

FACT SHEET

BATTERY BLUFF

[Battery Bluff](#) encompasses six acres of new park land created on top of the western most set of the Presidio Parkway tunnels. Made possible by the [Presidio Parkway Project](#), which rebuilt the highway to the Golden Gate Bridge, Battery Bluff is one of several inspiring new park sites to open to the public in 2022. Related sites include the adjacent Cavalry Bowl (ten acres) and the centerpiece of the project, [Presidio Tunnel Tops](#), which adds an additional 14 acres of green space outfitted with trails, gardens, overlooks, and gathering areas, as well as youth and community facilities. The [Quartermaster Reach Marsh](#) was opened in December of 2020. A total of 50 were created in total.

Battery Bluff Amenities

- Overlooks with new views of the Golden Gate, Angel Island, Alcatraz, and the city skyline
- Picnic tables and benches
- Interpretive signage telling the history of this storied place
- Native and ornamental gardens planted with 60,000 plants (90% native)
- Visual connection to the beautiful San Francisco National Cemetery
- A multi-use, accessible section of the Presidio Promenade trail extending from the Korean War Memorial to the Cavalry Bowl, Crissy Field, and the Golden Gate Bridge
- Access to four newly preserved historic batteries - Slaughter, Baldwin, Sherwood and Blaney – on view for the first time since 1936.

Opening Date

April 23, 2022

About The Batteries

In the late 1800s, the United States' growing global importance increased the threat of attack by a foreign navy. The U.S. Army responded by building gun batteries around the Golden Gate to protect San Francisco Bay—fifteen around Fort Scott in the Presidio, and more in the Marin Headlands. They housed guns that could hit targets up to 12 miles out to sea. There were never any shots fired in battle, and all guns were removed by 1920.

- The four built on Battery Bluff between 1899 and 1902, Slaughter, Baldwin, Sherwood and Blaney, were originally called the National Cemetery Batteries.
- Battery Slaughter was the first to be built, holding three, 8-inch artillery called “disappearing guns”. These guns carriages were designed to lower the guns mounted on them after each shot. Retracting the guns meant the soldiers loading and firing them could remain safely below protective parapets but firing these was a slow process. Battery Chamberlin at Baker Beach features a 6” disappearing gun and carriage (the only one on the west coast) like what was mounted at Battery Slaughter.

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- Baldwin, Sherwood and Blaney were build next, and held smaller rapid-fire guns.
- By 1937, construction of the Doyle Drive highway to the new Golden Gate Bridge buried all but the upper parts of Batteries Baldwin and Slaughter; the current project has partially restored portions of the original landscape around the four coast artillery batteries.
- The Trust oversaw extensive work to clean, repair, stabilize, and interpret the batteries at Battery Bluff, making them accessible to visitors for the first time since 1936.

Battery Bluff Project Team

General oversight: Presidio Trust

General Contractor: Plant Construction

Engineer of Record (Civil/Environmental): TRC

Landscape Architect: Page

Environmental Consultant: HT Harvey

Batteries

General Contractor: Plant Construction

Historic Preservation: Architectural Resources Group

Historic Structural Engineering: Tuan & Robinson

Presidio Parkway Landscape Restoration cost

\$41.5M