400 sites across the United States – including the Golden Gate National Parks.



The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy is the nonprofit partner that supports and assists the Golden Gate National Parks in research, interpretation, and conservation programs. Since its inception in 1981, the Parks Conservancy has provided the Golden Gate National Parks with more than \$400 million in support.



Cavallo Point – the Lodge at the Golden Gate is a project of the Fort Baker Retreat Group, a joint venture of Passport Resorts LLC, Equity Community Builders, and the Ajax Capital Group. The companies are renowned for their experience in support of environmentally sustainable development as well as historic preservation.



A PUBLIC PURPOSE

The rehabilitation of the natural landscape, the transformation from run-down buildings to a world-class lodge and conference center, as well as the expansion of existing program partners like the Bay Area Discovery Museum, breathed life back into Fort Baker by creating an open space with activities for diverse users. To further foster a continuous relationship with the public, the National Parks Service and the Parks Conservancy established the Institute at the Golden Gate.

As another public component of Fort Baker, the Institute was originally conceived to facilitate convening at Fort Baker by bringing organizations to the site to inspire discussion and action around environmental issues. The Institute and Cavallo Point Lodge work together to welcome environmentally focused organizations and groups to apply for a special, discounted rate, providing a relevant and inspiring place for meetings.

Today the Institute is a program-focused organization that explores how to position parks as a part of the solution to broader societal challenges. By engaging the community in larger discussions around these challenges, the Institute continues to connect parks and public lands with the urban community.



Programs of the Institute

Climate

The Institute’s Climate Change Education & Parks program supports and accelerates the role of parks and protected areas as resources and venues for climate change education. Since the late 2014, the Institute has been supporting the Bay Area Climate Literacy Collaborative, comprised of informal environmental educators passionate about climate change education and dedicate to elevating the Bay Area as the leader in climate literacy and action.

Health

The Institute at the Golden Gate works at both a regional and national level to support the growing connection between community health and park space. Nationally, the Institute works to advance the dissemination of Park Prescriptions programs. Regionally, the Institute supports Healthy Parks Healthy People: Bay Area in improving the health of residents through the use and enjoyment of parks.

Urban

The Institute aims to realize the potential of parks in urban areas to contribute to the livability of cities and the sustainability of our planet by bringing park ideals and values directly to our urban centers. The Institute supports the National Park Service in the activation of their urban agenda and leverages our networks and expertise to explore ways in which parks can fully contribute to creating healthy, sustainable urban communities.





Together, the diverse stakeholders and their collaborative efforts were able to reinvigorate Fort Baker as a beautiful park that engages its surrounding community and will continue to do so for next generations.

