



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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“ We enrich lives through quality parks and programs ”

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SERRA

MUSEUM

The Serra Museum has been managed by the San Diego History Center since opening its doors in 1929.

For general information about the Serra Museum and programs, please call

(619) 297-3258.

To plan a function at the Serra Museum or loggia, please call the Site Rental Coordinator at **619-232-6203** extension **109**. Website: www.sandiegohistory.org



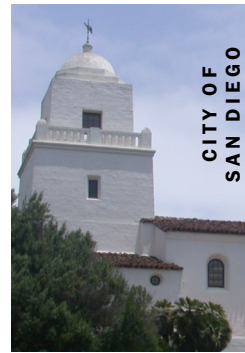
EVENTS

Interested in having a special event or an outdoor wedding in Presidio Park? Please call the [Permit Center](#) at (619) 235-1169.

You can also visit the following website to view availability and options:

www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/bestsites.shtml.

Questions or inquiries about special group tours? Please contact **Park Rangers** at (619) 235-5935.



PRESIDIO PARK RANGER REPORT

QUARTERLY

AUGUST 2010

A BRIEF OVERVIEW...

Not just the home of the Serra Museum, Presidio Park shines with a myriad of significant historical happenings and a complicated web of a who's-who from San Diego's past.

If the trees could talk, stories of Spanish Soldiers full of bravado and trouble, priests determined to proselytize, Kumeyaay Indians, City founders and leaders, famous architects and horticulturists, expeditions, large pueblos, fires and floods, a beginning point and a final destination for the Spanish, the Mexicans and the Americans would fill the books written by the oldest of the trees.

A quick repertoire of historical facts for visitors to ponder and appreciate.

6000 B.C.- early 1800's *Semi-nomadic tribes of Kumeyaay Indians utilized the area from approximately Ensenada, Mexico to Oceanside Ca., to the Eastern Mountains. The village of Kosoy (the "drying place") rested at the bottom of the hill*

1542 *Juan Cabrillo anchors in San Diego Bay, sees Presidio Hill, but is not believed to have set foot on it - he had a boat christened St. Miguel*

1602 *Sebastian Vizcaino rests in San Diego harbor - he had a boat christened St. Diego*

1769 *Friar Presidente Junipera Serra (Franciscan) established the first mission in California. Soldiers here acted as a sentry for the region—Ensenada to Oceanside*

1769 *Home to the first Spanish Governor of the region*

1769 *Believed to be the location of the first Canary Island Date Palm plantings in California. Descendants of these trees can still be found today in Presidio Park*

1820's *Early City leaders Juan Bandini and Jose Estudillo are both known to have wed their brides in the original chapel of the original Presidio*

1825-1830 *Home to the first Mexican Governor of Alta California, Don Jose Maria Echeandia*

1827 *Jedidiah Smith (1799-1831), first explorer and first American to successfully travel coast to coast to San Diego using a southern land route, arrived at the Presidio for the first of two visits, being arrested both times (and released) for entering Mexican territory illegally*

1846 *Ft. Stockton developed to protect American interests from Mexican interests. This hill traded hands between the two governments at least twice until the Treaty of Hidalgo (1848) ended the Mexican-*

Inside this issue

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

(look for answers inside)

Where is that?

Sequoia

Sempervirens

Redwood Grove

1847 *The Mormon Battalion (500 men and 80 women) arrived after what is said to be the longest infantry march ever, only to find San Diego not actively engaged in the Mexican-American War, as the military focus was elsewhere*

1907 *George W. Marston began trying to “sell” the City of San Diego on the idea of preserving Presidio Hills ruins from the surrounding urban growth*

1912-1924 *Marston slowly purchased privately held lots totaling 20 acres (put in trust for the City)*

1913 *Serra Cross erected by the Order of Panama under the direction of George Marston*

1925 *The City donated an adjacent 10 acres. Marston wished to give the total land to the City, but due to the economic conditions caused by The Great Depression, the City of San Diego was unable to assume stewardship*

1925-1941 *Marston developed the park financing the surveying, excavations, grading, roads, water systems and horticultural development (Kate Sessions) based on the notions and advice of City Beautiful advocate John Nolan*

1928 *Marston organized the San Diego Historical Society to spark interest in local history and preserve historical sites such as Presidio Hill*

1929 *Architect William Templeton Johnson designed and built the Serra Museum, first home of the San Diego Historical Society, paid for by George W. Marston*

1933 *Commissioned sculptor Arthur Putnam’s The Indian and The Padre were permanently moved to Presidio Park*

1934 *Funds from the Work Projects Administration were used to build many structures: drainage ditches, water fountains, lookout structures etc.*

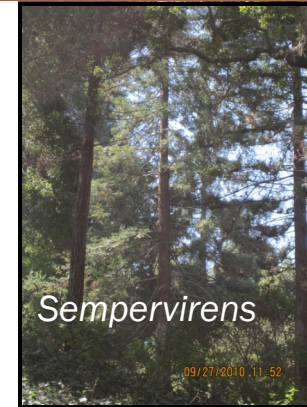
1937 *City of San Diego assumed financial and maintenance control of Presidio Park*

SEQUOIA SEMPERVIRENS

Did you know that a grove of Coast Redwoods grows in Presidio Park? Historically, Coast Redwoods have been determined to be among the world’s oldest and tallest trees. The Presidio Park Redwoods reach heights of about 70 feet. It is unclear when they were planted, but may have been planted as far back as the 1930’s. Did you know that the genus (sequoia) was given this name in honor of the Sequoyah, the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet? When you find this grove, you will notice that some trees seem to be struggling. San Diego may not be the optimal climate for this grand tree.

PRESIDIO PARK RANGER-LED TOURS

Join a Park Ranger every second Sunday of the month for a free tour of Presidio Park. The Ranger will discuss the history of Presidio Park and its relevance to the area, horticulture, archeology and more. All designed to give you a greater understanding and appreciation of this beautiful park. Please meet outside the entrance of the Serra Museum at 1pm.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:(answers)

Where is that?

East of the “bowl”
S.E. of the Rest-room

4400 Cosoy Way
Beginning of the trail entering Palm Canyon

Across the street from the very tall Canary Island Pines that line the road

ALL of the above!

OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS...

CURRENT VOLUNTEERS

Stein Education Centers:

Providing litter abatement several times a week throughout the park, and their help is greatly appreciated.

Poly Tech School-Paris, France

Two students worked in Presidio Park for 4 weeks on various projects, including building a trail and demarcating it with post and cable-near the 3 ginkgo trees off of Cosoy Way.

Presidio Plant ID. Project:

We are now moving forward with the GPS and GIS process! Three areas have been GPS’ed and a 4th nears completion.

....stay tuned....

HELPFUL HINTS

PLEASE BE ADVISED

- Smoking is **ILLEGAL** in all of San Diego’s parks and beaches.
- Please keep your park clean.
- Do not stake anything into the ground. No metal detectors.
- Please do not feed the wildlife. **It is NOT beneficial to them.**
- Camping in the park is not allowed.
- **Please stay on designated trails.**
- It is prohibited for People or pets to be off trail. Staying on the trail preserves the park.
- Jump-for-Joys are not allowed.
- **Dogs must be leashed at all times.**