3406 -01- 1 B

Date: 2-8-02

To: Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



As a response to the National park Service ANPR intended to solicit comments from the public regarding pet management within the GGNRA:

I ask for the analysis of any alternative to the current restrictive regulation be measured from the baseline of the former policy that allowed off leash dog walking in certain areas.

I ask that the current regulation be changed to designate former "voice control" areas for off leash dog walking at Fort Funston, Ocean Beach and Lands End at the very least.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(signature)

SEAN P. DUNN (name)

76 VALLEY RD (address)

SAN ANSELMO CA 94960

Comments accepted Jan. 11, 2002 through March 12, 2002

3407-01-1A

Date: 2-8-02

To: Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



As a response to the National park Service ANPR intended to solicit comments from the public regarding pet management within the GGNRA:

I ask for the analysis of any alternative to the current restrictive regulation be measured from the baseline of the former policy that allowed off leash dog walking in certain areas.

I ask that the current regulation be changed to designate former "voice control" areas for off leash dog walking at Fort Funston, Ocean Beach and Lands End at the very least.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

_____(signature)

BRUCE COUCH (name)

159 8TH STREET (address)

SF CA 94103

Comments accepted Jan. 11, 2002 through March 12, 2002

3408-01-1B

Date: 2/25/02

To: Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



As a response to the National park Service ANPR intended to solicit comments from the public regarding pet management within the GGNRA:

I ask for the analysis of any alternative to the current restrictive regulation be measured from the baseline of the former policy that allowed off leash dog walking in certain areas.

I ask that the current regulation be changed to designate former "voice control" areas for off leash dog walking at Fort Funston, Ocean Beach and Lands End at the very least.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rick Barsotti (signature)

Rick Barsotti (name)

15 Los Robles Dr (address)

San Rafael, CA 94901

Comments accepted Jan. 11, 2002 through March 12, 2002

3409-02-1A

Mrs. Byron Blakeman
2680 Green St.
San Francisco, CA 94123



March 8, 02

Golden Gate Nat'l. Rec. Area
Bldg. 201
ANPR Bldg. 201
San Francisco, Ca
94123

Dear Sirs:

I have a dog and I am protesting the fact that the dogs have to be leashed on park areas.

On the part this

1/2

was not a problem. As long as the owner cleans up after the dog, I can't see a problem.

Sincerely,

Amy Blakeman

3409-02-1A

2/2

3410-01-1B

**Mel Ziegler**
**POB 345**
**Stinson Beach, Ca. 94970**



GGRNA/ANPR
Fort Mason, Room 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

March 7, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Stinson Beach, I wish to register my strong approval for continuation of the current policy banning dogs from the beach. I would also support the banning of dogs in the parking and picnic areas.

As a frequent walker/runner on the beach, I offer these reasons:

1. Where dogs are allowed further down the beach, I have seen children attacked on numerous occasions, and I myself have been attacked.
2. I have often seen dogs defecating on the sand and rarely seen their owners cleaning up after them...
3. There are plenty of other options for dogs to run in the nearby GGRNA and state park areas. There is no need to befoul the beach with dog waste.

I appreciate that you will take my comments into considerations in your final ruling on banning dogs at Stinson Beach.

Sincerely,

Mel Ziegler

3411-01-1A



Claus Schlund
151 Banks St.
San Francisco, CA 94110-5622
07-Mar-2002

GGNRA
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason
Bldg 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

To whom it may concern:

I'd like to strongly recommend that the GGNRA please decide to allow off-leash dog recreation within some portion of it's San Francisco boundaries. People and their dogs enjoying the beach and parklands has been a long-standing activity enjoyed by many San Francisco urbanites. Since the GGNRA is located in such close proximity to the urban areas of the city, I'd humbly suggest it be appropriate that the GGNRA parklands provide at least some areas which are dedicated largely to serving those who live close by and are it's largest group of users - urban San Francisco dwellers. Many of us who live here is San Francisco are dog owners, and I believe it to be only fair that some portion of the land allow for people and dogs to come and play, recreate, enjoy, and relax.

Thanks for you attention to this matter.

Claus Schlund (a dog owner - obviously!)

3412-01-1A



*Alla Pavlov*
*591 – 32nd Avenue*
*San Francisco, CA 94121*

February 29, 2002

Golden Gate national Recreation Area
Attention: **ANPR**
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

*Re: Fort Funston*

As your name attests, it is supposed to be a *National Recreation Area*. As such, it is intended for people and their faithful friends to enjoy. By prohibiting dogs off leash, neither they nor their owners can really enjoy it.

I contest that you do not allow us to walk our dogs off-leash at Fort Funston, where we have walked with them ever since I was a child. As you well know, the land was deeded to the GGNR, to be maintained for the citizens of San Francisco for their recreational enjoyment. If we can no longer enjoy what was intended for us, I think then we should request the land back.

I am over 80 years old and want to walk with my dog at Fort Funston. I want to have him enjoy being off-leash, as he had always been, and I want to enjoy the closeness of the ocean, feeling the breezes and seeing the sunsets – as I have done for many years.

Due to all the closures you have instituted, even if my dog should be on-leash, we no longer can gain access to the beach. I truly feel that in my golden years I have been robbed of treasures that I always considered would be mine as a tax-paying citizen of San Francisco.

Very truly yours,

Alla Pavlov

cc: Jake McGoldrick, Supervisor, District 1

3413-01-1A

February 2002



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
ATTN: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Greetings:

The GGNRA is a recreational area - meant to both preserve the natural beauty and wildlife of the area and to allow the community access and enjoyment of these beautiful lands through a variety of activities, including off-leash dog walking.

There are many reasons why off-leash recreational areas should be a part of the GGNRA. People who participate are respectful of the wildlife and habitat and are responsible guardians of their dogs. These activities in natural settings renew both human and animal spirits and the positive results, such as the health and well-being of people and pets, are infused back into the community.

Traditional off-leash areas are an extremely small part of the GGNRA, compatible with the continued protection of sensitive habitat and wildlife. San Francisco has always received assurances that GGNRA lands would continue to allow traditional recreational uses, such as off-leash dog walking. It would be a sign of good faith if the GGNRA abided by the Pet Policy implemented in 1979 by the GGNRA Citizens' Advisory Commission allowing off-leash walking in certain areas. The importance of such areas is underscored by the State of California's exploring part of the Candlestick Point area as a potentially off-leash area.

The National Park Service has committed to maintaining a broad range of recreational use appropriate to a recreational area, including off-leash dog walking - a place and space to play, making healthier, happier dogs and their people. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Natalia Boyson

3414-02-1A

March 6, 2002



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

Thank you for re-examining the GGNRA's informal policy to allow dogs off-leash in many areas. I have several concerns and suggestions I hope you might incorporate into whatever regulations you eventually promulgate.

**Commercial Dog Walkers**

This is a primary source of the conflicts with dogs in many areas of the GGNRA. I routinely see commercial dog walkers in the Presidio for example with 9 or more dogs at a time. Sometimes a subset of the dogs may be on a leash, most are not. The walkers do not have the dogs under voice control – they may be able to herd dogs from one place to another but they are not able to get them from jumping on other people, interacting with other dogs, keep them out of sensitive habitats, or stop them from chasing wildlife. Rarely do I see these business people picking up feces. While I have not been bitten, I know many people who have. I also know several people who are afraid of dogs and have found themselves in between two commercial dog walkers, suddenly surrounded by 20 dogs. I therefore make several suggestions:

- Limit the number of dogs anyone can have with them at any one time. I suggest a limit of 3 dogs, with commercial dog walkers able to apply for permits/concessions to have up to 6 dogs.
- Make commercial dog walkers park concessionaires. Require them to pay for the privilege of doing business on park lands. I couldn't open a hot dog stand on East Beach, could I? The same principle should apply to dog walkers.
- Limit how many permits may be issued for a particular area.
- Establish fines as part of their permit if they fail to meet the standards. Require them to carry cards they can hand to any one who asks who catches them not meeting the standards (i.e., although other visitors to help with compliance).
- Use the revenue generated from the concessions and fines to support increased patrols/enforcement.

Off-Leash Areas

I support establishing defined off-leash dog areas if that would encourage dog owners to keep their dogs on leash in other areas. I think you cannot ban all off-leash use throughout GGNRA because you can't enforce it and people will not choose to comply. Some candidates for off-leash areas might be the Crissy airfield as the grass isn't suitable for other uses. Portions of Ocean Beach should be identified as off-leash areas, but not the entire beach (i.e., maybe the portion of the beach where the sea wall is visible is off-leash, the dunes area not.

3414-02-1A

Please keep Baker and East Beach an on-leash area. Many heavily visited areas like the promenade on Crissy or the Tennessee Valley area trails should require dogs to be on leash.

**Find Ways to Encourage Compliance**
I would encourage you to find ways to encourage dog owners to voluntarily comply with the regulations. Perhaps creating a volunteer patrol for dog owners so that peer to peer education and enforcement could occur (similar to mountain bike patrols in some parks). Create stewardship opportunities – say a monthly dog feces pick up party. Have they help install regulatory signs relating to dogs, etc. It sounds odd but creating ways for dog owners to give back to the park, also help them to understand the larger park values and more likely to comply.

**Establish more off-limit areas**
Be clear in your regulations that habitat restoration sites, coastal dunes, wetlands, creeks, marshes, wildlife habitat areas are off-limits to dogs, leashed or not. Create some beach areas that are off-limits to dogs so that people have options to have a park experience without dogs. Post areas as closed to dogs prominently.

Moreover, decide this issue quickly. Don't let it drag out with tons of public hearings where the public that has issues with dog use will not be likely to attend. The longer you let this go the higher tensions get. The higher the tension, the less compliance with any regulations you eventually develop. You aren't going to get a true cross-section of opinion at public meetings on this topic. But there are a substantial number of people fed up with off-leash dogs and would like to see more of a balance struck than the current policy does.

Sincerely,

Holly Van Houten

Holly Van Houten
109 Bartlett Street #302
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 561-5424

March 7, 2001

3415-01-17



Attn: ANPR
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bldg. 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

It has come to my attention that off-leash recreation for dogs in the GGNRA is threatened. These places(including Ocean Beach, Fort Funston, Crissy Field, Baker Beach, Muir Beach, Rodeo Beach and more) are important to dog owners, as many do not have such excellent areas to bring their dogs where they can play and be exercised. Fort Funston is a particurly good one and has been the site of many a happy time for our local canines and their owners. I have two dogs, a Golden Retriever (who loves the water) and a Lhasa Apso (who likes to socialize with other dogs). They would be able to continue these activities in suitable areas; the local parks are not adequate.

I hope that a solution that balances the wishes of dog owners and the need to protect and preserve our resources can be reached.

Sincerely,

Lucille Asaro

Lucille Asaro

The Humane Society of the United States
Mrs Lucille Asaro
2309 Tulare Ave
El Cerrito CA 94530-1662

3416-01-1A



March 8, 2002

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

As a victim of an unprovoked attack by an unleashed dog at Ocean Beach in 1998, I strongly urge the GGNRA to continue to enforce the National Park Service's rules on dogs in national parks.

San Francisco should not be an exception to the rules which have served the country well. For years dog owners have disregarded citizens who wish to able to enjoy the GGNRA free of danger and filth. We face both safety and health issues.

Personally, I have long given up walking on Ocean Beach or Fort Funston due to free running off-leash dogs. I still have the scar from an attack. UPHOLD THE RULES ON DOGS IN NATIONAL PARKS.

Sincerely,

Nancy Elsner

Nancy Elsner
2275-19th Avenue, #8
San Francisco, CA 94116-1805

PS Keep in mind that dog owners are organized and vociferous but do not represent the average citizen of SF.

3417-01-1A

To: GGNRA
ATTENTION: ANPR
FORT MASON
BUILDING 201
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123



March 8, 2002

Please add my plea to the many you will receive asking that we find a way to make off leash dog walking legal in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Clearly, the GGNRA is not your typical national park and the needs and concerns of the urban community need to be considered. Off-leash dog walking, in addition to other recreational opportunities, was an intended activity when the City of San Francisco gave its beaches and bluffs to the GGNRA. When the Pet Policy was adopted in 1979, it assured dog owners that the needs of our precious gifts of nature, our dogs, would be considered. It assured us that even in a congested city, we would be able to give our dogs the regular vigorous off-leash exercise they need, an opportunity to socialize with other dogs and other people, and to live as they were designed to live, which is not at the end of a six foot leash. When the GGNRA declared the policy null and void, it was like having the carpet pulled out from under our feet and our paws.

I believe there is room in the GGNRA for all of us, for everyone's concerns.
In all fairness, don't we deserve at least .5 percent of the 75,000 acres in the park? Don't we owe our dogs at least that much? If special laws can be written to allow for hunting in some national parks, then surely special laws can be written to allow off-leash dog walking. As a country, we give lip service to our love of dogs. I think it's time we develop policies that protect their interests.

Please be assured that responsible dog owners are concerned about public safety, and we can work through any perceived problems. The vast majority of dog owners are incredibly responsible, and to treat us all as if we are criminals because of the grievous sins of a few is absurd; it is like scratching off your face to get rid of one blemish.

I understand and appreciate the need to protect sensitive habitat, but it is imperative that the GGNRA not become simply a warehouse or greenhouse of native plants. It is imperative that we re-create ourselves in these precious urban park lands as well. For many of us who live in the city, our most viable link to the beauty of nature is through our dogs. I will value always the memory of my everyday dog walks, walks made in every kind of weather, with every kind of people. The experiences we have with our dogs and with others in the dog walking community are life affirming and beautiful. In the many years I walked my dog at Fort Funston and Chrissy Field, I never witnessed a dogfight or attack of any kind, destruction of wild life or resources. What I witnessed, instead, were the best things life is made of, the interaction of man and nature, the marvel of blended souls and spirits. If we can see beyond the politics and bureaucracy, we can see that protecting and promoting this type of experience is definitely in keeping with the mission of the GGNRA.

My precious dog and constant companion for 11 years died one month ago. She will forever be in my heart, and many of my best memories of her will be the long and joyous walks we shared in the GGNRA. I lost my dog, I have my memories, but I want to know also that I will have a future with another dog at another time in the parklands that I have come to love so much.

Please, let's find a way....

With hope and sincerity,

Shirley Strout

Shirley Strout
439 Victoria Street
San Francisco, CA 94132

3418-01-1A
3419-01-1A



Date: March 4, 2002
To: Superintendent O'Neill, GGNRA
From: Michael LaBrie and Andres Maiorana, 1379 Rhode Island Street, San Francisco, CA 94107

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

We firmly and enthusiastically support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). While we understand the GGNRA concerns about public safety and protection of the environment, we believe these concerns can be reconciled with the needs of dog owners and their pets for off-leash recreation areas.

There are no extensive open areas in the city for off-leash recreation. Dog owners and their dogs have the right to be able to walk and run freely in pre-determined off-leash areas. We strongly support responsible pet ownership and requirements that pet owners, visiting a GGNRA recreational area adhere to reasonable off-leash requirements, such as picking up dog feces and keeping their pet under voice control.

Therefore, we strongly advocate for the development of an alternative pet management regulation for GGNRA that will allow for off-leash recreation in some areas of the GGNRA to be designated.

Following are our comments on this activity as well as information about us that may be relevant to this issue:

For several years we have been taking our dog to Fort Funston on weekends so that all of us can enjoy off-leash recreation. The beach at Fort Funston is the part of the GGNRA that we feel most strongly must be preserved for off-leash recreation.

On our many visits to Fort Funston, we have always enjoyed the great diversity of people and dogs who enjoy playing on the beach or in the surf. We always see individuals from all racial and age groups and families with young children. We have always been impressed and pleased that both dogs and people get along so well on the beach. NEVER have we seen any acts of aggression by either dogs or people.

The loss of the beach at Fort Funston for off-leash recreation would be a tragedy – there are no other extensive ocean beaches in the City where people can enjoy exercising and playing with their dogs off-leash. It is for this reason that so many of the people at Fort Funston on any given weekend are dog owners!

Given the long-standing unofficial practice of off-leash recreation at Fort Funston, we believe that this practice must continue as an essential need of urban dwellers of San Francisco and their dogs.

Signed Michael LaBrie Date 3/6/02 Age: 57 Sex: M Ethnicity:

Signed [signature] Date 3/6/02 Age: 46 Sex M Ethnicity: LATINO

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3420-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Rip Miller (printed)

Address: 406 Corbett Ave San Francisco CA 94114
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

• We visit most all areas of GGNRA.

After the 9-11 world changing event many of us took new stock in what being an American is & how lucky we are! Lucky to have freedom & to the Constitutional guarantee of pursuit of happiness. I would submit it would be a sad day when an individual whether child, adult or Senior can not enjoy the pleasure of owning a dog which in turn requires a place to let a dog (mans best friend) run free & be themselves. After all where would London in WW III be if they had no Churchill & his bulldog which to many symbolized the Spirit of British Humanity!

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now for off-leash recreation? What parts would you LIKE to visit?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you is the social aspect of off-leash recreation? For example, do you bring out-of-town visitors with you or meet up with friends on your walks? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco? – absolutely not

Signed: Rip Miller Date 2-28-02 (optional: Age: 48 Sex (M) F Ethnicity Christian

Version 2.0

3421-01-1B



February 22, 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). There is a large population of dog lovers in the Bay Area. These are tax-paying citizens who support the National Park Service and request only to enjoy a small portion of this land with their beloved pets. I respect the actions of the Park Service to set aside key pieces of land for bird habitats and plant rejeuvenation but there is enough room for humans and dogs to enjoy this area alongside these conservation efforts, since off-leash dog walking is available in only 0.5% of its 75,000 acres of land. Even those who do not have pets can appreciate setting aside land where dogs can get adequate exercise and socialization with other dogs in order to be happy and healthy members of the Bay Area community. These off-leash locations are family friendly, attracting people of all ages who want to enjoy the day with their entire family, including the family dog. In addition, these locations encourage an atmosphere of community where people feel safe visiting at all hours of the day.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning."(16 USC 460bb). The 1979 GGNRA Pet Policy upheld this activity by creating a special provision allowing off-leash recreation. It is now time for the National Park Service to recognize the will of the people and create a Section 7 special rule for off-leash recreation in the GGGNRA. Please act now! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rody G-Wood

Additional Comments:

I OFTEN TAKE MY DOG ERNIE TO CHRISSY FIELD AND FORT CRONHKITE IN MARIN. IT IS IMPERATIVE TO HAVE PLACES LIKE THESE ALLOW FOR OFF-LEASH DOG WALKING FOR THE FREEDOM OF DOGS AND OWNERS ABILITY TO PLAY WITH THEM. LIABILITY SHOULD RESIDE WITH OWNERS WHO "WALK THEIR DOG OFF-LEASH AT THEIR OWN RISK!!

Please Print:

Name: RODNEY WOODSTOCK (optional: Age: 30 Sex: (M) F Ethnicity: CAUCASIAN )

Address: 146 FILBERT AVE, #4 (Street) SAUSALITO (City) CA (State) 94965 (Zip)

3422-01-1A

Date: March 8, 2002

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To: Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

As a response to the National park Service ANPR intended to solicit comments from the public regarding pet management within the GGNRA:

I ask for the analysis of any alternative to the current restrictive regulation be measured from the baseline of the former policy that allowed off leash dog walking in certain areas.

I ask that the current regulation be changed to designate former "voice control" areas for off leash dog walking at Fort Funston, Ocean Beach and Lands End at the very least.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diane Wasnak (signature)

DIANE WASNAK (name)

2334 19TH St. #2 (address)

San Francisco CA 94107

Comments accepted Jan. 11, 2002 through March 12, 2002

3423-01-1A

353 Wawona Street, San Francisco 94127
March 6, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
ATTN: ANPR



Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

Based upon my experience growing up in a frequently-transferred military family and having worked in various parts of the United States, I can attest that San Francisco is the only place to live! Part of the wonder of San Francisco is due to Fort Funston, where the dogs and people can enjoy themselves while walking above the beautiful coastline.

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA because it promotes friendly and well-socialized dogs as well as providing socialization for their owners. A visiting teenaged niece from St. Louis loved going to Fort Funston with me because everyone, including the dogs, seemed to get along so well. She bemoaned the fact that her own dog could only take leash walks because there were no comparable areas in St Louis.

I began my puppy's socialization as soon as I got her at eight weeks. Since her puppy shots weren't effective until she was four months old, I couldn't let her walk on the sidewalks, so I would sit, holding her in my arms, on a bench on West Portal Avenue, inviting passersby to pet her. I noticed that very few minority adults would even approach or allow their children to pet this happy five-pound ball of fur. I believe that seeing all kinds of dogs happily interacting in parks might improve this situation.

Without dogs running around, I would not feel as safe walking in Fort Funston. I would not walk in a number of areas within Fort Funston without my dog.

There have been many exceptions in the national parks for mountain bikes and hang gliders. There can be an exception made for off-leash dogs in the city of Saint Francis.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Coon

Cc: SFDOG
Supervisor Tony Hall
Mayor Willie Brown

Dear Superintendent O'Neill 3424-01-1A Date: 3/1/02

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Laurie Kanevsky (optional: Age: 29 Sex: M (F) Ethnicity: _____)

Address: 98 Sanchez St #B (street) San Francisco (city) CA (state) 94114 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I visit Fort Funston every weekend, mainly for exercise. I benefit from the weekly visits because I am not able to adopt a dog - Funston allows for exposure to animals. The dogs that utilize the GGNRA give it it's appeal.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

Off-leash recreation is essential for all dogs that are socialized and all puppies (to allow for this socialization). It creates a mutually beneficial relationship between humans and their dogs.

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

I believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for all areas of the GGNRA. Pet owners have been responsible for picking up waste and maintaining control of their dogs in the past. The majority should not be punished for the few exceptions. People who utilize the GGNRA see it as a privilage and respect the area, therefore follow the laws and expectations of the city.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

I would no longer go to the GGNRA areas, nor would I support the city. ~~in their attempt to make them angry~~

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

I feel fine in the presence of off-leash dogs. The majority of people in this city do not breed vicious animals. Please do not punish the majority for the mistakes of the uneducated few!

Signed: [signature] Date: 3/1/02

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

PLEASE MAIL BEFORE MARCH 10th

3425-01-1A

**Thomas C. Benét**
**2637 Union street, San Francisco,**
**CA, 94123-3816**



Thursday, March 7

To: Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason Attn:ANPR
Building 201
San Francisco, CA, 94123

Re: Off-leash dog-walking.

To Whom It May Concern:

Although I no longer have any dogs, I used to walk the ones I did have ( among them a superbly gentle Rottweiler and a most civilized stray from the Santa Cruz pound) down at Crissy Field. It was a marvelous spot for them to exercise and we tried to assure that they did not intrude on, or disturb, the other creatures down there - whether avian or human.

They (the dogs) had a great time, and I would hope that some reasonable kind of space may be maintained at Crissy for off-leash canine exercise - under, of course, the beck and call of a responsible owner's voice. Our four-legged urbanites deserve a spot to run off their cooped-up energy.

It seems to me that coexistence is the key. Give the dogs their own nook - a place to prance, chase balls and bodysurf and they will be less likely to ruffle the feathers of other important denizens of this area. Grant the dogs a corner of our complex urban world. They, and we, will be the better for it.

Sincerely,

Tom Benét

**Phone: (415) 346-1772**
**E-Mail: TBenet2637@AOL.com**

3426-01-1A

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Eleanor Elliott (printed)

Address: 104 Moreland St SF Ca 94131
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

I was @ fort funston the other day and all the people + dogs were off leash. No one was fighting. No one was getting tangled in or tripped by a leash. Well trained off leash dogs add to the safety and engoyment of the park. Remember that dogs are used therapuetically for the elderly, disabled + mentally handicapped people as well as for hearing + vision impaired persons. How can it ever be wrong to have large off leash areas for people + dogs.

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now? Where would you LIKE to visit if off-leash was permitted?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation?
- Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area?
- Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas i a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Thanks

Signed: Eleanor Elliott Date 3/2/02 (optional: Age: 64 Sex M (F) Ethnicity H)

Version 2.0

3427-01-1A

1702 Vallejo Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
United States of America



Dear Sir

This is the first time that I have written a letter to express an opinion or comment on a proposed rule. I am doing this because it is extremely important that Crissy Field remain an area where my two Labradors can walk off leash. I am conscientious dog owner who always respects leash requirements and picks up after my dogs but it has been a joy to find area where Frasier and Sam can have a wander off-lease. It improves the quality of their lives and gives me joy to watch them.

Crissy Field is one of the last places that allows this and it is close to my home. It provides a beautiful place that both the dogs and I enjoy. I have seen that Crissy Field has a place for all to enjoy including off-leash dogs. There is no reason that conscientious dog owners and their dogs cannot have off-lease recreation here and still respect the rights of a wide variety of park users, including recognizing and protecting the important natural resources of this area. In fact, I would suggest that there is room for all of us both at Crissy Field and elsewhere in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Please save Crissy Field and GGNRA for off-lease dog walking.

Kind regards

Kelyn Brannon
March 7, 2002

3428-01-IA

Christina La Cerda
625 Scott St. apt 407
San Francisco, CA 94117



To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regard to the upcoming discussion/decision involving the 1979 Pet Policy. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area's citizens' advisory commision will be voting to decide whether or not to rescind this policy and enforce a leash law in areas that have been leash-free havens for years.

The Bay Area needs these places to remain leash free for the good of society. The unbridled joy we witness at places like Fort Funston is difficult to find in modern life, especially with busy, high pressured lifestyles so common in the Bay Area, and we should not take it for granted. There are many citizens, with and without dogs, that appreciate these areas specifically because of the leash-free canines. Please consider these residents when making your decision.

With the all the negative publicity given to dogs and dog owners recently, it is important to remember that the Canario dogs were on leashes when they attacked. So unless you are ready to ban dog ownership altogether, the pet-loving population would appreciate having beautiful leash free areas to share (i.e. NOT a fenced-in, dirt pit postage stamp along with 200 other dogs that have nowhere else to go).

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Christina M. La Cerda, DVM

3429-02-1A

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3/7/02

To whom it may concern,

I am writing because I am a dog owner who's concern about closing off Ft. Funston to off leach Dogs. It's one of the last large areas that dogs can roam + play with their owners and other dogs. I enjoy using it with my dog and I make sure that he is under control and doesn't go into areas that are fenced off.

Ft. Funston has also helped

3429-02-1A

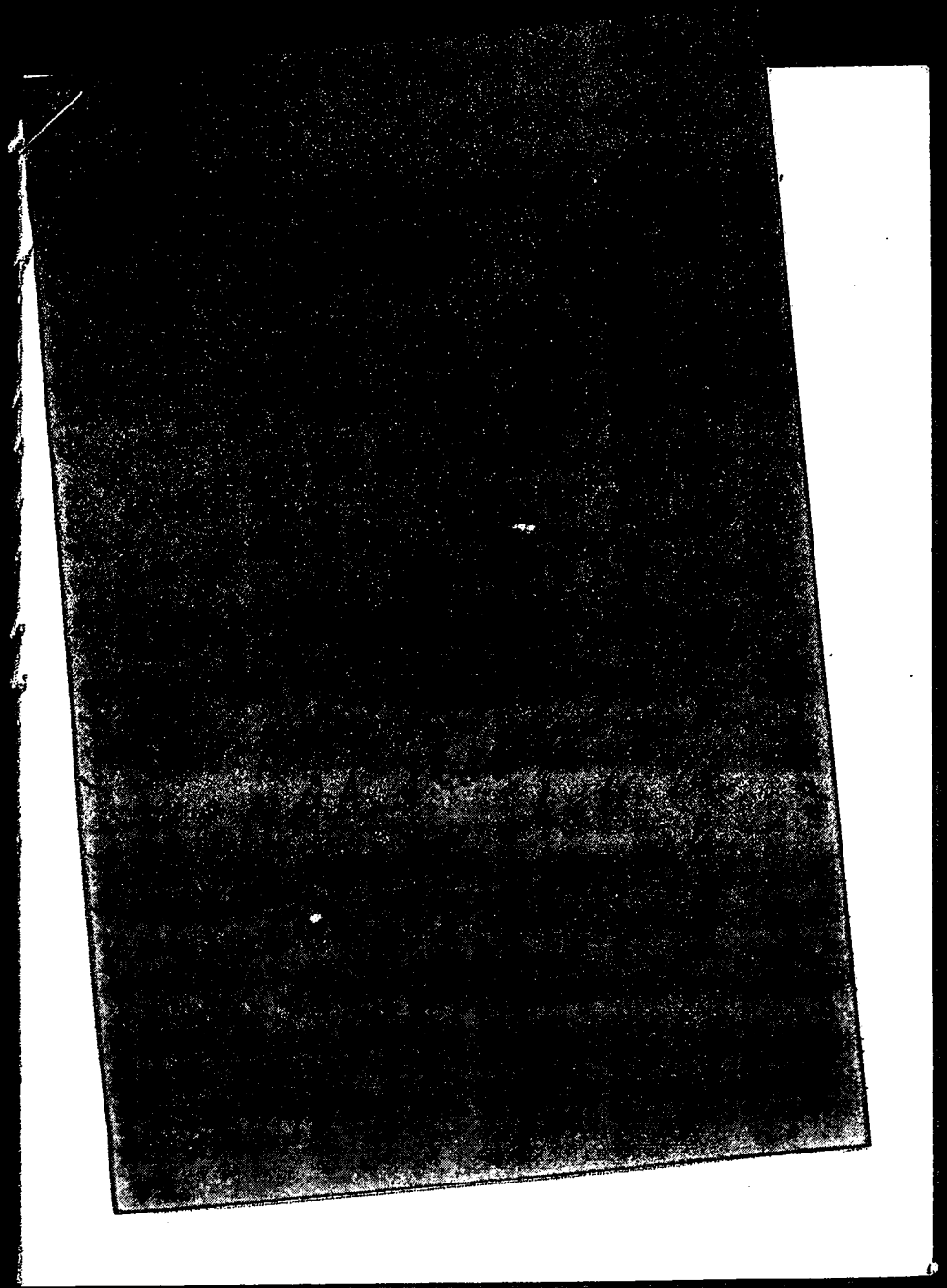
me recover from my bi-lateral knee replacements.

Please, Please, Please reconsider and have more Dialogue with dog owners.

I appreciate all the other groups who want to protect the birds and native plants. But we all have to get along and use the open spaces together. I approve giving tickets to people who don't control their dogs. But let's not punish every dog.

Thank you,
Zeney Junco

2/2



3480-02-1A

94123/1301

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3431-01-IC

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Arline V. Roncella (printed) RONCELLA, A.

Address: 2 OCEAN GROVE AVE. D.C. - CA. 94015
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

6 days a week Fort Funston - Exercise, Breath ocean fresh air & enjoy the views. Seeing & meeting nice people with their beautiful dogs running & playing. This relaxes me & I feel happy when I leave.

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

I have met many disabled people & minorities who purposely visit Fort Funston to see & touch the dogs. Most of them are unable or miss having a dog. I feel safer when dogs are off leash because they are more laid back & occupied with a friend or a ball.

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

Fort Funston is my favorite & relaxed outlet to begin my day. Many times I bring friends & family some from out of town to enjoy the beauty & have fun with all that is offered to us in natural World. I would be very lonely & depressed without the dogs, the people, the ocean in my everyday life.

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

Yes & please continue the off-leash recreation that my family & dogs have been used to for over 25 years.

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Absolutely No

Signed: Arline Roncella Date 5/3/02 (optional: Age: 69 Sex M (F) Ethnicity ____)

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MAR 11 2002

Version 1.0

RECEIVED 3432-01-1B

MAR 11 2002

The Marin Collection
*Fishing near Rodeo Lagoon*
*West Marin*

March 8th

Hello! I am deeply concerned about the dog lobbyists & their bark and bite is vicious. However, if peace is to be achieved, I believe there must set aside some area in SE and some area in Marin & GGNRA for unleashed dog and strictly enforce leashed-dog rule in most of the Park. Wildlife, plants and people come first, and dog owners must realize their dog can be a harmful

Printed exclusively for
Marin Independent Journal
Photographer: Martin Klimek

Mary Elizabeth Burton, Kentfield

**Joseph C. Friedman**

3433-01-1B

75 Marin View Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941
(415) 381-8753

March 8, 2002



Superintendent Brian O'Neill, GGNRA
Attn. ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

This letter is addressed to you with regard to the proposed rules concerning off-lead dog-walking areas in the GGNRA.

Both of us have had long-term, and excellent, experiences walking our dogs – off-lead – on GGNRA property, in the past, and very much hope this policy can continue.

Unfortunately, we are finding it increasingly difficult to find places to walk our dogs, especially off-lead. We have resided in the Bay Area most of our collective lives – and are much upset by GGNRA policies which seek to enforce no-dog, and/or no-dog off-lead, policies.

It is, of course, an unfortunate reality that a FEW irresponsible dog-owners have made life difficult for the rest of us law-abiding citizens. But we very much hope the GGNRA will not "throw the baby out with the bath water" and penalize those of us who are very responsible dog-owners – by forbidding off-lead dog walking.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Friedman

Leslie De Leeuw

3434-01-1D

March 7, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area



Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, Calif. 94123

Dear Park Board Members,

I'm certain you will agree the majority of people in San Francisco live in apartments. Many of these people have dogs. Dogs require exercise. People with dogs should have s much right to use the parks as people with other hobbies that use the parks.

A 75,000 acre park has plenty of space for wildlife habitats when only 0.5 percent of the space would be an off leash area for dogs. Off leash areas in urban parks are not only logical but necessary. Everyone should be able to use the parks. They all pay to maintain them. The location of the Golden Gate Recreation Area should allow the enjoyment of people in the area.

What is the purpose of parks? Rules in each NRA park should be determined by size and needs of the area.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carmen Lasar

Carmen Lasar
612 Waterview Isle
Alameda, C.lif. 94501

3435-01-1B

60 Lincoln Drive
Sausalito, CA 94965

March 6, 2002



GGNRA
ATTN: ANPR
Fort Mason Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in response to the ANPR's decision to consider whether there is sufficient "public will" to continue the longstanding tradition of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning".

Traditionally, off-leash use has occurred in only 0.5% of the 75,000 total acres in the GGNRA. Please do not take away this privilege. There are a tremendous number of dog owners in the areas surrounding the GGNRA, and so very few places remaining where pets can get healthy exercise. Small, confined "dog parks" do not fill this need.

I fervently believe that off-leash activity can still continue while respecting other park uses, including preservation of natural resources and other recreational uses. The overwhelming majority of dog owners are responsible individuals who ensure that this privilege is not abused.

Sincerely,

Richard Breitung

Richard Breitung
Sausalito Resident

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3436-01-1B

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Elaine E. Rosemond (printed)

Address: 22 Pierce Drive (street) Novato (city), Ca. (state) 94947 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What a the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I visit Ft. Funston on an average of 2 times a mo. to walk my dog, I would go more often if it was closer. I meet friends there + enjoy the ocean, views, etc.

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

I am elderly and off-leash dogs do not bother me in the least!

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet u with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longe off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

This is a social outlet for me with family + friends along. I have made new friends at Ft. Funston also.

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you hav suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

You could ~~restrict~~ use some areas for only off-leash dog recreation.

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

No!!!

Signed: Elaine E. Rosemond Date 3-6-02 (optional: Age: 71 Sex M (F) Ethnicity

Version 1.0

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MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

GGNRA012732

3487-01- 1A


# ST. MARY THE VIRGIN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2325 Union Street
San Francisco, CA 94123

The Rev. Beth Hansen, Associate Rector


March 7, 2002



GGNRA;
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

FAX: (415) 561-4355

I am greatly concerned about the talk about prohibiting off leash dogs in the Golden Gate Recreational Area, especially on Crissy Field.

**Please do all you can to keep off leash areas for dogs on Crissy Field.**

This field and adjoining path and beach is so perfect for family dogs to get their exercise and be calm content healthy members of our families and community. I am out there every day for 1 ½ hours and have never seen any trouble with off leash dogs and I'm quite perplexed as to why the GGNRA want to restrict our dogs to leashes.

Family dogs need more exercise than they can receive on leash; and penned up runs are too small and unhealthy, and for many other reasons not a good solution.

**Please advocate and work for policies that encourage well trained dogs** that can find full exercise off leash in locations convenient to our residences.

Be smart and fair. Don't punish those of us who work hard to have well trained healthy dogs in our families.

Thank you for your attention to this public concern; it GREATLY effects the quality of life in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Beth Hansen

3438-01-1B

60 Lincoln Drive
Sausalito, CA 94965

March 6, 2002



GGNRA
ATTN: ANPR
Fort Mason Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in response to the ANPR's decision to consider whether there is sufficient "public will" to continue the longstanding tradition of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning".

Traditionally, off-leash use has occurred in only 0.5% of the 75,000 total acres in the GGNRA. Please do not take away this privilege. There are a tremendous number of dog owners in the areas surrounding the GGNRA, and so very few places remaining where pets can get healthy exercise. Small, confined "dog parks" do not fill this need.

I fervently believe that off-leash activity can still continue while respecting other park uses, including preservation of natural resources and other recreational uses. The overwhelming majority of dog owners are responsible individuals who ensure that this privilege is not abused.

Sincerely,

Robin Niemeyer
Sausalito Resident

ear Superintendent O'Neill: 3439-01-1B

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MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Date: 3/7/02

support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Nicole Gulati (optional: Age: 27 Sex M (F) Ethnicity multiracial

Address: 160 Santa Rosa Ave. (street) Sausalito (city) CA (state) 94965 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.
I visit ggNRA about 3X month to walk my dog w/my friends. I generally go to Fort Funston + Marin Headlands. I am also a big brother/big sister for some foster children and going to ggNRA is the only chance. they have to see animals.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?
off-leash recreation is definately a social outlet for my friends and their dogs!! We meet on weekends to catch-up, get some exercise, and give our dogs the rare opportunity to do some socializing of their own!

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations. off-leash recreation is essential. Dogs need to learn to socialize both w/humans + other dogs. Leashes make this difficult as a dog feels vulnerable with it on. there are so many areas that already don't allow dogs - fencing them in "dog park" pens will only cause our dogs to be unsocialized + untrained

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
I would probably have to drive up North without my friends (they live in SF) to find a few places that remain. No more walks w/my friends + their dogs in SF would be really sad. Please preserve the few areas that remain.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?
If people care enough to get their dogs out and can keep them from running away off-leash means that they have trained them, that makes me feel safer than the on-leash dogs I see that are pulling + the owners can't

Signed: [signature] Date 3/7/02

Thank you!

GGNRA078705

To Whom It Ma[redacted]ncern: 3440-01-IC

**I strongly support existing regulations that require pets to be on leash and on trail when in national parks.** I support Option A as proposed in the recent ANPR.

Changing the leash law for just the GGNRA would set a dangerous precedent for national parks throughout the country. Allowing pets off-leash is inconsistent with the park mission to protect natural resources and the safety of all visitors. Numerous scientific studies—including one by the American Humane Association—identify off-leash pets as a threat to visitor safety and wildlife and therefore recommend that pets be leashed in natural areas.

Lax enforcement at GGNRA has resulted in many documented cases of off-leash pets threatening or biting park visitors and hazardous rescues of uncontrolled pets and their owners. It is no surprise that 82% of Bay Area residents (KPIX poll) prefer pets on leash. I agree!

Sincerely,

Emily Majnoghi
E. Majnoghi

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MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3-9-02 3441-01-IC

*Lilium h[redacted]dtii*, UC Botanical Garden
One of the most beautiful California native lilies, growing to heights of 6-7 feet, this lily lives along moist creek banks in northern California.

Dear Superintendent,
We urge you to continue the regulation of requiring dogs to be on leash in our National Parks. Please keep the San Francisco area Parks safe for everyone, including the native species. Thank you
Mr & Mrs R. Cossins

Photograph by Richard Anderson
University of California Botanical Garden

COSSINS
459 Marin Dr.
Burlingame, CA 94010

al Garden

SAN FRANCISCO CA 941
9 MAR 2002

EAS[redacted]
SE[redacted]
FIGHT CRIME

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MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Superintendent
GGNRA
Attention ANPR
Fort Mason,
Building 201
San Francisco, CA
94123

To Whom It May Concern: 3442-01-1A

**I strongly support existing regulations that require pets to be on leash and on trail when in national parks.** I support Option A as proposed in the recent ANPR.

Changing the leash law for just the GGNRA would set a dangerous precedent for national parks throughout the country. Allowing pets off-leash is inconsistent with the park mission to protect natural resources and the safety of all visitors. Numerous scientific studies—including one by the American Humane Association—identify off-leash pets as a threat to visitor safety and wildlife and therefore recommend that pets be leashed in natural areas.

Lax enforcement at GGNRA has resulted in many documented cases of off-leash pets threatening or biting park visitors and hazardous rescues of uncontrolled pets and their owners. It is no surprise that 82% of Bay Area residents (KPIX poll) prefer pets on leash. I agree!

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Bruss
845 Corbett Ave

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern: 3443-01-1A

**I strongly support existing regulations that require pets to be on leash and on trail when in national parks.** I support Option A as proposed in the recent ANPR.

Changing the leash law for just the GGNRA would set a dangerous precedent for national parks throughout the country. Allowing pets off-leash is inconsistent with the park mission to protect natural resources and the safety of all visitors. Numerous scientific studies—including one by the American Humane Association—identify off-leash pets as a threat to visitor safety and wildlife and therefore recommend that pets be leashed in natural areas.

Lax enforcement at GGNRA has resulted in many documented cases of off-leash pets threatening or biting park visitors and hazardous rescues of uncontrolled pets and their owners. It is no surprise that 82% of Bay Area residents (KPIX poll) prefer pets on leash. I agree!

Sincerely,

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern: 3444-01-1A

**I strongly support existing regulations that require pets to be on leash and on trail when in national parks.** I support Option A as proposed in the recent ANPR.

Changing the leash law for just the GGNRA would set a dangerous precedent for national parks throughout the country. Allowing pets off-leash is inconsistent with the park mission to protect natural resources and the safety of all visitors. Numerous scientific studies—including one by the American Humane Association—identify off-leash pets as a threat to visitor safety and wildlife and therefore recommend that pets be leashed in natural areas.

Lax enforcement at GGNRA has resulted in many documented cases of off-leash pets threatening or biting park visitors and hazardous rescues of uncontrolled pets and their owners. It is no surprise that 82% of Bay Area residents (KPIX poll) prefer pets on leash. I agree!

Sincerely,

Johanna Gendelman
5 Lundys Lane
SF CA 94110

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern: 3445-01-1A

**I strongly support existing regulations that require pets to be on leash and on trail when in national parks.** I support Option A as proposed in the recent ANPR.

Changing the leash law for just the GGNRA would set a dangerous precedent for national parks throughout the country. Allowing pets off-leash is inconsistent with the park mission to protect natural resources and the safety of all visitors. Numerous scientific studies—including one by the American Humane Association—identify off-leash pets as a threat to visitor safety and wildlife and therefore recommend that pets be leashed in natural areas.

Lax enforcement at GGNRA has resulted in many documented cases of off-leash pets threatening or biting park visitors and hazardous rescues of uncontrolled pets and their owners. It is no surprise that 82% of Bay Area residents (KPIX poll) prefer pets on leash. I agree!

Sincerely,

Diana Scott
3657 Wawona
SF, CA 94116

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern: 3446-01-1A

**I strongly support existing regulations that require pets to be on leash and on trail when in national parks.** I support Option A as proposed in the recent ANPR.

Changing the leash law for just the GGNRA would set a dangerous precedent for national parks throughout the country. Allowing pets off-leash is inconsistent with the park mission to protect natural resources and the safety of all visitors. Numerous scientific studies—including one by the American Humane Association—identify off-leash pets as a threat to visitor safety and wildlife and therefore recommend that pets be leashed in natural areas.

Lax enforcement at GGNRA has resulted in many documented cases of off-leash pets threatening or biting park visitors and hazardous rescues of uncontrolled pets and their owners. It is no surprise that 82% of Bay Area residents (KPIX poll) prefer pets on leash. I agree!

Sincerely,

RICHARD A CRAIG
140 TURQUOISE Way
SF. CA. 94131

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3447-01-3B

**Helen Silvani**
**<HSilvani@KQED.org>**
03/11/2002 05:40 PM
PST

To: "'goga_pets_ANPR@nps.gov'" <goga_pets_ANPR@nps.gov>
cc: "'fortfunston@hotmail.com'" <fortfunston@hotmail.com>
Subject: ANPR Comment: In Support of Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA

How can my dog chase tennis balls and sticks, whoop it up with her buddies, or go for a swim attached to a leash? Dogs need exercise and play, too. A good dog is a happy and tired dog. And where can an urban dog play if not at the beach and the park? The streets are too dangerous-we need the open spaces of the GGNRA.
I don't have a problem with vicious and out of control dogs being forced to go on leads-that's the safest thing for all park users. Its a privlege to romp with your dog offlead and people who abuse it should be ticketed.
However, I frequently take my dog to Chrissy Field after work and what I see is a bunch of happy dogs playing and swimming and running-I have yet to see any kind of altercation between dogs or dogs and humans.
Please, we need our off-leash areas for the physical and mental health of us humans as well as our best friends.
Thank You,
Helen and Opal

3448-01-3B

**ted heilbroner**
**<th@paintedmatter.com>**

03/11/2002 10:56 PM
PST

To: <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: responsibility

3/11/02
With regards the proposed dog leash initiative,
As a governmental authority you have a public trust - your first duty is to protect the citizens of this city in public spaces.

I implore you not to forget this duty as you are subject to political pressure - please protect us from dog owners who have no concern for their fellow citizens.

As one example - my wife was running in the Marina - a Doberman came running toward her forcing her to stop in her tracks - when she requested of the owner that he call the dog back the owner replied "he didn't do anything."

If dog owners can't be responsible, you need to provide rules they must obey.

regards,

ted heilbroner

3449-01-3B

**Lbaars1@aol.com**
03/11/2002 11:58 PM
EST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: pets in ggnra

Dear GGNRA Superintendent:

As a regular walker/hiker in GGNRA I urge you to KEEP DOGS ON A LEASH. I am tired of worrying about getting attacked by a dog - or two - or three- approaching me on narrow trails on their own, with no owner in sight.

It amazes me how people care only for their dog's freedom and not about any other life. They scare birds, splash in ocean and streams, etc. Let alone their poop being out of the control of the owner when they are off leash.

Please help save the peace for everyone who is not dog crazy, as well as the animals, who feel the same way.

Sincerely, Leah Baars, psychologist

3450-01-1A

**"John Kasper"**
**<jrkasper@earthlink.net>**

To: <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: GGNRA -Pet Policy

03/11/2002 07:51 PM
PST
Please respond to "John Kasper"

This is to support the existing policy of requiring leashed dogs on GGNRA property and at Fort Funston in San Francisco. I have been a 26 year resident of San Francisco and a frequent user of the beaches, Golden Gate Park, and areas controlled by the Park Rangers. It seems that the dog situation gets worse each year. They harass the native wildlife (birds, ducks, etc.), they eliminate themselves just about everywhere, they engage other dogs in territorial standoffs, for the moment they are unrestrained and roam wildly in an unpredictible manner. And let's not forget the many macho owner's favorite pet - the "Pit Bull". Show any fear whatsoever around these animals and their natural attack instinct kicks in. The owners can barely control them when their leashed, and we want them running wildly scaring everyone half to death. Please do not destroy the tranquility of our great federal park system by giving in to a vocal, but selfish minority. Keep the animals leashed!

3451-02-3B

**Robert Fries**
**<rfries@steinhart.com**
**>**

03/11/2002 07:08 PM
PST

To: "'goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov'" <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: FW: Dog Leash Policy in the GGNRA

-----Original Message-----
**From:** Robert Fries
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2002 7:07 PM
**To:** 'goga_pets_anpr@nsp.gov'
**Subject:** Dog Leash Policy in the GGNRA

My wife (Linda) and I are strongly supportive of the policy requiring all dogs to be ON LEASH in the park.
Our reasons are several:
1. In our experience, a high proportion of owners are not considerate of other people who are sitting, picnicing, walking or running, or of other life (shore birds, other animals, plants), or of posted signs. Over 40 years in San Francisco and surrounding parks we have observed dog owners regularly ignore simple consideration for others. In recent years this has increased, as has the level of anger of the owners when asked to call or leash their dogs after the dogs have run through a picnic, jumped up on someone, or otherwise acted as exuberant dogs will outdoors when uncontrolled. Most owners we have seen walking or running their dogs do NOT have effective (and often any) voice control. These owners are particularly likely to be carrying or wearing the dogs' leashes rather than using them.

2. Off-leash dogs on beaches routinely chase shorebirds. A supposed "study" reported in the Chronicle March 8 to the contrary is completely inconsistent with our experience and with common knowledge. Since dogs can be run in designated areas already in existence, there is absolutely no reason or excuse to allow them to harass the wildlife who make their homes, raise their young, find their food, etc. along the beaches, in the dunes, in the native vegetation, etc. in the GGNRA--- which is in many cases the only place such animals have to live, and where they have lived for ages before people brought dogs there.

3. Contrary to the unstated assumption apparent in most of the pro-offleash literature we've seen, dogs do not have (and owners do not have) a divine right to run free, either in national parks or at all. The fact, if true, that for years in the past they did does not imply that they should now. Values, such as protection of the environment, change/grow and mature over time, just as population does. It is simply wrong to urge that running dogs off-leash is just as easy on others and the environment as it ever was; there are many more dogs and people in the Bay Area than there were 20+ years ago and less open space.

3451-02-3B

4. The national parks, GGNRA included, are among the only refuges for people who live in more and more crowded and noisy cities. Recreation in the GGNRA has its place, yet must be regulated for the enjoyment of all. Presumably no one would urge that runners, cyclists or dogs should be free to run or ride through picnics, children's birthday gathering, hikes, or wildflower walks (for example). Nor should they be free to run/ride through the equivalent areas populated by plants and animals. We all need rules to be able to enjoy our freedoms and particularly to maximize everyone's opportunity to enjoy the parks.

5. A change to allow off-leash dog running would doubtless require the GGNRA to do an environmental impact report for full review before implementing changes. We think the potential detrimental effects (which we see regularly now in the GGNRA and elsewhere) would outweigh any asserted benefits. Right now, the NPS has done the right thing in trying to protect fragile flora and fauna, many of which are threatened or endangered. This is national environmental policy that a vast majority of Americans supports. Undercutting this policy, by permitting the running of dogs off leash in this national park, should not happen without a overwhelming proof that the benefits far outweigh the harm.

Should you be tempted to lessen the restrictions on off-leash dog running, please consider some minimum requirements to minimize the damage. These might include a) dogs being licensed and wearing proof; b) dogs and owners completing training to assure voice control; c) stepped-up enforcement and monitoring [where will the money for this come from?]; and probably several others that you have thought of already. On balance, however, we strongly believe such a course would be a terrible idea and very degrading to the park itself.

Sincerely,
Robert T. Fries

2/2

3452-01-1A

SAVE SAN FRANCISCO BAY ASSOCIATION
Box 925, Berkeley, CA 94701

SAN FRANCISCO CA 941
PM
MAR 2002

I am a bird watcher
Native Plant enthusiast
Mother + dog owner
The majority of dog
owners are responsible
users of parks + open
spaces. Our animals
need space to run and
do less damage than
most people to those
areas. Please consider
us when making your
plans.

A Dunlin, one of approximately one million migratory shorebirds which visit San Francisco Bay each year.

Photo courtesy of Tom Rountree

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
CHRISTENSEN'S OFFICE

GGNRA
attn ANPR
Ft Mason #201
SF Ca 94123

681 27th St San Francisco Ca 94131

3458-01-1B

Susan Dalton
35 Filbert Ave
Sausalito, CA 94965

SAN FRANCISCO CA
PM
2002

As a long time
resident of Bay
area - I want
open space
designated for
well behaved
un leashed dogs

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
CHRISTENSEN'S OFFICE

GGNRA
ATTN ANPR
Fort Mason
Bldg 201
San Francisco
CA
94123

3454-01-1A

TERRY BAUM
547 Douglass Street
San Francisco CA 94114
(415) 648-5244

March 6, 2002

GGNRA
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201
San Francisco 94123



Att: ANPR

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing about the issue of dogs off-leash in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. I am a responsible (I hope) dog owner. I never leave the house without at least three plastic bags -- and THAT'S when I don't have my DOG with me!

But seriously, folks, I really do try to be a good dog-owning citizen, and have been known to pick up the poop of dogs other than my own. My dog is very well behaved, rarely barks and I hope is not a burden to anyone other than me. However, I do confess that I like to have her run off-leash on Crissy Field and at Fort Funston.

I do believe that the freedom of dogs and dog owners should be limited in some ways, in an urban environment. I believe the needs of children take precedence over the needs of dogs. However, I am not so receptive to the needs of wildlife. Let's face it: This is a city. To make GGNRA really conducive to wildlife, we should ban people completely! In fact, the best thing for wildlife would be to abandon the whole city! Let sparrows nest in the skyscrapers and deer wander through Golden Gate Park.

None of that will happen because this is a place where people and their desires and needs are primary. I'm not against limiting dogs in some ways, in particular places, or at particular times when wild animals or birds are breeding. But to always put the needs of wildlife first is ludicrous in an urban park. In my opinion, children's needs come first, then adults and adults with dogs, and THEN wildlife.

Sincerely,

Terry Baum

3/7/02

3455-01-1E

Dena Mosser
1024 Emerson St.
Palo Alto, CA 94301



We are a family - my husband and I and our two dogs. Our children grew up with dogs. My mother-in-law derives great pleasure from their affection.

Yet, increasingly, families such as our are banned from one public place after another - as though we are criminals.

Please do protect the treasure of Fort Funston!

BUT

please do not deny our family & the many others, who enjoy its beauty, use of this park. At a minimum please allow off-leash recreation on the beach.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Dena Mosser

3456-01-1A



GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL REC. AREA
ATTN: ANPR
FORT MASON, BUILDING 201
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent O'Neal: 03/06/02

I support off-leash dog and people recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). I make weekly treks via my bicycle to the park and have lived in San Francisco now for nearly half my life and have never seen a person or dog go out of control when not on a leash.

I am firmly convinced that leash-free people and dogs have never caused any trouble with other leash-free people or dogs and that first amendment rights should continue to be supported by park service personnel in good faith.

Thank you very much indeed for your traditional support for this valued public service for our community to share with visitors to the bay area!

Very Sincerely yours,

JOHN J. DYAL
55 MASON STREET #303
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-2805

3457-01-1A



March 6, 2002

GGNRA
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

We are responsible dog owners who enjoy so much the Bay Beach at Crissy Field. The freedom and safety for dogs of all sizes - ours is on the small side - is one of the best things a San Francisco taxpayer gets to do in their city. We find our dog far more sociable after off-leash time there to run free, play with and investigate others from the "kingdom". Walking along this coastline is a unique blessing of living in San Francisco. The open space and off-leash stretches is so appreciated by inhabitants, furry or human, of crowded city streets.

The beach area is not conducive to biking, so it naturally separates the different desires of outdoors participants. We observe nearly 100% compliance with poop pickup - and because dogs are so easy to check on there, junk is not left in the bushes. Allowing dogs more freedom on the beach areas helps to preserve the planted and grassed sections. A well run, tired dog is far more pleasant to be around - for adults and children alike.

The GGNRA is huge - please keep in mind the needs of everyone.

Sincerely,

Elynor Schuppel

Elynor and William Schuppel
431 Castenada Avenue
San Francisco, 94116

3458-01-1A

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: JACKIE ROMERO [optional]: Age:____ Sex M (F)

Ethnicity HISPANIC

Address: 2825-26TH ST #E SAN FRANCISCO CA 94110
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I VISIT, OCEAN BEACH, STERN GROVE AND FORT FUNSTON. I GO TO ONE OF THESE AREAS EVERY DAY INCLUDING THE WEEKENDS. I HAVE BEEN VISITING THESE AREAS FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS SINCE I GOT MY DOG, KATO. GOING TO ONE OF THESE SPOTS GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUT AND MEET PEOPLE. HAVING A DOG SEEMS TO MAKE SOCIALIZING A PLEASANTRY.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

AS IN #1 I DO FIND THAT THIS IS A SOCIAL OUTLET. I HAVE MET SO MANY NICE PEOPLE SINCE GOING TO THESE PLACES. I HAVE LIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1981 & NEVER VISITED THESE PLACES UNTIL I GOT MY DOG.

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

HAVING MY DOG OFF-LEASH HAS SOCIALIZED THE DOG ALSO. BEING ON LEASH DIMINISHES THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY & SOCIALIZE WITH OTHER DOGS. I NOTICE ALSO THAT ON-LEASH DOGS SEEM TO BE LESS FRIENDLY

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

IT WOULD BE VERY VERY DISAPPOINTING AND TO SOME DEGREE DEPRESSING I DO NOT FEEL THAT GOING TO A BEACH OR PARK WITH THE DOG-ON-LEASH LETS YOU ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

I FEEL SAFE WITH DOGS OFF-LEASH. I HAVE NEVER MET A DOG OFF-LEASH WHO WAS NOT FRIENDLY

Signed: J Romero Date 02-28-02

GGNRA012749

3459-01-1A

**Ellice Sperber**
33 Marcela Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116
415.661.4103



ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
SF CA 94123

March 5, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to you to comment on the proposed rulemaking regarding off-leash dog walking within the GGNRA. I am in favor of the continuation of the traditional usage of GGNRA lands (0.5% of the total 75,000 acres), to be used for responsible off-leash dog walking.

These lands by intention were given to the GGNRA by the City of San Francisco with the understanding that the existing urban recreational use (including off-leash dog walking) would be allowed to continue. After twenty-three years of compliance with the 1979 Pet Policy, I do not understand how the GGNRA can now say that their compliance was a mistake. They have been in compliance. These parks are in urban communities. We need to maintain the intention of urban recreational space.

For the most part, my family walks regularly at Fort Funston. I have two daughters who have accompanied my dog and I on walks since they were toddlers; these family walks with our dog enrich our family. In addition to family walks, I walk in the mornings with my dog, I get fresh air, exercise, stress relief, and have made good friends and acquaintances of diverse ages and backgrounds. I am a mom with two children with significant learning disabilities, an active giving member of my children's' school, a board member for a non-profit organization, and a professional within the disabilities field for twenty-seven years. This responsible life needs these simple responsible walks!

A great part of my enjoyment on my walks is that I am walking in open space. This allows for appropriate dog-exercise, which leads to a well-trained dog, and personal enjoyment of my surroundings. I believe that there is a way to share these 75,000 acres with the dog walkers that will allow for proper security of sensitive habitats, manage the potential for overcrowding in city parks, and honor the continuation of much needed open space for this traditional urban recreational activity.

Sincerely,

Ellice Sperber

3460-01-1A

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Date: 3/8/02
To: Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

As a response to the National park Service ANPR intended to solicit comments from the public regarding pet management within the GGNRA:

I ask for the analysis of any alternative to the current restrictive regulation be measured from the baseline of the former policy that allowed off leash dog walking in certain areas.

I ask that the current regulation be changed to designate former "voice control" areas for off leash dog walking at Fort Funston, Ocean Beach and Lands End at the very least.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

M M Maloney (signature)

2350 Jerrold Ave (name)

SF CA 94124 (address)

Comments accepted Jan. 11, 2002 through March 12, 2002

3461-01-1C

February 19, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my strongest support for maintaining the long-standing tradition of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

It is my understanding that off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA. I also believe that in 1979 the GGNRA Citizen's Advisory Commission implemented a Pet Policy that allows off-leash walking in certain areas; the GGNRA should continue to follow this policy.

Urban parks are different than wilderness national parks, and as such, should allow different uses. And why are hunting dogs allowed to roam free in other national parks but the GGNRA is saying that NPS rule prohibits off-leash dogs?

The success of the recently set-aside protected area at Fort Funston should indicate to you that dog owners will respect the parameters established for off-leash dog walking. We can share the GGNRA with people doing all kinds of different activities, from biking, hiking, hang gliding, and bird watching, and the plants and animals can also thrive.

I urge you to maintain off-leash recreation in designated areas of the GGNRA, for the enjoyment of the city's multitude of dog owners and their pets, whose health, behavior and well-being benefit immeasurably from this much-needed off-leash exercise.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Koontz

NANCY K. KOONTZ
944 SERENA DR
PACIFICA, CA 94044

3462-01-1A

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
ATTN: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I work as a park ranger in the SF Bay Area and I am writing to urge you to maintain the ANPR rule as it is: please keep the dogs on-leash and on the trails (Option A).

I have witnessed first-hand how dogs will chase anything that moves on a beach (such as Ocean Beach and Half Moon Bay State Beach). I am especially concerned about the Western Snowy Plover that may go extinct if we dont enforce leash laws and take other steps to protect its habitat.

Although I am a dog lover, I am also an advocate of giving what's left of our biodiveristy a chance to survive.

Thank you, Michael Mooney 214 Onondaga Ave SF CA 94112

Sincerely,

Mike Mooney M C Mooney 3/5/02
214 Onondaga Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112
michaelamooney@yahoo.com

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

3463-01-1A

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: RANDY GOTTFRIED (printed)

Address: 1334 SIXTH AVE (street) SAN FRANCISCO (city) CA (state) 94122 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I VISIT FT FUNSTON OR CHRISSY FIELD 1X/WEEK. I HAVE A LAB RETRIEVER AND THESE AREAS ARE THE ONLY ONES CLOSE BY TO GIVE HIM THE EXCUSE HE REQUIRES

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

I DON'T SEE IT BEING SAFER TO BE IN OFF LEASH AREA OR LESS SAFE. A BAD DOG WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS ON LEASH OR OFF.

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

ELIMINATING OFF LEASH RULES WOULD BE AWFUL!!!!!!!!! CAN YOU IMAGINE THE NUMBER OF PSYCHO DOGS WHO WOULDN'T GET NEEDED EXERSISE! IT WOULD BE INHUMANE.

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

SEPARATE ON LEASH VS. OFF LEASH IF YOU MUST, BUT DON'T ELIMINATE! DON'T LISTEN TO A VOCAL MINORITY - THE THOUSANDS OF DOGS ~~THAT~~ & THEIR OWNERS THAT USE THE AREAS FOR EXERCISE DEPEND ON ITS AVAILABILITY. I'M PISSED AT THE THOUGHT OF IT & I VOTE!

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

NO!! THIS IS A HUGE ISSUE. ~~AGAIN~~

Signed: [signature] Date 3/8/02 (optional: Age: 34 Sex M F Ethnicity ____)

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Version 1.0

GGNRA012754

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3464-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: RENATO JOSE (printed)

Address: 604 OAK ST (street) SF (city) CA (state) 94117 (zip)

Please do not restrict the freedom of our dogs to enjoy GGNRA land by being leashed. Penalize only bad owners, not all the dogs for being bad.

thank you.

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now? Where would you LIKE to visit if off-leash was permitted?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation?
- Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area?
- Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreatio in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within th GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed tc renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: [signature] Date 03 07 02 *(optional: Age: 31 Sex (M) F Ethnicity )*

Version 2.0

3465-02-1C



MARCH 8-02

"No DOGS OFF Leash"

Hello - Just Want to Relate a quick experience - I took my two yr old grand-daughter to Fort Funston to see the ocean - out of "the blue" come these two huge un-leashed dogs heading Right toward her - I didn't have time to pick her up so quickly - so I bent over her + covered her with my own body - the two dogs "Jumped" on the baby carriage -



V2

3465-02-IC

as I heard the owner/walker calling them screaming — she said they were just being friendly and wanted to lick the baby's face — I said unbelievable lady — put your dogs on a leash. she said — I don't "have to" this is a "leash-free" area.

PLEASE KEEPS DOGS ON LEASHES!

Franco Gianelli
650 755-6810

GGNRA012757

2/2

1

3466-03-1A

**Thomas A Goossens**
**2425 Green Street**
**San Francisco, CA 94123**



March 8, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason
Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Re: Need for off-leash recreation for dogs

Sirs:

The enclosed letter to you from our neighbor Louise Frankel is a clear and concise summary of the reasons many of us in the community urge you not to prohibit appropriate off-leash recreation for dogs in GGNRA. Please consider adopting a solution that will be equitable for the entire community.

Sincerely,

Tom Goossens

1/3

**LOUISE FRANKEL**
**2710 SCOTT STREET**
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123**
**415/931-2710 (V)**
**415/931-2730 (F)**

-1-

6 March 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason
Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Att'n: ANPR

Re: Pet management in GGNRA: Need for off-leash recreation areas for dogs

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Park Service rules prohibiting off-leash dog walking in national parks are not written in granite. They are intended to apply primarily to wild areas. There are many good reasons for them not to apply to our unique urban park.

1. The legislative policy for such an exception was set forth in 16 U.S.C. 460 bb when the GGNRA was established to maintain "recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning." A plan for Crissy Field some five years ago proposed substantial acreage for dogs off leash, with the lagoon and native plants fenced off. Indeed, since 1979 the Park Service has permitted this use, and thus created a public expectation that dog owners may exercise their dogs off leash in certain areas.

2. Many recreational and park uses should and do exist. Seventy-five thousand acres can surely accommodate them all. The City and the GGNRA are a geographic entity in an urban area; they should be good neighbors and share the privileges and burdens of their beautiful environment. While many residents are concerned about the natural features of the Park, flora and fauna, the Park Service itself has shown they can be readily protected without sacrificing generous off-leash dog walking areas. After all, bicyclists, runners, skaters, other sportspersons, even picnics and parties, harm plants and alarm birds and wild animals too. And many non-dog-owners derive great pleasure from watching dogs frisking and playing on the beach.

3. As a good neighbor, the National Park Service must know that the more restrictive and punitive it is toward the dog-owning community, the more dog owners will have to burden city parks and streets. There is plenty of room for everyone. Indeed, the City's population has decreased in recent decades, whereas the dog population has expanded a lot.

4. The dog owners who use the GGNRA for dog exercise and recreation are responsible people who pick up after their pets (and those few forgetful owners too), and keep them under voice control. While the Park Service has been tracking dog-bite incidents, these

are rare compared with the number of dogs that are exercised. Surely there are many bicycle-caused injuries, runners' collisions, children's accidents, sports injuries, physical disputes causing harm. Should all these activities be forbidden in the Park? NO HUMAN OR ANIMAL ACTIVITY IS 100% SAFE.

5. There is plenty of beach adjacent to Crissy Field for unleashed dog recreation. It is an ideal area for that purpose. Sport dogs can swim in the ocean. The dogs do not interfere with other uses (sports, running,biking,picnicking, etc.) for which there is ample other space unaffected by loose dogs. And there are other beach areas (presently off limits) that are equally ideal for off-leash dog recreation.

6. The National Park Service is often viewed as inflexible and bureaucratic in its dealings with the public (i.e. the taxpayers who support it). While this may be a common attitude toward entrenched officialdom, I am certain the current debate about off-leash dog walking in the GGNRA offers a unique, indeed heaven-sent, opportunity for the Park Service to demonstrate conciliation, good will, and consideration toward all the citizen interests subject to its rule-making. Public lands should open as appropriate to all legitimate varieties of public use, and one of those uses has traditionally included unleashed dog recreation.

I therefore strongly urge you not to prohibit appropriate off-leash recreation for dogs in the GGNRA.

Respectfully,

Louise Frankel

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3467-03-1A Date: 3/7/02

support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: FLORA CHEUNG (optional: Age:____ Sex M F Ethnicity____)

Address: 223 Octavia Street San Francisco CA 94102
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I go every day to Ocean beach with my dog. This keep sane after a hectic day.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

~~Every~~ Weekends I take my friends and their dogs to Ocean beach with my friends and their dogs. ~~They~~

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

Yes, absolutely. Dogs need to run and they have every right to enjoy nature as human.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

Devisating.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

Yes, my dogs protect me and alert me of my surroundings.

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002

Signed: [signature] Date 3/7/02

GGNRA012761

12

3467-03-1A

# Please consider this neighborly appeal. Deadline date – March 12, 2002.

The "non-publicly-elected" representatives of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) advisors and superintendents boards have made changes to the way in which they govern the GGNRA areas (which include The Presidio, Baker Beach, Lands End, Fort Miley, The WHOLE of Ocean Beach and Fort Funston). These changes have had **severe implications on many tax paying residents in San Francisco** and the Bay Area. This neighborly appeal specifically refers to the GGNRA ban on off-leash pet activities.

The GGNRA is taking public input on their new policy. **The deadline for this public input is March 12, 2002. Please support your neighborhood community by writing in support of off leash dog areas within the GGNRA.** The attached form can be used. Fill in however much you want (for yourself or in support of friends and neighbors) or just simply state that you support off leash dog exercising in our neighborhood GGNRA areas. Please detach the attached form, fold it, tape it closed, place a stamp on it, and mail it before March 12, 2002. Please make copies and send to your friends and family. Thank you!

Being a city and county just 7 miles square, **San Francisco has a serious shortage of space to exercise dogs** and as we all know, most single and multi-family homes have very small garden areas. San Francisco has approximately 100 000 dogs as dearly loved and cared for pets. Dog owners need to concern themselves with exercising their pets and seeing to their well being. In the light of this, the area of land governed by the GGNRA is very relevant.

**The GGNRA has been systematically, and un-democratically, eliminating off leash areas for dog owners and now they cite anyone who is found exercising their dogs off leash on GGNRA controlled properties.** This seems rather bizarre to those of us who live near, and use, these GGNRA lands as the climate here means that these areas are used by very few people. On a usual foggy day you will know that these areas are almost deserted of people. The huge expanse of Ocean Beach for example is primarily utilized by fishermen, surfers (and used to be used by dog owners exercising their pets). Those walking, running and cycling prefer the paved path on the north side of the Great Highway than on the sandy beach on the south side of the road. It stands to reason.

As you know, Labradors and Retrievers are some of the most popular pets because their nature and temperament are so ideally suited to families with children as well as the elderly. Like many other breeds, the Labrador and Retriever love swimming and fetching balls and sticks thrown into the water or along the beach, or any open space for that matter. These dogs are no different from small dogs in terms of their needs for exercise and socialization with other animals. The GGNRA controlled areas

are thus perfect for doing just that.

The GGNRA, through its no-off-leash policy therefore expects dog owners to provide adequate exercise for these dogs whilst keeping them on a leash. Their dictate is thus that dog owners should either be able to jog with their dogs on leash, or swim in the ocean with their dogs on leash, or walk a good couple of miles each day with their dogs on leash. They are therefore saying to the tax paying residents of the San Francisco Bay Area that either we are fit enough to do the above, or else we must just not have dogs! One assumes that the members of the GGNRA advisory and superintendents boards do not own dogs, and if they do, they do not believe in tending to its needs of being well exercised. Their actions seem to speak volumes in terms of their lack of a democratic sense of caring for the needs of tens of thousands of people in our society.

**Please copy our public representatives on your views**, as they are the ones who are ultimately answerable to us come election day...
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi – sf.nancy@mail.house.gov
Senator Diane Feinstein – senator@feinstein.senate.gov
Senator Barbara Boxer – use her web form http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/webform.html
California State Congressman Kevin Shelley – kevin.shelley@asm.ca.gov
Supervisor Jake_McGoldrick (district 1) – jake_mcgoldrick@ci.sf.ca.us
Supervisor Gavin_Newsom (district 2) – gavin_newsom@ci.sf.ca.us
Mayor Willie Brown – damayor@ci.sf.ca.us

**Please support us as we ask for our tax dollars to include use of GGNRA property for off-leash dog exercise so that**

1. **The elderly who enjoy the companionship of their dogs don't have to take up jogging in order to properly exercise them.**
2. **Those of us who have health problems (back problems, heart problems, knee problems, asthmatic problems etc etc) also aren't forced to take up jogging, distance walking or swimming with our dogs.**
3. **Those of us who believe in the Spare The Air environmental protection campaign will not have to put our pets in the car and DRIVE them to an area where we can off leash exercise them – because the nearby land ideally suited to it has been unilaterally declared off limits to us.**

**Web sites to visit for more information on this issue:**
GGNRA WatchDog – http://fortfunstonforum.com
San Francisco Dog Owners Group – http://www.sfdog.org
California Dog Owners Group – http://www.caldog.org

**Remember – the deadline for the ANPR input is March 12, 2002.**
**Send letters to:**
**Golden Gate National Recreation Area**
**Attn: ANPR**
**Fort Mason, Building 201**
**San Francisco, CA 94123**

March 6, 2001 3468-01-1A

Superintendent, GGNRA
Attention ANPR
Fort Mason, Bldg 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to ask that you not make an exception to National Park Service regulations requiring dogs to be on leashes. The reasons are clear - both for the protection of the environment and of humans.

It would be great if the city would be able to enforce leash laws city-wide.

The logical solution for those who wish to run dogs off-leash is one I saw in New York City while caring for my sister-in-law's dog. In Riverside Park (and I assume elsewhere) there is an enclosed, double-gated area where dogs can run.

Keep the national park safe and environmentally protected by enforcing leash laws.

Thank you.

Jacob Biasotti
2100 Jones St #7
San Francisco, CA 94133

GGNRA012764

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3469-01-1A Date: _____

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: MRS H. S. Bobbitt (DOROTHY) (optional: Age: WAY OVER 65 Sex M (F) Ethnicity ____)

Address: 445-40th AVE (street) SAN FRANCISCO (city) CA (state) 94121 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I VISIT CRISSY FIELD= PRESIDIO OF S. F., FORT FUNSTON I WALK & EXERCISE MY DOGS & MYSELF - SOMETIMES I TRAIN MY OBEDIENCE DOGS & SOMETIME I JUST WALK OVER TO WATCH A GLORIOUS SUNSET

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

ALL OF THE ABOVE

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

ABSOLUTELY & I'M EXTREMELY INCENSED THAT GGNRA HAS NOT LIVED UP TO THEIR PROMISE TO THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO TO ALLOW US USE OF THE PROPERTY

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

I HAVE BEEN OBEDIENCE TRAINING DOGS SINCE 1956 - FIRST FOR ST. FRANCIS DOG TRAINING CLUB AT ALEXANDRIA HALL AT 18th/GEARY (GONE NOW) LATER AT CALIFORNIA HALL - POLK & TURK (NOW A SCHOOL) & NOW FOR SAN FRANCISCO DOG TR. CLUB - I KNOW WHAT A JOY IT CAN BE FOR US TO WORK & PLAY WITH OUR COMPANIONS

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

I'D FEEL SAFER THAN ON MUNI TRANSIT AT NIGHT, DOWNTOWN S.F.= MUGGED ON BALBOA ST, FILLMORE - MISSION-ST & A FEW OTHER AREAS INCLUDING COW PALACE

Signed: Dorothy J Bobbitt Date 3/8/02

GGNRA012765

3470-01-1A

March 8, 2002

Superintendent GGNRA
Attention ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123.



Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to support the regulation that dogs must be kept on a leash in the GGNRA.

Last weekend, I attended a dog birthday party at the Presidio. My group of friends brought 6 off-leash dogs to the park that poo'd and pee'd all over the beach along with another 50 off-leash dogs during a one-hour period. I was slimed by one off-leash dog. Another pee'd on my beach bag. I watched a third off-leash dog, a pit bull, attack another dog. They destroyed the peace and tranquility of the beach.

I would like to tell dog owners one thing: I do not want your dog to come close to me. What this means is that I do not want your dog to sniff me. I do not want your dog to lick me. I do not want your dog to rub against me. I do not want to feel like your dog is about to do any of these things.

If dog owners could guarantee this, I would be willing to consider supporting them in allowing off leash dogs on parkland. As you can tell, I have many friends with dogs and I love my friends and somehow, I also love their dogs too. But, I cannot support them in this off-leash thing because I know, they cannot guarantee that their dog will not come into contact with me. Basically, they cannot guarantee that their dog will not act like a dog.

If we face facts about dogs, we cannot allow a leash-free dog policy. Dogs chase things, naturally. They defecate and mark their territory, naturally. They are pack animals and so they smell you to see if you are with them, naturally. They are herd animals, so they run after you, naturally. They are hunters of birds and rodents, naturally. Dog owners cannot take these natural tendencies away. On the contrary, they want their dogs to be free to be dogs in the Parks. This is exactly what we cannot allow. But we can compromise, and give them some, set aside, isolated and enclosed space, where the dogs can freely act like dogs.

I don't buy the argument that they pay taxes they should be free to use the parks as they need. All of us live with rules to preserve the common space. None of us have freedom to harm the common space. Please remember your first political science class and the history of the "commons" in England. Please, do not let history repeat itself. Protect our common open space.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Very truly yours,

Monica Mejia
Resident in San Francisco
33 Alta St.

3471-01-1A

Annette Billingsley
2821 Pine Street
San Francisco, California 94115

March 5, 2002



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear ANPR:

I am responding to the public comment period regarding Pet Management in the GGNRA. My comments reflect my experience as a dog owner who uses Crissy Field on a daily basis. I am very commited to the idea that the GGNRA is distinct from many parks in the National Park System by virtue of the fact that it is an URBAN PARK. This was stated as such in the introduction of your Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Based on the fact that this is an Urban Park surrounded by a large population base should suggest that different standards apply. Equating the GGNRA ,particularly Crissy Field and Fort Fungston, to Yellowstone National Park is silly.

I understand that there are many different users enjoying the benefits of the GGNRA and particularly Crissy Field. I would like to propose a simple compromise between the dog owner's and the non-dog owner's. Most dog owners need to exercise their dogs early in the morning and it is very important that dogs be allowed to run off leash to play, to exert energy, and to learn healthy socialization skills with other dogs. Otherwise we are going to have a city of aggressive dogs if they are constantly kept on leash. If dogs are leashed it will significantly change the social fabric of these wonderful areas where people for years have been developing friendships through interaction with their dogs. Personally I have made numerous friends at the beach by having the opportunity to chat in a relaxed manner with other dog owners on a daily basis. I am sure you have seen how people congregate together around their respective dogs and talk. It is a community that would be destroyed by requiring dogs to be on leash.

Why not have a period from 6 am to 9 am for dogs off –leash and then again in the evening from 6-8 PM. These are the critical times when people need to exercise their dogs. That will leave the vast majority of the day for people who would like to avoid dogs off leash. This area has always allowed dogs under voice control to be off leash and promises were made that if Crissy Field was improved that this would stay the same. But the time has come for compromise, and I think this is a solution everyone could support. I know this does not address the environmental issues, but again I go back to the fact that this is an URBAN AREA and people and dogs need ( within reason) to be able to access these areas.

I would also suggest that people that do not pick up after their dogs and have dogs that exhibit aggressive behavior be fined. Do not punish responsible dog owners but punish those who are not. In closing I can only tell you that without this off leash benefit my enjoyment of San Francisco would greatly diminish and I know this is deeply felt by many many people.

Please seek a compromise that would satisfy the majority of people. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Annette Billingsley
18 Year Resident of San Francisco

3472-01-1C

382 Dorado Way
South San Francisco, California 94080

March 4, 2002



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sirs:

I have been walking my dogs at Fort Funston for the last 16 years. Recently it has been getting more crowded due to many areas being closed to off leash dogs, creating a funnel effect. However as 99% of the dog walkers are very responsible the area has stayed clean. Indeed a number of people go down to the beach regularly to pick up debris that has washed up from passing fishing boats.

The attitude of the National Park Service during the last couple of years towards off leash dogs is rather disturbing. I believe they are taking the wrong approach for a number of reasons:

1. As far as native plants are concerned, this was, before the building of the fort, an area of sand dunes, according to old photographs of the area. To bring in "native plants" and claim that the National Park Service is restoring the area is nonsense.

2. I understand the Audabon Society has become very involved so that the bank swallow habitat will be preserved. There are miles of coast and I doubt that the bank swallow will miss what is less than one mile of coastline. And have you ever been to Fort Funston and seen the numbers of people enjoying the area? I would be prepared to bet that members of the Audabon Society who are writing in seldom, if ever, go there. Also, it is my understanding that since the National Park Service took out large quantities of the ice plant the bank swallows have largely stopped nesting there.

3. It is important to remember that this is not a wilderness area such as Yellowstone or Yosemite Park. It is a well used park in an urban area and therefore should be judged by other criteria.

I will not go into the fact that this land was given to the GGNRA on the condition that it should be used for the purposes it had been used for historically. My knowledge of the background is sketchy and limited. But I do think that as a park in an urban area consideration should be given to the taxpayers who get the most use out of it.

I do hope that common sense will prevail.

Very truly yours,

Patricia S. Caket

Patricia S. Caket

3473-01-1C

January 11,2002



PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

RE: FORT FUNSTON

Please let the people run the dogs at Fort Funston.

We are there quite often and the dogs never bite anyone, the park is very clean of litter and people with children are safe there too.

Everybody is friendly and happy and so are the dogs.

The dogs don't bother the birds, etc.

Where can people who take care of a group of dogs take them on a City Street? We can't even cross the streets ourselves these days, how can you with a dog or two.

I suppose after you take the dogs off you will take the people off too and build something on those grounds.

You should be out there to see how happy those animals are. Those stuck in their backyard never even get to communicate with another dog.

We travel 25 miles to get there about once a week, and our two labs are barking as soon as we get a few miles from the Fort. They love it there and so do we.

Please reconsider keeping it open.

If money is an issue charge a small fee for people bringing the dogs in. 25 cents, 50 cents etc.

The Ferguson Family, Mary L., Julia and Paul
2700 Monterey St.
San Mateo, CA. 94403

3474-01-1A



March 8, 2002

GG National Recreation Area
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201
SF, CA 94123

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing because I feel very strongly that my right to be able to walk my dog off leash at Crissy Field be preserved. It is important to me not only for my enjoyment but also for my dog's well being. I am a responsible dog owner that cleans after my dog and ensures that my dog is not harmful to the environment or to my fellow citizens.

I have enjoyed Crissy Field since I moved to the city in 1988. It is where I go to relax and reduce stress after a long day at work. Playing with my dog and watching my dog playing with other dogs is a significant part of my ritual. Crissy Field is what I consider to be one of the primary benefits that I receive from my local and property tax dollars.

I was supportive of the decision to ban smoking in public places because the activity is directly harmful to others. If I thought that my ability to walk my dog off leash was in any way directly harmful to others, then I would support such a decision, but I do not think that this is even remotely the case. I am also pleased that my fellow dog owners are also responsible. Waste is cleaned up and the dogs that enjoy Crissy Field are highly socialized and a delight.

I am a voter. I have voted in every election (except this March 5th for personal reasons) and my vote will take into consideration those that support the measure to ban off leash walking in Crissy Field.

Sincerely,

Sophia Kabler

Sophia Kabler
97 Sixth Avenue
SF, CA 94118

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3475-01-1A RECEIVED Date: 3-8-02

MAR 11 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Catherine Girardeau (optional: Age: 39 Sex M (F) Ethnicity ___)

Address: 662 Anderson St. (street) SF (city) CA (state) 94110 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe w

Fort Funston or Baker Beach every weekend + for off-leash dog play. We recently got a puppy + it's very important for his socialization to interact with other dogs off-leash. Fort Funston is the place.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

Yes! We have a whole new community of fellow dog-owners who we meet at Ft. Funston + Baker Beach.

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

Yes. I feel it's appropriate in portions of the GGNRA which are not environmentally-sensitive habitat where native plants are being restored, + where endangered species are not present. I feel proscribed areas for off-leash + on-leash activity can coexist in the GGNRA. For example, portions of Crissy Field could be designated for off-leash activity while maintaining other areas for recreational activities with on-leash dogs.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

Our quality of life would be greatly reduced. We choose to have a dog because it's a valuable experience for our 3-year-old son, teaching him responsibility, + providing him with a playmate. We have a tiny house + yard due to the cost of living in the Bay Area. But one of the things that makes San Francisco such a liveable city for it's 120,000 dogs + their families is the availability of the off-leash recreational space dogs need to grow up healthy, well-exercised + well-socialized in order to be good citizens in a community with dogs, + people who choose to own + don't choose to own them.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

I feel safer with dogs who are given adequate exercise, come when they are called, and know how to interact non-aggressively with other dogs + people. All these training goals are supported by off-leash dog training.

Signed: C.A. G. Date 3/06/02

3476-02-3A

February 25, 2002



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco CA 94123

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Pet Management in Golden Gate National Recreation Area – KEEP THE STATUS QUO

I am writing to urge you to retain the 23+-year status quo regarding unleashed dogs under "voice control" in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area ("GGNRA"). As citizens and members of the local community, we are very dependent on the space available at Crissy Field, Fort Funston and Ocean Beach, Baker, Rodeo and Muir beaches, Wolf Ridge and Oakwood Valley Road and Alta Avenue for exercise and recreation of urban dogs. The "voice control" policy has worked so well that there has been no need to change it for 23 years. And for over 20 years the National Park Service ("NPS") did not raise an issue with the publicly proclaimed "voice control", thereby tacitly endorsing the existing policy. It is clear that there is no need to change this policy today.

In the Federal Register dated January 11, "increased conflict" is cited as a primary reason to review and possibly change the current policy. A March 2000 lawsuit is cited where users of Fort Funston claimed that park regulations were not followed in closing 10 acres of Funston. Citing "increased conflict" in this instance is completely inappropriate as the suit was entirely about proper procedure for closing an area of the park and did not involve any pet-related issue.

The comments in the Federal Register go on to cite a dog mauling incident that has nothing to do with the GGNRA. As you may be aware, the owners of the responsible dog had illegally trained the dog to fight other animals. Furthermore, the dog that mauled the 32-year-old woman was on a leash at the time, so the proposed leash regulation would not have prevented such an incident if it had occurred in the GGNRA. It is clear that the dog mauling incident was included only to incite readers and create fear over an event that has nothing to do with "voice controlled" dogs.

The Federal Register goes on to say that certain people have expressed concern about being knocked over or attacked by dogs. In my experience at Crissy Field and Fort Funston I have not encountered issues with adults or children being knocked over or attacked. The NPS's comments in the Federal Register also fail to mention that there are designated areas in Crissy field where dogs must be on leash, so people worried about children or off-leash dogs have space where the dogs are only allowed on leash. In addition, the NPS has failed to put up signage with directions to the leashed pet areas for those who want to avoid dogs under "voice control".

Thankfully, the Federal Register does identify the need for dogs to be able to exercise, socialize and gain the natural outlets and physiological and psychological well-being associated with off-leash recreation and socialization. In fact, our veterinarian has made it

clear that our dogs' health is dependent on substantial exercise. Therefore our dog needs open space where it can run and play with other dogs off leash. In addition, this recreational release of energy reduces the probability that pent up dogs will bite humans or cause other disturbances in the GGNRA and in the local community. Finally, dog socialization and recreation cannot readily take place on a leash.

I am a supporter of the appropriate and constructive use of our urban National Park facilities. When you recently reduced the space available for dogs at Crissy Field, I respected your decision and have restricted my activities to the space still available. However eliminating the unleashed space is not a reasonable measure.

Proposal A "Enforce existing regulation/dogs on leash and on trail" is a COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE action on the part of the NPS in GGNRA, especially after having explicitly allowed "voice control" of dogs on the GGNRA for over 20 years. I support keeping the status quo. Within the status quo, I support ticketing those whose dogs cannot be voice controlled, are violent or stray into restricted areas. I also support greater signage, maps and directions so that those who want to avoid "voice control" dogs can go to those areas of the GGNRA where dogs are not allowed. Under Proposal B, there is mention of increased budgets for such things as "removal of pet excrement". However the current system works well as dog owners do clean up after their dogs and there is not an issue with pet excrement under the current policies and budget.

In conclusion, as a tax paying, voting citizen and resident of the local community I urge you to maintain the existing "voice control" space for unleashed dogs in the GGNRA. I welcome the opportunity to express my opinions further should you wish to contact me. However I expect the National Park Service and GGNRA Advisors to uphold the long-standing precedent of allowing dogs off leash in the GGNRA.

Sincerely,

Josephine Adorno

Josephine Adorno
31-63 42n Street
Astoria, NY 11103

3477-01-1D

Superintendent
GGNRA Attention ANPR
Fort Mason,
Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



Dear Superintendent

I jumped at the opportunity to offer my opinion on off-leash dogs at Golden Gate National Recreation Areas. You see, I'm a first time dog-owner at fifty. Before my marriage I didn't think it was fair for me to have a dog and leave him/her alone all day. Now that I have a mate I was able to have a dog and I acquired Pepper, a 20-pound cock-a-poo three years ago. She has been the joy of my life (well second to my husband ;-)

One of my favorite things to do is visit my niece who lives in San Francisco and we go with our dogs to Fort Funston or Ocean Beach. I can't describe for you the pleasure I derive from watching my little black rag muffin of a dog and her sleek golden "cousin" run in giant circles on the beach. Not having had children I can get some sense of what it must feel like to watch one's babies walk untethered in a safe environment with their first friend. It is glorious.

I was devastated to read that this joy would be curtailed for me and thousands of other dog owners. While I well understand and respect the fact that Point Reyes and Mount Diablo are now off limits to me (because I choose to spend my free time with my dog) I greatly appreciate the fact that there are still some wonderful places where I can go with my puppy.

Thank you for reading my letter and taking the wishes of all park users into consideration. I too believe we can work it out.

Sincerely,

Dolores Apton 3/9/2002

Dolores Apton

3478-01-1D

Mar. 1, 2002



Dear Sirs,

You will not find me at your public protest meetings concerning dog rights vs. human/ public parks. Dog owners want all the rest of us to be responsible for their pets . We must pay for the pick-up/condition of our parks? We must all wear armour, or worse, stay home so they can cavort at will, anywhere they please with no responsability?? I don't think so!

Listening to people yell at mmeetings ?? I know you are not deaf just because you are not yelling back. Can you not avoid these debacles ? Why listen to them rant?

I am a senior who has been mistreated long enough, & no longer go to GGNRA parks or beaches.

I have been bitten for my sandwitch, my cane, my scarf ( !), pissed on, watched squirrels & birds murdered, had fried chicken- the whole bag- dragged off to " Yay, good dog SPARKY !! LUNCH GOOD DOG "...& on & on...

SUGGESTIONS

1. If you cannot afford to keep the peace, its simple. BAN DOGS ALTO GETHER . As you already know, asking for dog handlers cooperation is fruitless. Owners/handlers are as unruly as their 'pets'. Rules? ha ha watcha gonna do about it?? huh?

2. A GATED, FENCED AREA JUST FOR PEOPLE. NO DOGS. period

3. Announcements: DOGS FOUND IN THIS AREA WILL BE SHOT.

That ought to do it.

4. Maybe, allow dogs on beachs where there is no swimming. I am disgusted with dog-doo under foot where I am swim ming, and under blanket, and being accosted by un-ruly animals leaping all over all of us, including my small grandchildren.

THANK YOU for your efforts in dealing with these difficult problems.

Dolores Bishop

510 - 652-4526

Dolores Bishop
377 63 rd. St.
Oakland, Ca
94618

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3479-01-1A

RECEIVED Date: March 9, 2002

MAR 11 2002

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue. SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Name: Patrick Siemer (optional: Age: 35 Sex (M) F Ethnicity )

Address: 650 prentiss (street) San Francisco (city) CA (state) 94110 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I visit fort funston to visit the ocean with my dog. I have done this since he was a puppy 4 years ago. We love the power of nature, and the excercise. My dog has grown into a wonderful, friendly, and social pet.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

I do it for my dog more than me. My dog keeps me active and healthy. I have met many new people. through dog

Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

Of course it is Appropriate. People/animal relationships remind us of our connection To Nature.

Just Enforce the LAWS You HAVE Now!

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

I would suffer greatly. My back would hurt and my dog would be sad, leading to behavioral problems.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

I feel Safe, I am educated. A few informational signs to non-dog people about dog behavior would be nice.

Signed: [signature] Date March 9 2002

3480-01-1E, 3480-01-1E, 3480-01-1E, 3480-01-1E

## WHY THERE SHOULD BE OFF-LEASH AREAS IN THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

- Off-leash areas are essential to the well-being of dogs. Regular off-leash exercise burns off pent-up energy, builds confidence, improves a dog's social skills and helps prevent aggression. Conversely, limiting dog play results in under-socialized, under-exercised, under-stimulated dogs and often leads to behavior problems.
- Off-leash dog walking was an intended activity when the City of San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA.
- In 1979 the GGNRA Citizen's Advisory Commission implemented a Pet Policy allowing people to walk off-leash dogs in certain areas of the park. The GGNRA should abide by that policy.
- When San Francisco gave GGNRA lands to the National Park Service, the city was assured that traditional recreational uses, including off-leash dog walking, would be continued. The Park Service should honor its commitment to maintain the broad range of recreational use that is appropriate in an urban park.
- As an urban park, the GGNRA is different from most national parks. Urban parks are not pristine wilderness preserves. They are supposed to provide a variety of recreational opportunities for the community.
- The GGNRA claims it must comply with a National Park Service rule that prohibits off-leash dogs. But there are exceptions to the off-leash ban in more than 40 national parks, where hunting dogs are allowed to run free.
- There is room in the GGNRA to protect sensitive habitat and still provide space for off-leash dogs. Traditional off-leash areas account for 0.5 percent of the 75,000 acres in the park.
- With proper management, the GGNRA can accommodate wildlife and human activity. Bicycling, hiking, hang-gliding, dog walking and other pursuits can co-exist with birds and plants.
- Off-leash recreation is an under-served need. The State of California recently recognized that fact with plans to test an off-leash area at Candlestick State Recreation Area in San Francisco.

---

The San Francisco SPCA
2500 16th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103-4213



I/We support the above statement by the San Francisco SPCA that there should be designated off-leash dog areas in the GGNRA in San Francisco. We ask the National Park Service to make an exception to the unfair off-leash ban, to keep open areas for off-leash dog walking and recreation, and to abide by the original Pet Policy which was created when the city of San Francisco gave the GGNRA this land.

---

Name(s) Ken Inouye Signature(s) Ken Inouye
Address 4076 Wilkie Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306 Comments:

Name(s) Kristine Inouye Signature(s) Kristine Inouye
Address 4076 Wilkie Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306 Comments: Dogs need a place to run free in a large area, just like kids.

Name(s) Olga M. van Deinse Signature(s) Olga M. van Deinse
Address 283 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94306 Comments: Same as the one above!

Name(s) Priscilla A. Davies Signature(s) Priscilla A. Davies
Address 535 Arastradero, Palo Alto CA 94306 Comments: We have this in Palo Alto, why not in the city!

Due to re-coding of petitions, the following main code numbers are not assigned to a comment:

- 3481
- 3482
- 3483

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3484-01-IC Date: 2/27/02

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Name: LYNN B. Anderson (optional: Age: 32 Sex: M (F) Ethnicity: _____)

Address: 247 Berendos Avenue (street), Pacifica (city), CA (state) 94044 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

The GGNRA is such a wonderful resource for the Bay Area. We visit one GGNRA site or another at least a few times each month. We typically go to Fort Funston, Milagra Ridge, Sweeney Ridge, or Crissy Field and Maritime Park. We usually bring our dog (on-leash) and our baby in a carrier.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

We also occasionally meet friends from San Francisco at Ocean Beach with their dogs. We sometimes let the dogs run off-leash together. We have made new friends with dogs at Fort Funston, and new friends with babies at Crissy Field and new friends that enjoy boats at the Hyde Street Pier. We even started to volunteer at the Maritime Park.

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

We believe that our dog is part of our family. Some of the GGNRA should allow off-leash dogs. Fort Funston is the natural ~~candidate~~ choice for this, as is part of Ocean Beach, and possibly part of Sweeney Ridge or Milagra Ridge. I also understand that not everyone is comfortable with off-leash dogs, so the areas and/or times for off leash dogs should be limited.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

If there were no off-leash areas in the Bay Area, it would be much more difficult for our family to enjoy week end hikes. It would be a shame if the Bay Area recreation areas stopped off-leash areas and lost some of the inclusiveness that welcomes all people - those with dogs and those without.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

My family is a member of the GGNRA Association and we volunteer for the Maritime Park. We love it. Keep up the good work and keep the Bay Area recreation areas open and accessible to all.

Signed: Lynn B. Anderson Date: 3/5/02

GGNRA012779

3485-01-1A

STEPHEN
SHEPHERD
MARTIN

PSYCHOTHERAPY

March 7, 2002

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

GGNRA
ATTN: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear GGNRA:

I am writing to urge GGNRA to support a *non- restrictive* off - leash dog policy. Current plans by the GGNRA to close Chrissy Field and Fort Funston to off-leash dog recreation may be well intentioned but are ill-conceived and very harmful to a substantial group of citizens who are the primary users of these urban parks.

My partner and I have been a users of Chrissy Field and Fort Funston for over 7 years as part of our recreational activities and care of our dogs. Current plans to end the long-standing program which allows dogs off leash under voice control is a **bad public policy**. It *criminalizes* a large group of good, tax paying citizens from all walks of lifes and interferes with our enjoyment of our public open spaces. It is an unprovoked attack on an entire sub-community of citizens and their dogs. Why now? For what reasons? The use of these areas has been nearly problem free for decades.

While it is not clear to me the reasons for the recommended changes, I have heard many environmental concerns which do not have any science behind them. Arguments in support of the Snowy Plovers, native plants, etc. disregard other mitigating factors such as air quality, urban sprawl, people etc. To suggest that dogs running off-leash tips the ecological balance to such a degree that it poses a threat to our parks is simplistic and utterly disregards the rights of those responsible citizens who are the major users of these areas. Really it is absurd. These are urban parks!

Don't criminalize us and our pets. Support are right to use these parks in a responsible matter.

Sincerely,

Stephen S. Martin
9 Roosevelt Way
San Francisco, CA 94114

☎ 415.864.6358
9 ROOSEVELT WAY
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA 94114
MFCC LIC. NO. M16455

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3486-01-1A Date: 3-4-02

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: William E. Hartnett (optional: Age: 68 Sex: (M) F Ethnicity: W)

Address: 54 FAIR OAKS ST (street) SAN FRANCISCO (city) CA (state) 94110-2205 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I visit GGNRA (ft. funston) at least 2 days a week. During the dry season 4 days a week. My main reason for visiting is to permit my std schauzer to run and meet other dogs off-leash! I also benefit from the excersise for my diabetes high blood pressure

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

I have met new friends discussing dog feeding et al. I always bring visitors to Ft Funston. My visitor are awed by the beauty and impressed S.F. has a place for dogs to social and excersise.

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

If the GGNRA is concerned about the damage dogs do to fauna et al, I suggest a dog warden be posted to insure compliance. The dog warden would be funded by a special license purchased by the dog owners.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

A major health and emotional part of my life would be shut-down.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

I feel much safer w/ un-leashed dogs and their owners frequenting GGNRA

P.S. I feel the GGNRA want dogs on leashes and will not listen to comments.

Signed: W E Hartnett Date: 3-4-02

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

PLEASE MAIL BEFORE MARCH 10th

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3487-01-ID Date: 3/7/02

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Kathleen Matz (optional: Age: 37 Sex: M (F) Ethnicity: _____)

Address: 1026 B Evelyn Ave (street) Albany (city) CA (state) 94707 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

At least one time per week I walk my dogs in some part of the GGNRA.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

My dogs + I meet lots of other dog lovers + friendly K9's as we stroll — Dogs interact more easily off leash and there is an easy comaraderie/social atmosphere among owners.

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

I think off leash areas are integral to GGNRA. Dogs are important members of our families and they should have areas where they can run off energy — this allows them to be better behaved on leash in our neighborhoods.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

I would probably decide to move out of the Bay Area

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

Makes no difference — off leash dogs do not intimidate me.

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
Superintendent's Office

Signed: Kathleen H Matz Date: 3/7/02

Mail by 3/9

3488-02-1A March 6, 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neil,

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. My husband and I had been going to Fort Funston long before getting a dog ourselves. Neither the dogs, nor dog owners ever acted inappropriately. In fact, the park seemed cleaner than others b/c the regular dog walkers picked up stray trash. We have now had a dog for over a year and take him to the beach at least 3X a week. When visitors come, we always take them to the beach with us. They are always impressed with all the dogs and the friendliness of the people there. The dogs and their socializing owners are part of the unique charm of San Francisco. I've also noticed that fellow San Franciscans often bring their children to socialize with the dogs. Many parents want their kids to be able to play with dogs, but aren't ready for having their own.

Off-leash recreation in the GGNRA is wonderful for the community in San Francisco and those who visit it. It would truly be a shame if these privileges were taken away.

Sincerely,
Anna Kilbridge
+ Petra O.

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE



1/2

3488-02-1A

Suggestions:

→ Some area from the parking lot to the beach must remain available to off leash recreation and at-least 1-mile of beach. After all, there are more dogs in SF than children and their parents vote too!

3489-01-1E

March 6, 2002



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Re: Pet Management in GGNRA

I believe that the current rules, that require pets in the park to be on-leash, reflects a reasonable position. For those of us who have had the experience of being attacked by an off-leash dog because we were carrying a small animal in our arms, it is a must. A small vocal user group should not be given preferential treatment over those of us who walk our dogs on leash or carry them.

In summary, I believe that the current guidelines are reasonable and the GGNRA should retain the authority to make change as necessary to protect the wildlife within their jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Waldo R. Griffin
460 Aspen Way
Los Altos, CA 94024

3490-01-1A



2430 Francisco Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
March 8, 2002

GGNRA
Attn: ANPR
Fort MAson, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sir or Madam:

I oppose off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. As a frequent walker in the GGNRA, I have often been approached and sniffed at by off-leash dogs. This is intimidating and frightening. What's more, the dog owners are often far away and they do not seem to care.

Dog owners have no sense of proportion when it comes to their dogs. Dog owners are like proud parents beaming with pride over the antics of their children. Dog owners do not realize how unpleasant it is to be strolling in the park and to be approached by a strange, often large, dog.

Dogs can get sufficient exercise even if they are leashed. The peace of mind and safety of walkers is more important than the freedom of the dogs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Sprung

Barbara Sprung

3491-01-1A

Suzanne Varadi
71 Dolores Terrace
San Francisco, CA 94110

March 8, 2002



ANPR Committee
GGNRA
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear ANPR Committee,

I am writing you on behalf of my puppy, Kylie. Kylie was found in August of 2001 on the streets of Potrero Hill with her six littermates. At that time Kylie was roughly four weeks old, extremely frightened, malnourished and orphaned. She had no idea of what it was like to have a responsible role owner that would provide her food, shelter, training, and stimulating activities. She did not know what a beach was, she did not know what a leash was, she did not know what obedience was. What she did know was how to be a dog and basic survival skills.

Kylie is now almost eight months old. Kylie is a graduate of two Puppy obedience classes. Kylie lives in the home of a San Francisco property tax payer who returned to this fine city because she longed to be in a culturally diverse environment with the ocean at her feet. She dreamed of walks on the beach with a dog.

I visit Crissy Fields at least two times a week with Kylie. I do not live near this recreation area, Kylie and I make special trips there, and it is a special time for us. Kylie whines with anticipation as soon as she smells the ocean air. When Kylie exits the car on leash it takes all my strength to contain her energy, to have her sit and wait for her command to "go play."

For Kylie, "go play" means she is free! She is allowed to have her fun. She runs up to the ocean and jumps in the waves, she retrieves tennis balls, and digs holes in the sand that lead to treasures only she knows about. Kylie frolics with her playmates Shadow, Gunner, Fiona, Kona, and Rylie to name a few. We socialize with other owners, we meet visitors from far away places and neighbors that also make this journey to the beach on the weekends. When we leave the beach we are covered in the salty remains of a good time and sand crusted under our nails and in our hair.

**If this privilege is taken away from Kylie the quality of life she has come to know will diminish! We will have no place that is safe from the streets she was left to at birth to "go play". The socialization skill that we have trained for will be lost. We will have to travel to new cities to find a place where we can be free!**

Suzanne Varadi

3492-01-1A



February 22, 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). There is a large population of dog lovers in the Bay Area. These are tax-paying citizens who support the National Park Service and request only to enjoy a small portion of this land with their beloved pets. I respect the actions of the Park Service to set aside key pieces of land for bird habitats and plant rejeuvenation but there is enough room for humans and dogs to enjoy this area alongside these conservation efforts, since off-leash dog walking is available in only 0.5% of its 75,000 acres of land. Even those who do not have pets can appreciate setting aside land where dogs can get adequate exercise and socialization with other dogs in order to be happy and healthy members of the Bay Area community. These off-leash locations are family friendly, attracting people of all ages who want to enjoy the day with their entire family, including the family dog. In addition, these locations encourage an atmosphere of community where people feel safe visiting at all hours of the day.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning."(16 USC 460bb). The 1979 GGNRA Pet Policy upheld this activity by creating a special provision allowing off-leash recreation. It is now time for the National Park Service to recognize the will of the people and create a Section 7 special rule for off-leash recreation in the GGGNRA. Please act now! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kevin Johnson

Additional Comments:

Please Print:

Name: Kevin Johnson (optional: Age: 30 Sex: (M) F Ethnicity: W )

Address: 3725 Divisadero (Street) San Fran (City) CA (State) 94123 (Zip)

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

3493-01-1A

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: KAREN TAUSSIG (optional: Age: 37 Sex M (F) Ethnicity ____)

Address: 2008 Balboa St (street) SF (city) CA (state) 94121 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

→ Rodeo Beach → daily
→ Ocean Beach → 2x/week
→ Golden Gate Park → 4-5x/week } dog walking + excercise for my dog.
→ Fort Funston → 1x/month

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

I very much feel safer walking in an off leash area – any one will tell you that dogs on leash are more aggresive than off leash.
The Park Service stating that children, elderly, racial + cultural minorities avoid off leash areas is lubricous that's like saying all of the above hate + are scared of dogs

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

No it's not a social outlet. The impact is on the dog. Dogs need excercise they need to run. That's pretty hard to do on leash.

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

Yes → most places that are off leash areas are a great use of recreation area. Dogs need excercise everyday. People come out to the parks less often. If there are complaints you could make only part of the parks off leash areas for example – ocean beach from the Beach Chalet to the Cliff House off leash.

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

ABSOLUTELY NOT.

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MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Signed: Karen Taussig Date 3/1/02

Version 1.0

GGNRA012789

3494-01-1A

The Westin St. Francis

RECEIVED 3/6/02

MAR 11 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintent O'Neill,

I don't support ~~the~~ off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. The following are some comments on the issue & my personal information.

NAME: Sonja Cehic
ADDRESS: 460 41st Ave, SF. CA 94121

(i) I visit the Presidio + Crissy Field approx 4 days out of the week.
(ii) I observe unleash dogs (not under voice command) wandering on foot paths and infront of my children. This is particularly concerning to me when my children (both 5yrs old) ride their bikes on the path. My children are afraid of dogs because they have been knocked over in the past. Dogs owners need to be more responsible with their animals.
(iii) I have observed dogs on the protected areas of the Beach at Crissy Field + Ocean Beach. There is ample signage that dogs should be on leash or not allowed in these protected areas but owners frequently ignore these signs.
(iv) Dog poop clean-up is also ignored by owners at crissy field — particularly the grassy field areas!!
(v) I hope to see more enforcement of the ON LEASH Policy. Then dog owners will be more responsible + families can feel safer

Thank you!

S Cehic

Union Square
385 Powell Street, San Francisco, California 94102 USA
Telephone (415) 397-7000
Facsimile (415) 774-0124
For Reservations Call: 1-800-Westin-1 or (415) 397-7000

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3495-01-1A Date: 3/6/02

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: KAREN BERLIN (optional: Age: 45 Sex M (F) Ethnicity C)

Address: 529 DOUGLASS ST (street) S.F. (city) CA (state) 94114 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I visit Fort Funston almost everyday, and Crissy Field perhaps once a month to walk with my dog. Fort Funston is the only place I've found where my dog can get adequate off-leash exercise and maintain an essential level of dog-dog socialization. I go there so that both I and my dog can get exercise and enjoy the beach and the scenery.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

Walking my dog off leash at Ft. Funston is definitely a social outlet for me. I frequently meet friends there to walk, and have met several new friends there recently.

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations. Yes, definitely. There are nearly nine miles of beachfront in S.F. and there's no reason that a portion or portions should not be dedicated to people exercising their dogs off leash. Dog owners are in general much more responsible than they were 13 or 14 years ago regarding cleaning up after their dogs. I used to go to Ft. Funston with my first dog back then, and nobody picked up. Now I see that it is the exception rather than the rule that someone neglects to clean up. People are getting better with acceptance, guidance and encouragement from the GGNRA. I believe people will rally to keep Ft. Funston in good shape.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

It would be a tremendous source of stress for me and my dog. I work hard at a very stressful job as an emergency room nurse and walking at the beach with my dog is an amazing stress reliever. My ~~most s~~ greatest satisfaction in my private life is being able to share it with a canine companion. Walking on leash is not enough exercise for a dog, and Dog parks lead to aggression too often.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

I feel safe and joyful in the presence of off-leash dogs.

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Signed: Karen Berlin Date 03/06/02

3496-01-1C

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Felicia Ong (printed)

Address: 963 Foothill Drive (street) Daly City (city) CA (state) 94015 (zip)

I am a current visitor to Fort Funston, and a responsible dog owner. I hope the area will be kept leash-free for people like us. I am a minority, but I frequently bring my other minority friends & their children there

Sincerely, Felicia Ong.

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now? Where would you LIKE to visit if off-leash was permitted?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation?
- Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area?
- Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: [signature] Date 3/5/02 (optional: Age: 33 Sex M (F) Ethnicity ASIAN

Version 2.0

3497-01-1A

ear Superintendent O'Neill: FAX To: 415 561 4355 Date: March 8, 2002

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

upport off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, ll as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

ame: Kristen Otridge (optional: Age: 34 Sex M (F) Ethnicity W)

ddress: 2800 Lake Street (street) San Francisco (city) CA (state) 94121 (zip)

Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

Three years ago we got a dog, a black Pug. Since that time we have visited many GGNRA areas frequently to let him run & play with other dogs.

Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

We recently had a baby. When the dog needs exercise, it is now a family activity. We do meet other families & dog owners in off-leash areas. It is one of the many things we enjoy about living in San Francisco.

Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

I do think off leash recreation in certain areas is important. I think the off leash area now is less than 2% of the GGNRA, but this area is still enough for owners to exercise their dogs & enjoy being outdoors. As a taxpayer, I think we have the right to

What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA? We would have to get in the car & drive to off leash areas outside the city and some off-leash areas are causing more polution. My daughter won't not get to enjoy playing at the beach with our dog. I think taking away off leash

Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence? I feel safer with off-leash areas. Most dog owners obey the areas, so if we are in an area that is not off leash - I know the dog is under control. wrong!

Signed: Kristen Otridge Date 3/8/02

GGNRA012793

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, ATTN: ANPR, FORT MASON, BUILDING 201, SAN FRANCISCO, 94123

3498-01-1A



February 22, 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). There is a large population of dog lovers in the Bay Area. These are tax-paying citizens who support the National Park Service and request only to enjoy a small portion of this land with their beloved pets. I respect the actions of the Park Service to set aside key pieces of land for bird habitats and plant rejeuvenation but there is enough room for humans and dogs to enjoy this area alongside these conservation efforts, since off-leash dog walking is available in only 0.5% of its 75,000 acres of land. Even those who do not have pets can appreciate setting aside land where dogs can get adequate exercise and socialization with other dogs in order to be happy and healthy members of the Bay Area community. These off-leash locations are family friendly, attracting people of all ages who want to enjoy the day with their entire family, including the family dog. In addition, these locations encourage an atmosphere of community where people feel safe visiting at all hours of the day.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning."(16 USC 460bb). The 1979 GGNRA Pet Policy upheld this activity by creating a special provision allowing off-leash recreation. It is now time for the National Park Service to recognize the will of the people and create a Section 7 special rule for off-leash recreation in the GGGNRA. Please act now! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrea Batchelor

Additional Comments:

Currently I do not have a dog, however, I feel it is important for happy healthy dog to have areas of off leash recreation

Please Print:

Name: Andrea Batchelor (optional: Age: 22 Sex: M (F) Ethnicity: _____)

Address: 120 Ewing (Street) San Francisco (City) CA (State) 94118 (Zip)

3499-01-1A



February 22, 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). There is a large population of dog lovers in the Bay Area. These are tax-paying citizens who support the National Park Service and request only to enjoy a small portion of this land with their beloved pets. I respect the actions of the Park Service to set aside key pieces of land for bird habitats and plant rejeuvenation but there is enough room for humans and dogs to enjoy this area alongside these conservation efforts, since off-leash dog walking is available in only 0.5% of its 75,000 acres of land. Even those who do not have pets can appreciate setting aside land where dogs can get adequate exercise and socialization with other dogs in order to be happy and healthy members of the Bay Area community. These off-leash locations are family friendly, attracting people of all ages who want to enjoy the day with their entire family, including the family dog. In addition, these locations encourage an atmosphere of community where people feel safe visiting at all hours of the day.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning."(16 USC 460bb). The 1979 GGNRA Pet Policy upheld this activity by creating a special provision allowing off-leash recreation. It is now time for the National Park Service to recognize the will of the people and create a Section 7 special rule for off-leash recreation in the GGGNRA. Please act now! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Ho

Additional Comments: Although I do not own a dog, I think it is very important to set aside land for off leash dog walking. This would lead to happier healthier dogs in San Francisco.

Please Print:

Name: Andrew Ho (optional: Age: 22 Sex: (M) F Ethnicity: Chinese)

Address: 1330 4th Ave (Street) San Francisco (City) CA (State) 94122 (Zip)

3500-02-1A



March 7, 2002
Linda Wilford
435 Dewey Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94116

Superintendent, GGNRA
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

RE: In support of off-leash recreation in GGNRA

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I am writing to request that off-leash dog walking be made a legal activity in the areas of the GGNRA that have traditionally been off-leash areas. These are a very small part of the GGNRA, and there will still be sufficient space for other park uses. I appreciate that there are lots of fire roads and trails in the Bay Area where dogs can co-exist with other users on leash. However, there are also some wonderful areas that dogs and people can enjoy together off-leash.

Dogs are wonderful companions in the home, and in sharing recreational activities such as dog agility and hiking, but they need off-leash exercise and play to maintain physical fitness and happiness. When we people of the San Francisco Bay region gave our beaches and bluffs to the GGNRA, we were giving away our best dog recreation areas, but we did so because we were promised by the Federal Government that this unique urban park would continue to provide for these recreational needs of the surrounding community. Also, since we gave away so much of our open space, we no longer have sufficient off-leash areas within the city of San Francisco.

Beaches meet a special need for off-leash dog use because they are the largest open space available, with plenty of room to spread out for activities. The beaches and bluffs are also the best areas to take dogs right after or even during rain, since they don't get muddy. Sometimes there are beached animals such as seals, but I've observed that dog owners warn each other when there is such an animal on the beach, and we leash our dogs to go by. Rangers should be notified as soon as possible of such an animal, but maybe signs could be kept available so beach users could put them in place immediately. Ft. Funston's beach is away from roads, and there is a wide bluff for when the tide is high or the surf rough; therefore it is an ideal area for an off-leash dog use area. Crissy Field is across town, and has access for dogs to swim in the bay, and should also have off-leash areas. Some people can't walk far, but can get to Ocean Beach, so I would hope that at least some of Ocean Beach can be available to off-leash dogs.

I understand that not everyone wants to be near dogs, and I think there should be areas available for such people. However, there are other people who don't have dogs, but like to be around them. For example, I recently overheard a young girl walking at Ft. Funston

1/2

say that she'd enjoyed seeing the dogs play at the beach, but she was sorry she hadn't seen her favorites, Rottweilers and Bernese Mountain Dogs. Another time I heard a man say he brought a family with a little girl who was afraid of dogs to Ft. Funston because he wanted to help her learn to enjoy dogs in a setting with well socialized dogs. Since it's been questioned whether dogs deter people from minority cultures, I'll note that this was an African –American family. Yet another time a woman stopped me from calling back my dog, and said that she'd like her toddler to have a chance to play with my dog. My favorite example from my almost 30 years of enjoying Ft. Funston is when my Lab arrived at the beach from Sloat, and started running and jumping for joy. A woman near me said something to the effect that my dog was the definition of being alive. I think the energy and joy of the dogs lets us live some of it vicariously, and maybe that's part of why dogs help people relax and feel better. If the people who don't want to be near dogs really must have a chance to experience every wonderful area in the GGNRA without dogs, and Ft. Funston is certainly stunning, maybe the first Sunday of every month could be a no dogs allowed day.

I understand that the park service is concerned about the safety of park users, but off-leash dog activity should still require close supervision of the dogs by their owners, such as is described by the term, "voice control." Areas that permit off-leash dog use usually post rules for dog owner responsibilities. I think areas such as Fort Funston have shown that they attract well socialized dogs and owners, and that visitors are much safer from dog bites there than in some communities, since in some areas dogs aren't properly supervised. I also think the presence of people with dogs deters attacks with guns and knives, and rapes, because of the community spirit of the people and their numbers, and because the dogs may detect anyone hiding in the bushes.

I believe that the park service can preserve the GGNRA for the future while adhering to the enabling legislation, which recognized that the GGNRA is a new type of urban park, and that the continuing recreation needs of Bay Area users are to be recognized and provided for. Certainly dogs have an impact, but so do any users. For example, trails and fire roads need to be maintained for hikers, bikers and horseback riders. I believe the solution for off-leash activity is management, such as by rotating areas out of use for regrowth or replanting. Moreover, people who enjoy activities in parks actually contribute a lot to the parks' wellbeing. We learn to value the parks by getting off the roads, and then we donate monetary support to parks, and also vote for taxes to support the parks and environment. For example, I used to contribute to the GGNRA support association, and would again if I didn't feel excluded, just as I currently contribute to the Pt. Reyes National Seashore Association, and many other conservation groups. I've also worked on trail maintenance on Mt. Tam, and would like to volunteer in the GGNRA too, if in at least some areas plants were chosen to accommodate high usage areas.

Sincerely yours,

Linda Wilford

Linda Wilford

2/2

3601-01-1A

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: SANFORD SHIU (printed)

Address: 60 PARK ST. S.F. CA. 94110
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Most of the dog owner who take their dogs to enjoy the Golden Gate National Recreation Area are responsible owners. Don't let a few ruin it for all of us. My Dog Roxy loves Fort Funston. I've been taken her there since she was a puppy. I know she would be the same if she can't enjoy nature the same way other animals do. Dogs didn't ask to be Domesticed. Man did that to them. Don't take away the only sense of freedom they have left.

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now for off-leash recreation? What parts would you LIKE to visit?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you is the social aspect of off-leash recreation? For example, do you bring out-of-town visitors with you or meet up with friends on your walks? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: [signature] Date 3-5-02 *(optional: Age: 31 Sex (M) F Ethnicity Chinese)*

Version 2.0

**James McLane & Associates**

3502-01-1A

Architecture
Planning
Preservation

March 8, 2002

Superintendent, GGNRA
Attention ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



Subject: Regulations of Pets in GGNRA

Dear Superintendent and NPS Staff,

I have been a resident of San Francisco and frequent user of the GGNRA since 1983. In my career as an architect, I have worked on NPS projects in several western region parks.

Please uphold the NPS's regulations requiring restraints on pets in the park lands. My opinion is that the GGNRA is no place for recreational use by pet owners. The national parks' primary objectives should be upheld. As I understand them, they are to preserve the natural resources while promoting sustainable uses by people, as well as providing educational information to the public about the natural or cultural history of the resource.

While it is important that the GGNRA makes an effort to serve the community's range of interests, reasonable limits must be established and upheld. Limiting pet use by requiring leashes is entirely reasonable, given the variety of other people with various interests who use the park. The NPS is under no obligation to provide optimal recreational space for every small special interest group in the community. The GGNRA is a unique resource. It is a thin slice of a coastal land adjacent to a dense metropolitan center. I fear that, if the GGNRA adopts special rules regarding pet use, that the environment will be degraded, and that a precedent will be established for other special interest groups to make additional, selfish demands.

Free roaming pets disturb wildlife, damage vegetation, defile the environment, and pose a hazard to other park users. I cannot express strongly enough, how disturbing it is to encounter the leavings of an irresponsible pet owner who treats a park as a pet latrine.

Please resist the political pressure to give in to single-purpose issue groups and uphold the true mission of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

James McLane

1198 Hyde Street
San Francisco, CA
94109-3909
U.S.A.

T: [redacted]2-6445
F: [redacted]2-6446
www.jamesmclane.net

3503-01-1A

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
ATTN: ANPR; Fort Mason
Building 201
San Francisco CA 94123



March 7, 2002

Dear Sir

I am writing to request that off-leash dog walking continue at Crissy Field and elsewhere in Golden Gate National Recreation Area. I have two dogs that truly need an area for off-lease walking and Crissy Field is a beautiful place that is near my home and area that both the dogs and I enjoy. I have seen first hand that Crissy Field is a place for all to enjoy and cohabitate including off-lease dogs. There is no reason why all of us may not have the continued use of Crissy Field and in fact other areas of GGNRA including off-leash recreation and still respect the rights of a wide variety of park users, including recognizing and protecting the important natural resources of this area. There is room for us all.

Please save Crissy Field and GGNRA for off-lease dog walking.

Sincerely

JR Ahn
1702 Vallejo Street
San Francisco CA 94123

3504-01-IC

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: MARGA BENJAMIN (printed)

Address: 151 Frankfort (street) Daly City (city) CA (state) 94014 (zip)

For the past 20 years I have enjoyed my walks together with a friend of mine who walks with 2 canes and my dog at Ft. FUNSTON. This is the only place known to me where one can walk in safety daily in the morning "SUNRISE" - which is important to me especially now that I am elderly. I strongly urge you and ask you to leave things alone at Ft. FUNSTON. I feel too many rules are being introduced in this free country which we all love!!

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now? Where would you LIKE to visit if off-leash was permitted? FORT FUNSTON
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation?
- Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? YES!!
- Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone? LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Marga Benjamin Date 3/7/02 (optional: Age: 67 Sex M (F) Ethnicity W)

Version 2.0

GGNRA012801

3505-01-1A

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Susie Derr (printed)

Address: 60 Park St. S.F. CA. 94110
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

My family, friends, and pets love to visit Fort Funston on a daily basis. Everyone goes to Fort Funston: children, the elderly, all cultures of ethnic diversity; and everyone enjoys it. People love the dogs not one off leashed. The dogs play and romp around and do not bother people. I see many tourist at Fort Funston. I suggest that cars are to be park only in designated parking spots. And that all people stay on the trails designed for them, when people stray off the paths, their dogs follow, not the other way around.

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now for off-leash recreation? What parts would you LIKE to visit?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you is the social aspect of off-leash recreation? For example, do you bring out-of-town visitors with you or meet up with friends on your walks? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: [signature] Date 3/5/02 *(optional: Age:____ Sex M F Ethnicity____)*

Version 2.0

GGNRA012802

3506-02-1A 3/7/02

As a response to the National Park Service ANPR intended to solicit comments from the public regarding pet management within the GGNRA:

I ask for the analysis of any alternative to the current restrictive regulation be measured from the baseline of the former policy that allowed off-leash dog walking in certain areas. 1/2

I ask that the current regulation be changed to designate former "voice control" areas for off-leash dog walking at Fort Funston, Ocean Beach and Lands End at the very least. Thank you.



Lauren Whittemore
3936 17th St.
S.F., CA 94114

2/2

3507-02-1A

Caitlin M. Long
249 17th avenue
San Francisco, Ca 94121

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
RE: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, Ca 94123



To whom it may concern:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed leash laws for dogs at Crissy Field and also to ask to National Park service to use compromise as a means to solving this highly controversial issue.

I have been using Crissy Field on an almost daily basis since moving to San Francisco in 1988. Crissy Field has provided me and my family a place to play run, ride bikes, windsurf and of course stroll along its majestic beaches with my now 10 year old dog. After the renovation, there is no doubt, the beach became a place many more people wanted to enjoy It is now a far more popular family destination than it was in the past, and herein lays the present problem. Some areas of Crissy Field are too crowded - making off-leash dogs an untenable element for many of its users.

This however does not mean that all of Crissy field should be a leash only area! It only means that the GGNRA needs to rethink how to implement policies to please the greatest number of Crissy Field users.

The most eastern beach, which is the most heavily used--especially with young children- ought to be a leash only area. The middle and most western beaches, which get far less use, ought to be designated for off-leash voice controlled dog walking. This plan would allow the most amount of people access to this wonderful resource.

Some time ago the GGNRA stopped allowing off-leash walking on the western most beach at Crissy field under the stipulation that the beach was a "designated wildlife area". This seems like a misguided approach to land use in an urban area because in essence it closed the beach to the people who enjoyed and used the beach the most --the dog walkers. That beach is now essentially deserted and still hardly teeming with

3507-02-1A

"wildlife". Why not reconsider this beach's designated use. Who does it serve to have this beach closed?

Doesn't it make sense for Crissy field to be used for wholesome *recreation* by San Francisco residents? Off-leash dogs are hardly the most pressing and disruptive menace the National Park faces. Crissy Field is unique, it is an incredible open space that needs to be preserved and treated with respect. Yet the fact that it is part of a large metropolitan area can not and should not be ignored. This is a place that is meant to be respectfully used by the most people as is possible –this should be the goal of the Park Service. Applying the standard leash laws of the National Park Service is an approach that lacks imagination would be an incredible wasteful. So please let's think hard and be bold and come up with some compromises.

Sincerely,

Caitlin M. Long

2/2

March 8th 2002

3508-01-HA

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Superintendent GGNRA
Fort Mason Bldg 201 ATTN: ANPR
San Francisco 94123

I cannot understand when, according to Animal Control reports close to 85% of San Francisco dogs are not licensed: Not only is it required①, but it is a protection for the animal (and owner) and is② not even expensive.

Why should such irresponsible people have any voice in leashed vs. off leash areas?

I am a home owner + resident since 1953, which has allowed me to always have a dog, and can see both sides of the issue; and would like to believe that a fair decision will be reached by GGNRA.

Why do you even have to deal with the opinions of people who disregard the law, which affects the Animal Care + Control budget?

Irina S. Main (IRINA S. MAIN)
526 36th Ave 94121-2608
752-5502

3509-01-1A



GGNRA
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason
Bldg 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sirs,

March 6, 2002

I've been using Crissy Field for jogging and dog walking since 1967, when I first moved to San Francisco. For much of that time the beach has seen little use, and received little care or attention.

Since the Park Service took over the Presidio, the area has gotten more popular. But usage of the beach itself (the area between high and low tide) is still about 90% or more people with dogs. Only a few days a year (hot sunny weekends in Sept./Oct.) see people crowding to Crissy to utilize the beach. Such is the nature of the weather in San Francisco.

Usage of the promenade area is much more diverse - joggers, walkers, bikers, as well as dogs. And this usage has increased as a result of the improvements made under the Parks aegis.

Restricting and/or prohibiting dogs access to the beach will not be fair to the dogs or their owners. Further, it will greatly decrease overall usage of the beach, and probably not do a thing to increase non-dog usage.

As for beach wildlife - there was none in the years before the Park Service development, when the beach was ignored and underutilized. Now, if any wildlife does show up, the rangers quickly have it removed.

Denying dogs access to Crissy Beach, Baker Beach, Ocean Beach, and Fort Funston Beach would restrict by over 85% the access dogs now have to off leash areas in San Francisco. Imagine what this would do to usage in the few remaining areas open to off leash dogs!

These areas and beaches have been used by dogs and their owners thruout San Francisco's history, long before the Park Service took over administration. It is my understanding that most, if not all of these areas were ceded to the Park Service with the explicit proviso that they were to remain accessible to dogs and their owners.

Being located in an urban area the Presidio and the rest of the GGNRA are unique within the Park Service. Therefore the Park Service rules should be unique as well. One size doesn't fit all. Rules appropriate to wilderness areas are not appropriate to urban ones. If the Park Service can't adapt to an urban setting, perhaps there shouldn't be an urban National Park.

Sincerely,

Pete Taylor

Pete Taylor
275 Frederick St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

3510-01-1A



February 22, 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). There is a large population of dog lovers in the Bay Area. These are tax-paying citizens who support the National Park Service and request only to enjoy a small portion of this land with their beloved pets. I respect the actions of the Park Service to set aside key pieces of land for bird habitats and plant rejeuvenation but there is enough room for humans and dogs to enjoy this area alongside these conservation efforts, since off-leash dog walking is available in only 0.5% of its 75,000 acres of land. Even those who do not have pets can appreciate setting aside land where dogs can get adequate exercise and socialization with other dogs in order to be happy and healthy members of the Bay Area community. These off-leash locations are family friendly, attracting people of all ages who want to enjoy the day with their entire family, including the family dog. In addition, these locations encourage an atmosphere of community where people feel safe visiting at all hours of the day.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning."(16 USC 460bb). The 1979 GGNRA Pet Policy upheld this activity by creating a special provision allowing off-leash recreation. It is now time for the National Park Service to recognize the will of the people and create a Section 7 special rule for off-leash recreation in the GGGNRA. Please act now! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Additional Comments:

I don't even own a dog. I love to see them run free + have fun!
I never feel threatened and for the most part think that dog owners using these public areas are very responsible

Please Print:

Name: Mary H Arrowsmith-Rr (optional: Age: ___ Sex: M F Ethnicity: _____)

Address: 3204 Buchanan St SF CA 94123
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

3511-03-1A

*Elaine Lissner*
*95 Corwin Street #3*
*San Francisco, CA 94114*
*(415) 920-9180*
*fax (415) 920-9179*
*LissnerE@aol.com*



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Atttention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

March 8, 2001

Dear GGNRA Commissioners / National Park Service,

In your public meeting that I attended last year, you asked for specific, creative suggestions for compromise that could satisfy different groups of users of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Rather than taking sides, I would like to propose some ideas along those lines (mainly referring to Fort Funston).

1) First of all, the newly-fenced area should remain fenced off. I went in there right before it was closed (I had never been in before), and it's really dangerous! You're walking along the sand and all of a sudden the cliff just disappears! I'm surprised someone hadn't already sued the GGNRA for allowing a public danger.

2) It would be reasonable to fence the whole cliff side of the path from the parking lot. Perhaps just a low fence would be necessary to give people the idea, or one could put in a chicken-wired fence similar to in the newly-fenced areas. This would have two effects: 1) leaving an area of untouched vegetation and 2) removing a public nuisance in the slight cliff danger. If it were the older-style fence with just bollards and two cords, the occasional lovebirds could still take their chances and ignore it if they were determined to sit on the bluffs.

3) I'm tempted to say it would also be reasonable to restrict dogs to the inland path from the parking lot, which is the one most dog-owners use anyway because of the cliff danger. This would leave the cliff-side path to the non-dog-owner visitors -- the older people, or the people who just come out on holidays, who come for the scenery and often don't walk very far anyway. However, I have just realized a disadvantage to this plan: this seriously inconveniences a much larger group of park users, the ones who come with both a dog and a stroller. (Not being part of this group, I tend to forget about it, but when I think about it, I do see a lot of people with both a stroller and a dog!) The inland path isn't paved, so this would effectively cut off their access to Fort Funston. So, perhaps a good compromise would be to say that dogs must be on leash on that part of the path.

4) If you're serious about protecting the cliff birds, your education efforts need to get much better. From what I understand, it's not really dogs and people running around on the bluffs who disturb the birds so much, it's any disturbance to the cliff face. Yet there have been all sorts of closures up top, while there are NO signs down below educating people to the real concern. If I were a cliff-dwelling bird, what would disturb me most would be the young men in the throes of testosterone poisoning who insist on seeing how far up the cliff they can climb from the beach (often making their dog go with them) while everybody down below bites their fingernails. I know it's difficult to post signs on a constantly shifting beach, but you have to be able to do better than the current zero effort (at least some signs at the entrance, for heaven's sake!).

5) Regarding other wildlife and plant life up top: Yes, I have a dog, and I can see that the dogs are tearing things up. That is why I like the idea of closing the cliff side of the path. That way at least some of the area can be undisturbed.

However, I would be heartbroken to lose Fort Funston as a place to take my dog. Fort Funston is one of the main reasons I live in San Francisco.

Whether it was "legal" or not, a promise was made in 1979, and you're going to have lots of upset and angry dog owners if that promise is broken. You will also find that many people will become law-breakers where they never were before, and a lot of money will be wasted on enforcement that could have been used elsewhere. Also, like it or not, dog owners are now the main users of the park. If you get rid of the dog owners, you will face a whole new set of issues with safety and security. (I have seen this with my neighborhood park at 19th and Collingwood streets. Ever since the ballfield was closed to dogs last year, the homeless, camping, and needle takeover has been complete, and I don't even like passing through there in the daytime.)

The point of this argument: I think it is definitely in the GGNRA's interest to respect the promise that it made and work with dog owners to come up with creative solutions for making dogs workable in the area.

6) My understanding is that hunting dogs are allowed off leash in several parts of the National Park System. So there should be a way to allow for off-leash dogs in the GGNRA.

7) As you know, the dog-owner groups are quite well organized. If they are sure that the NPS and GGNRA are making a good-faith effort to work with them towards properly codifying the 1979 pet policy, they will be a great resource towards making sure dogs are as low-impact as possible. Already, there are the weekly cleanups (have you noticed how much cleaner Fort Funston and Crissy Field are than any non-dog area such as Ocean Beach?). There is also a watchdog ethic – I remember being scolded in no uncertain terms my first time at Fort Funston for letting my dog dig. This helps educate people – "weekend warrior" dog owners may think, "It's such a big space, what harm could one dog digging in the sand do?" My father, visiting from out of town, expressed this same sentiment. But with experienced dog owners looking over one's shoulder, one soon is informed that with hundreds of dogs a day, it does indeed make a difference.

3511-03-1A

I would like to see the dog owners' education formalized a bit. Rather than just a sign at the entrance saying "Dogs on leash," there should be clearer, and realistic, instructions. If you've ever been to Tilden Park in the East Bay, you'll know what I'm talking about. The do's and don't's are explained along with the rationale behind them. If the dog owners' groups feel like the NPS is working with them, I am sure they will be happy to formalize their informal education program, contributing to sign wording, handing out flyers, etc.

This has gotten long, but hopefully my conversational style has kept you reading, because I'd like to add just a couple more suggestions:

8) Some of the professional dog-walkers are a problem. There is no way they can keep track of ten or fifteen dogs at a time. I've heard stories of dog-walkers who take more than a dozen dogs, and if one dog wanders off, they might not even notice! I'd never let my dog go with such a walker. My dog-walker doesn't take more than three at a time.

I'd like to see a restriction: no more than three dogs off-leash per person at a time (like in the East Bay RPD). When I've taken my dog out with a couple of her friends, I've found that three is the most I can keep track of at one time. If a dog-walker wants to have more than three dogs, fine, I suppose, but they must keep some of them on leash at any time, or they must get an additional person to work with them.

Maybe I sound biased, and know these people are just trying to make a living, but even my dog-walker has complained about "factory" dog-walkers. She never used to take dogs to Fort Funston, because the time she went there it was around noon, and she said the mass dog-walking dogs acted like packs and were rather intimidating to her dogs. Luckily, that's just around noontime, but still, I think it should be scaled back.

9) One of the rules I'd like to see on a "new, improved" entrance sign is "Dogs must be immediately leashed when horses are in sight." I'd like to hear more from horse-owners about what else we could do to help them. Weren't there supposed to be some meetings about that?

10) Finally, shifting attention to Crissy Field, I think dogs should be restricted on the beach closest to the parking lot (the one most used by windsurfers, families, etc.), and allowed off-leash on the less-used part of the beach that begins after you go over the footbridge and turn right. Who could possibly find fault with such a plan? On the far part of the beach, all the ecologically-sensitive areas already have the advantage of being fenced off to avoid human trampling anyway, so all that's left is surf and sand (along with beautiful views and sunsets, sure paradise for both dogs and their owners).

I hope these suggestions help.

Sincerely,

Elaine A. Lissner

Elaine Lissner
San Francisco

P.S. Requiring "Canine Good Citizen" certification for off-leash use is also an option.

3512-01-1E

March 7, 2002

National Park Professional
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



Dear National Park Professional,

This letter is in response to the "Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Pet Management in Golden Gate National Recreation Area". I strongly support a final result that allows both preservation of endangered or threatened species and continued use of significant portions of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) for off-leash pet recreation. GGNRA is large area in a very highly populated urban district and has a history of off-leash recreation; there should be a way to accommodate both wild species and humans with domesticated animals in this urban setting.

The US Code governing national parks and recreation areas states that the enabling statute and accompanying legislative history are the guiding principles for each park, and these cannot be overridden by the desire to govern all parks uniformly. The GGNRA statute has four provisions for recreational use, and there is a legislative history of off-leash recreational use. The result is a strong legal case for the continuation of off-leash use.

The GGNRA is located in a very densely populated urban area. There is a societal trend to outlaw activities for everyone because a small minority do not act responsibly. In order to keep the freedom that is often sited as a hallmark of our country we need to start enforcing rules and laws against antisocial behaviors rather than eliminating entire activities. The logical extension of outlawing activities because a few people act antisocially is to restrict all but the most benign activities. For example, boating would be eliminated because a few irresponsible yacht owners dump waste into waterways. Before banning activities because a few people misbehave, please ask yourself what life would be like if a favorite recreation was eliminated because of the abuse by a small minority.

The very name of the GGNRA contains recreation. GGNRA was not chartered as a wildlife sanctuary. There is sufficient land to protect threatened plant and animal species, and to allow people to enjoy themselves with their pets. We have an obligation to wild species and domesticated animals. GGNRA is one of the only remaining places in the Bay Area for dogs to get serious exercise.

Thank you for considering my comments. I urge you to find a solution that addresses the needs of the people as well as the wild and domesticated species that have used the GGNRA for the past 20 years.

Sincerely,

William J. Gignac

William J. Gignac
1172 Ashcroft Way
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

3513-01-1A

**JEAN MARIE HUBA**
**1701 VALLEJO STREET**
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123**



March 8, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in support of off-leash areas in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

I have lived in San Francisco for the past 15 years and, while I do not own a dog (due to the rules of my apartment building), I am a huge dog lover. I frequently visit parks in the city for the pleasure of visiting with dogs and watching them run and play. Unlike a suburban area where dogs have a backyard to run, "city" dogs have to rely on parks and beaches for their exercise. If they can't run there unleashed, where can they run? It not only benefits dogs have a health standpoint (emotionally and physically) to be able to run free and interact with other dogs, it also gives people like me immense pleasure to just to watch them.

If feel strongly off-leash areas are extremely important to dogs, as well as their owners. I hope the GGNRA will make an exception to the rule to the off-leash ban.

Sincerely,

Jean Marie Huba

Jean Marie Huba

cc: SF SPCA

3514-01-1A

308 Filbert St
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133
MARCH 9, 2002

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
ATTN: ANDR
FORT MASON, BUILDING 201
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94123

DEAR SIR/MADAME:

REGARDING PET MANAGEMENT IN THE GGNRA:

1. AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, I WAS KNOCKED OVER BY A DOG WHILE JOGGING AT THE CRISSEY FIELD BEACH.

2. CHILDREN ARE BROUGHT TO THAT BEACH. HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS OUGHT TO DICTATE ITS USES.

3. OTHER COMMUNITIES (MILL VALLEY, LAGUNA BEACH) HAVE SET ASIDE FENCED AREAS FOR DOG RUNS.

4. HUMANS (SO FAR) greatly outnumber DOGS, AND THEIR NEEDS DESERVE ATTENTION.

PLEASE DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED by A VOCAL MINORITY IN CONSIDERING YOUR OPTIONS.

SINCERELY,

ROCCO R. FAZIO

3515-01-1D



Dear Sirs,

Dogs in Parks are not a good idea. Every dog owner should be totally responsible for their oun dogs recreational needs, and not foist the job on all the rest of us !!

Dog invasion of our parks devistate gardens, wild creatures, bite without control; other dogs, human kids, seniors, anyone they want.

Renegade owners foster renegade dogs. They poop anywhere. Yas, I've seen both do it. Plants get dug up as quickly as the dogs do it. Who will control them ???

Maybe safe enclousures for Humans ??

Dogs in their own yards.
People in the parks.

Sincerely

Brian Bishop
377 - 63rd Street
Oakland, CA
94618-1257

3516-04-2

Dogs on Leashes } no need for } ants - K-9
Leashes & Ben

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Rescue of Dogs

Dogs creating trouble & fighting - biting people
arthur Feinstein } destroying property & ta -
} all wet
(Feinstein does not

like animals - dogs are our Best Friends and deserve
our attn. to their needs - as well as the Public.

If we restrain animals needs there - then we will
restrain people - kids - men i use of same faculty

Paper - as you can see this is a Harmless
only because it affects our animals / pets &c.

I would like to speak with 3 min - (Hardly
enough time to make an opinion) at one of these
Forums - But I'm not there and can't get there -
so I'll make my opinion known this way -

This is the 2nd letter to you on this subject.
It seems to me that animals take a Back
seat to Humans in this Society no matter what
happens, Believe me - their Heart to stay - so you
all better "listen up." Those of us who love our
pets and animals, Be it Farm, Ranch, work and or
other - will always strive to have the Best of
conditions for them in any forum, they find them-
selves - and is very obvious it's a "Right to the
Finish" because the Human race sees them as
"only animals" and therefore a lesser entity than
man. What do you say to a K-9 - Search and Rescue dog - a
Herd mans dog - bomb sniffer dog - drug sniffer dog -
guard dog - family (protector) pet - herding dog and on
and on and on when you tell him to cease & desist the

1/4

3516-04-2

2. leash because he is not entitled to the freedom
es to be loose at times - Our working class dog
cannot be replaced - our dogs as companion
are family - (people and kids are not family -
they turn on us) our pets do not turn on us -
How much more do they deserve a place to
run free and off leash - than in a park
reserved for at least "them"? They are ~~not~~
more a problem than people in any situation, such
as after rain -

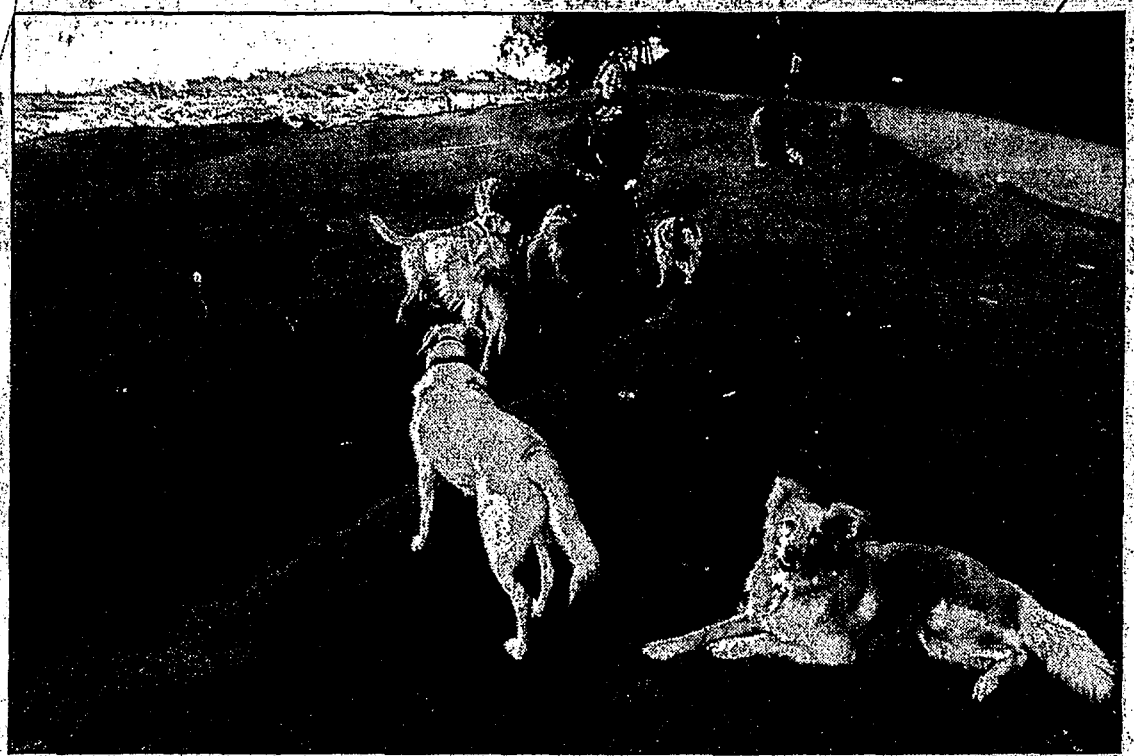
Your looking for an alternate regulation to
supersede the are "on leash." If you must
do an alternate, then make it "off leash area"
in this regulation which is set up for people -
People are the problem - in every way - in
their training of animals within their vicious - Bare Hero
Keeping the Dogs "under control" by the
guardian, even off leash - is the way to
go - and holding any person responsible for
a problem with their own dog - Lets settle
this and do it for the "Benefit of animals"

We have similar problem in Santa Cruz with
the "no pets policy" in rentals - another group
discrimination against them by humans - The
"off leash" policy must be implemented to avoid trouble with
Continue - Louise Barnes

3516-04-2

Does this picture look like dogs - to me as a dog - no way - They're well behaved and happy to be free for a change -

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2002

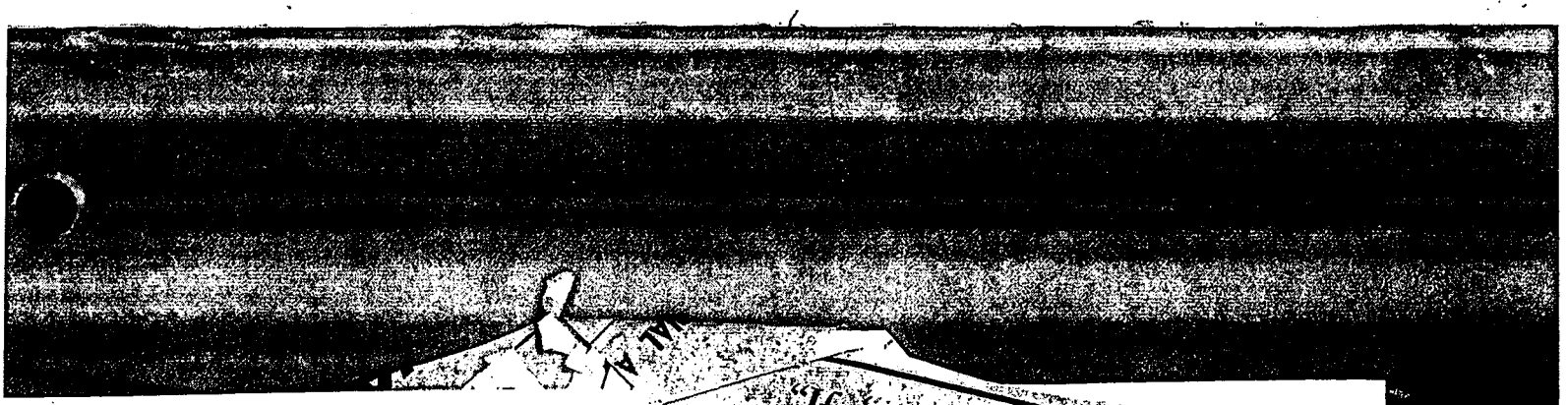


CHRIS STEWART / The Chronicle

Fort Funston has attained a special place in the hearts of San Francisco's dogs and people, such as Michelle Jones, who walk them there.

3/4

3/4



"If we have dogs here, then next thing, people will want to camp in the middle of Ocean Beach."

ARTHUR FEINSTEIN, Golden Gate Audubon Society executive director

4/4

3517-01-1A

Kenneth Lee 315 Corbett Ave. #5, S.F., Ca. 94114
Wk.-415-861-3886, Fax- 415-861-5663, Nekoboycat@Yahoo.com



3-8-02

Dear GGNRA-

I tried FAXing & E-MAILing
BUT NO CONTACT.

Myself & My family are in
Support of keeping dogs
On a leash in the GGRA.

Thank you-

Ken Lee S.F.-Ca.
Miyuki Lee "
Mary Lee "
Jan Lee "

3518-01-IC

382 Dorado Way
South San Francisco, California 94080

March 4, 2002



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sirs:

I have been walking my dogs at Fort Funston for the last 16 years. Recently it has been getting more crowded due to many areas being closed to off leash dogs, creating a funnel effect. However as 99% of the dog walkers are very responsible the area has stayed clean. Indeed a number of people go down to the beach regularly to pick up debris that has washed up from passing fishing boats.

The attitude of the National Park Service during the last couple of years towards off leash dogs is rather disturbing. I believe they are taking the wrong approach for a number of reasons:

1. As far as native plants are concerned, this was, before the building of the fort, an area of sand dunes, according to old photographs of the area. To bring in "native plants" and claim that the National Park Service is restoring the area is nonsense.

2. I understand the Audabon Society has become very involved so that the bank swallow habitat will be preserved. There are miles of coast and I doubt that the bank swallow will miss what is less than one mile of coastline. And have you ever been to Fort Funston and seen the numbers of people enjoying the area? I would be prepared to bet that members of the Audabon Society who are writing in seldom, if ever, go there. Also, it is my understanding that since the National Park Service took out large quantities of the ice plant the bank swallows have largely stopped nesting there.

3. It is important to remember that this is not a wilderness area such as Yellowstone or Yosemite Park. It is a well used park in an urban area and therefore should be judged by other criteria.

I will not go into the fact that this land was given to the GGNRA on the condition that it should be used for the purposes it had been used for historically. My knowledge of the background is sketchy and limited. But I do think that as a park in an urban area consideration should be given to the taxpayers who get the most use out of it.

I do hope that common sense will prevail.

Very truly yours,

Frances Short

3519-02-1A

To GGNRA

3/8/02

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to express my desire to continue the long standing tradition of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

Off leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when SF gave its beaches & coastal bluffs to the GGNRA

There are no other places outside to have a dog off-leash in which there is sufficient space for my dog to run & socialize with other dogs.

In particular Ft Funston is my favorite place to take my dog. If it's no longer off leash, I won't enjoy

1/2

3519-02-1A

my recreational activity there & neuters will my dog.

There should remain to be recreational areas available for dog owners & their pets in San Francisco, especially since there are few places to take dogs hiking in the area.

Thank you for your attention.

Laura Kaufman
Codi (yellow lab)
443 7th Ave #1
SF, CA
415 876-1256

2/2

3520-01-IC

March 5, 2002



Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

**Subject: I SUPPORT OFF-LEASH RECREATION in the GGNRA.**

There should be some open areas set aside in the GGNRA for dog walkers. There are so few places for our dogs to run freely. A locked up dog that does not socialize with other people and animals are aggressive. We should know that from the Diane Whipple case.

One of the pleasures in my life is to be able to go hiking with my dog in the GGNRA. We are taxpayers and should be able to enjoy off-leash recreation in the park. There can be areas set aside for off-leash recreation. The Park Service can post signs up to indicate areas for off-leash dog walking. The Pet Policy that was enacted for over twenty years should remain in place. It can be a guideline for pet owners and GGNRA. GGNRA is not Yosemite or the Grand Canyon. It is an urban park for everyone to enjoy. There is enough land to include all stakeholders involved, from hang gliding to biking to off-leash dog walking.

Do the right thing and include everyone in the use of GGNRA land.

856 Beechwood Dr.
Daly City, CA 94015

3521-01-1A



To whom it may concern,

I simply wanted to voice my opinion in support of keeping the GGNRA as an off-leash recreation area. I do not own a dog, so I can not go into details about the benefits of the off-leash areas. I can say, however, that I have never had a problem with an off-leash dog. In fact, I enjoy watching the interactions of people and their dogs. I have lived in San Francisco all of my life, and the only incident I have ever had with a dog came from a dog that was on-leash.

I concede that I don't know all of the issues involved in this decision. But I do believe that the benefits to people outweigh the costs.

Thank you,
Christopher Sadler

3522-01-1A

MARYANN KOTAK

[redacted]

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3/13/02

To whom it may concern at GGNRA:

I am a San Francisco resident. I have lived here since 1983 and have walked my 2 miniature pinschers and many other dogs of friends & relatives off leash at Ft. Funston since 1983.
I urge you to consider the reports from the studies with results finding that over 94-97% of dogs off leashes at "Ft. Fundog" DO NOT CHASE BIRDS. The people that walk the trails at Ft. Funston who are NOT dog owners go specifically to Ft. Funston because they enjoy watching the dogs! As you already know, the reason why Ft. Funston is a main stop for out of town guests is specifically because people and dogs AND NATURE all commune and it is great. It is unique to San Francisco and it benefits us all. There is PLENTY of room for the birds and the plants. The Dunes and other areas...acres and acres have ALREADY been walled off for 'bird studies'. How many more acres do the 'bird studies' people actually need? There is PLENTY OF ROOM for ALL of 'US' at Ft. Funston.
I am a homeowner and a city, state and federal taxpayer. I agree there should be room for 'bird studies' in addition I think MY TAX MONEY should (for once) be spent on ME and MY recreation, that being walking my dogs off leash at Ft. Funston.
Sincerely,

MaryAnn Kotak

MaryAnn Kotak
627 Lisbon Street
San Francisco, California
94112-3507

3523-01-1A

ear Superintendent O'Neill: FAX To: 415 561 4355 Date: 03/09/02

upport off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

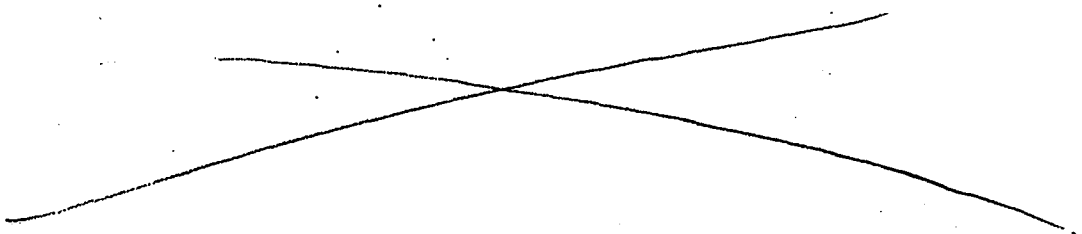
ame: Jim Uber (optional: Age:____ Sex M F Ethnicity____)

ddress: ____ SAN FRANCISCO CA 94121
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

WALKING
VERY FREQUENTLY; GG PARK, PRESIDIO, LINCOLN PARK, CHINA BEACH, FT. MILEY

Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?





Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

ABSOLUTELY NOT. WE TOOK MY PARENTS TO FORT FUNSTON RECENTLY (WE HAD LAST GONE ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO) TO SEE THE HANG GLIDERS. MY MOTHER WAS SO AFRAID OF THE "PACKS" OF DOGS RUNNING AROUND THAT SHE REFUSED TO GET OUT OF THE CAR. THERE WERE MANY, MANY DOGS.

What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

PARKS ARE FOR EVERYONE.

Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

MUCH MORE ENJOYABLE

DOG OWNERS ARE THE RUDEST, MOST OBNOXIOUS PEOPLE. WE ASK THEM NOT TO DEFECATE AND URINATE ON OUR LITTLE FRONT YARD AND WE ARE RESPONDED TO WITH OBSCENITIES AND THREATS. THEY DUMP THEIR POOP EVERYWHERE.

Signed: Jim Uber 03/09/02 Date

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, ATTN: ANPR, FORT MASON, BUILDING 201, SAN FRANCISCO 94123

3524-01-1B

Robert L. Mayer
70 George Lane
Sausalito, CA 94965



9 March 2002

Park Superintendent Brian O'Neill

We welcome the chance to add our input on released dogs in the national parks. We will be absent during the public information meeting so will write.

For over two decades we censused bird populations for Point Reyes Bird Observatory on beaches now under the supervision of GGNRA. During this time we have observed approximately 90% of released dogs chasing all species of birds. We're not anti-dog — we've owned three large dogs over a thirty-year period and do know that dogs do not belong on public beaches.

Good luck in educating the public in the personal responsibility required when bringing dogs into public areas.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Mayer

Mary Violet Mayer

3525-01-1A

March 8, 2002

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to give my opinion on the subject of allowing dogs to be let off leash in Fort Funston.

I love dogs and love to see them out for walks in my neighborhood, especially as I'm not able to have one in my apartment.

I was disturbed, however, the times I've walked in Fort Funston, to see dogs swarming the place, trotting off into fenced-off areas, taking sneak craps and chasing birds, all the while their walkers chatted with each other, occasionally yelling ineffectually for their pooch to come.

As much as I love dogs, I also love wilderness. The portion of Fort Funston that has been replanted with natives is a delight - I'd love to see it expanded, and I'd love to be able to sit and enjoy it without having an unleashed dog come and lick me in the face, which has happened.

Please, keep the leashes and keep rangers out there enforcing them with fines.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan M. McDonough

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3526-01-1A Date: 3/6/02

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: SARAH FATEMI (optional: Age: 26 Sex: M (F) Ethnicity: _____)

Address: 627 CENTRAL ST. (street) SAN FRANCISCO (city) CA (state) 94117 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

1-2 TIMES EVERY TWO WEEKS - FORT FUNSTON.

MAIN ACTIVITIES - HIKING, TAKING CHILDREN, BEING AROUND ANIMALS, BEING OUTDOORS. A SAFE ENVIRON. TO INTERACT W/ NATURE.

BENEFITS - SUN, EXCERCISE, RELAXATION, ENJOYMENT,

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

I HAVENT MADE NEW FRIENDS BUT IVE MADE MANY ACQUAINTANCES. I REALLY ENJOY GOING TO FUNSTON AND RECOGNIZING PEOPLE AND THEIR DOGS. AND KNOWING EVERYONES NAMES - INCLUDING THE DOGS!

I INTRODUCE FUNSTON TO ANYONE FROM OUT-OF-TOWN RELATIVES TO FRIENDS RAISED IN S.F. WHO NEVER KNEW HOW BEAUTIFUL THE AREA WAS.

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY APPROPRIATE. THE HAPPINESS & ENJOYMENT OF DOGS IS JUST AS MUCH A PART OF HUMANITY IN SOCIETY AS THE PRESERVATION OF ANY OTHER WILD CREATURE.

THE ONLY THING THE PARK SERVICE NEEDS TO DO IS PLACE MORE GARBAGE CANS NEAR THE BEACH AREAS.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

I WOULD EVENTUALLY STOP GOING.
IM SURE I WOULD VISIT OCCASSIONALLY - BUT THE SADNESS OF A LOST AND STIFLED COMMUNITY WOULD DETER ANY INTEREST I MIGHT HAVE LEFT, AND EVENTUALLY PREVENT ME FROM GOING AT ALL.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

I FEEL SAFER WITH DOGS OF COURSE!
WHERE THERE ARE DOGS THERE ARE PEOPLE!
NO PEOPLE .... ALONE IN WILDERNESS?? NOT SAFE.

Signed: _____ Date: 3/5/02

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Mail by 3/9

3527-02-1A

Dear Park Service:

I ask for the analysis of any alternative to the current restrictive regulation be weaned from the baseline of the former policy that allowed off-leash dog walking in certain areas.

1/2

3/07/02

3527-02-1A



I also ask ~~that the~~ current regulation be ~~weaned from the baseline~~ changed to designate former "leash control" areas for off leash dog walking at Ft. Funston, Ocean Beach & Lands End at the very least. Thank you,

Geraine Walsh

2/2

3528-01-IC

February 27, 2002

GGNRA
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



Re: Dogs and Owners at Fort Funston -
Yes for Off-Leash Recreation

Dear Sir:

I am a 53 year old resident of Pacifica. Three years ago my husband and I decided to take a quantum leap and buy a Boxer dog. Our three children were already teenagers, and we were searching for something that we could all enjoy together. Acquiring our wonderful dog, Buster, didn't just increase our family by one. He brought with him puppy classes shared by the whole family, intense discussions on dog psychology around the dinner table, group decisions on behavior, and treasured hours spent enjoying him and each other.

When Buster was 4 months old, my San Francisco brother-in-law and his two Labradors introduced us to the joys of Fort Funston. My whole family walks the paths of Fort Funston several times a week. We seldom leave without making a new friend. It is a joy to watch the dogs run free, and a pleasure to spend an hour or two strolling and chatting with the myriad people who are out enjoying the same pastime. But besides the obvious fun at Fort Funston – what do you think we do after going for a nice walk? We stop by a local coffee house in the City and drop a few dollars...dollars we spend in San Francisco rather than Pacifica!

San Francisco can be a demanding city to live in – people work hard to earn a living and there are many dangers lurking around the streets. Dogs have always provided the needed companionship and love that many people would otherwise miss. Dogs need to have a place to run in order to be healthy in body and mind. Please don't take away one of the last sanctuaries for all of us dog owners.

Sincerely,

Kathy Johnson
Family of Six

cc: SFDOG

1250 Glacier Ave.
Pacifica

3529-02-1A

March 8, 2002

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason
Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



**Subject: Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR)**

Dear Superintendent:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my support for off-leash dog recreation in the GGNRA. I have lived in San Francisco for nearly 10 years and visit some part of the GGNRA at least once a week. It would be a terrible loss for my family if we could no longer take advantage of this spectacular open space; and as the human, we only go where our dogs can follow. Off-leash recreation is critical to maintaining my family's and our dogs' health, developing strong relationships between the human and dog species, and justly balancing land-use for all residents in this congested urban area. I offer these arguments in a spirit of fairness and responsibility, asking that owner accountability for their dog's behavior be enforced in the interest of all GGNRA visitors, humans and dogs alike.

*A healthy dog*

All living creatures require some kind of daily activity or recreation to maintain good physical and emotional health. I walk our dogs daily in Alamo Square, a local city park with an off-leash area. This is a wonderful social environment and daily walk for both humans and their dogs, but the limited space does not afford the same type of physical exercise, environmental stimulation, and sense of freedom that is available in places like Fort Funston and Ocean Beach. Just a few hours every Saturday and Sunday in the GGNRA and my dogs are happier, healthier, calmer, and better behaved than a dog confined to their home and neighborhood. A dog's need, and their right, for freedom and exploration is no less relevant or valid to their well-being than it is for humans.

*The human + dog relationship*

Restricting areas where humans and dogs can walk and play together is a slippery slope. There are millions of dogs within our society, some raised as pets and just as many in shelters, abused or neglected. The conflicts we have with dogs will not subside with laws that restrict the dog's access and freedom; there are simply too many dogs. In fact, it is possible that this approach will only serve to create more tension and incidents of conflict. The dog's place in our society is well established throughout history, as companion, co-worker, caregiver, guide, and guardian. To say a dog has no rights in our society is ridiculous considering what dogs contribute to our quality of life. Responsible joint use of open space can serve to educate and nurture respect and understanding for the numerous benefits of the human + dog relationship. Reducing the opportunities for humans and dogs to interact socially will certainly lead to a greater divide between us.

*An equal share for dogs and their owners*

Sharing open space is essential in an urban area, where large numbers of people are competing for the use of small pieces of land. It is only fair that such space be made available to <u>all</u> citizens for their various types of recreation, and of course, for the preservation of native plants, animals, and birds. This must include my family and our preferred recreation, playing with our dogs. Certainly some compromise could be reached to allow for off-leash recreation, preservation, and all other recreational activities within the GGNRA. As it is now, off-leash dogs use only a small percentage of the GGNRA. It is simply not fair that off-leash recreation be abolished completely. A space-share or time-share alternative would be favorable to complete off-leash restriction.



1/2

3529-02-1A



*Guidelines must be established and enforced*

I also believe greater responsibility should be expected of dog owners; licensing, training, proper breeding, shelter and diet, and at all times control. I believe in laws and policies that would legally require such responsibility. For example, why not enforce remedial training for owners (and their dogs) when incidents occur, instead of tattooing the dog for certain death? Certainly a dog is no more dangerous than a reckless driver in control of his 3,000-pound automobile. Yet we don't take their car, instead we fine and re-train the driver. Incidents do occur, even to my family and our dogs, but I don't take out my frustration on the dog; instead I give its owner a lengthy criticism on their lack of training and social responsibility. Please, let's not punish the dog or the thousands of families who take proper social responsibility for the behavior of their dogs.

I ask you to please consider these arguments when deciding the fate of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, and I thank you again for this opportunity to express my feelings regarding this sensitive matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Kohler
1701 Turk Street, #3
San Francisco, CA 94115
415.441.7016
jenspeed3@yahoo.com

2/2

3530-9-1E

Eric Finseth
384 Curtner Ave.
Palo Alto, California 94306

March 7, 2002



National Park Service
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Building 201
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California 94123

Re: Golden Gate National Recreation Area ANPR

I am writing to urge that the National Park Service cease and desist from its efforts to impose a leash law upon Fort Funston in San Francisco. If we are to have a free society, there must be a high bar to regulation. Instead, you propose, and have made clear your intent to carry through, one of the worst and most destructive forms of regulation – one that cures no major, tangible, identifiable evil, but which manages to suppress the fun, the freedom and the enjoyment of a not insignificant number of people. Indeed, the motivating spirit of the regulation appears to be the sick pleasure of control for the sake of control. If so, that is the totalitarian impulse. Shame on you.

Eric Finseth

3531-01-1A



February 22, 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). There is a large population of dog lovers in the Bay Area. These are tax-paying citizens who support the National Park Service and request only to enjoy a small portion of this land with their beloved pets. I respect the actions of the Park Service to set aside key pieces of land for bird habitats and plant rejeuvenation but there is enough room for humans and dogs to enjoy this area alongside these conservation efforts, since off-leash dog walking is available in only 0.5% of its 75,000 acres of land. Even those who do not have pets can appreciate setting aside land where dogs can get adequate exercise and socialization with other dogs in order to be happy and healthy members of the Bay Area community. These off-leash locations are family friendly, attracting people of all ages who want to enjoy the day with their entire family, including the family dog. In addition, these locations encourage an atmosphere of community where people feel safe visiting at all hours of the day.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning."(16 USC 460bb). The 1979 GGNRA Pet Policy upheld this activity by creating a special provision allowing off-leash recreation. It is now time for the National Park Service to recognize the will of the people and create a Section 7 special rule for off-leash recreation in the GGGNRA. Please act now! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom Steele

Additional Comments:

Please Print:

Name: Tom Steele (optional: Age: ___ Sex: M F Ethnicity: _____)

Address: 2736 Baker (Street) SF (City) CA (State) 94123 (Zip)

3532-01-1A

March 6, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
FAX 415-561-4355



Attention: ANPR

Dear Sir or Madam:

I believe that an over twenty-year policy of allowing dogs to walk off-leash in certain parts of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area should be continued. My dog does volunteer work for the SF/SPCA as an Animal Assisted Therapy dog, and she and other well-behaved dogs deserve the privilege of walking off-leash. The native plant restoration groups, while promoting a worthy cause, should have chosen an area to begin their project that did not have pre-existing uses instead of taking advantage of the people who were working to maintain the park.

There is room in the 75,000 acre GGNRA to accommodate the activities of the people in the cities that the park surrounds without endangering the birds and plants. Off-leash dog walking is one of those activities and the GGNRA should get an exception to the National Park Service ban of this activity.

Sincerely,

Maria Da Costa

1563 17TH AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94122

3533-01-1A

March 8th,





Dear G.G.N.R.A. staff,

The time for public comment on the uses of the G.G.N.R.A. is drawing to a close. Thoughts of walking my dogs off leash at Fort Funston and Crissy Field flood my mind. Some sad memories are present for the dogs that have died and are still missed every day. The consolation is that they had such quality of life, enjoying the freedom to be off leash and to walk with the people they loved. I have, and have had, large breed dogs. With Magnus, my St. Bernard, weighing in at 185lbs. He is built for comfort and not for speed. He loves to amble along at his own pace checking the mail as he goes. His days are spent with families facing the death of a loved one. We deserve this time and space to feel free and refreshed.

I urge you to hear the many voices asking for off-leash dog walking.

Sincerely,
Sr. Ruth Hall +

3534-01-1A

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: MARK BRINDMORE (printed)

Address: 1350 VERMONT ST (street) SF (city) CA (state) 94110 (zip)

I would like to lend my strong support for the continuation of off-leash recreation for dogs & dog owners. To me this is purely an issue of the continuation of activities as stipulated in the Transfer to the GGNRA of lands from San Francisco

Furthermore - of the Hundreds of times I've been to Fort Funston I have never, ever witnessed any conflicts between dogs & humans - either leashed or not.

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now? Where would you LIKE to visit if off-leash was permitted?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation?
- Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area?
- Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: [signature] Date 3/7/02 (optional: Age: 30 Sex (M) F Ethnicity ____)

Version 2.0

GGNRA012839

3535-01-1C

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Katherine Fong (printed)

Address: 365 Ironspar Drive (street) Daly City (city) CA (state) 94015 (zip)

My ~~dog~~ dog and I have been using the Fort Funston area for almost 10 years. It is the only off leash ~~area~~ park in our Daly City neighborhood. We see kids, family with elderlys, toddles with scroller ~~in the~~ walking in the area with or without dogs. It is not just a dog park. A lot people enjoy walking ~~along~~ in the open ~~beach~~ natural preserved ~~area~~ environment. Off-leash environment allows people interact with dogs. It is ~~one of the~~ the best ice-breaker among people as well. We talked to strangers in the path about our dogs. ~~We shared the~~ Just like many mothers talked to ~~strangers~~ other mother about their kids. ~~We~~ You wouldn't have a park that not allow kids ~~or~~ unless they are in scrollers. Why would you have a park that not allow dogs without a leash?

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now? Where would you LIKE to visit if off-leash was permitted?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite i true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation?
- Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area?
- Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreati in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within t GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these area a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed t renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Katherine Fong Date 3/8/02 (optional: Age: ___ Sex M F Ethnicity ___)

3536-01-1C

March 8, 2002

Superintendent- GGNRA
Attention ANPR
Fort Mason, Bld 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to express my views specifically on the **dog problem at Fort Funston**. I have used this beautiful park intermittently for many years. More recently, the dog population has gotten so large that it has become a real problem. The experience of so many dogs is unnerving, even to an animal lover like myself. Dogs come up from all sides and smell you, but you never know what they are going to do. Instead of a leisurely walk in an open space, the lone hiker or bicyclist like myself is instead on the defense, looking not at the view of the grand Pacific, but in fear at the dogs approaching ahead and behind on the path.

I had two separate incidents over the last 6 months. Both were when I was riding on a bicycle slowly on the paved path. One time I was riding and a pack of about 6 small dogs accosted me. The woman who was with them was clearly overwhelmed, had her hands up on her face in panic. She obviously was a professional dog walker, as I doubt someone would own that many dogs (which would also explain her lack of control over them). As I rode on, one dog followed me barking and snapping at my sandaled feet. I was screaming at it to try to scare it off, and rode faster to get away from it. When I finally escaped, I was derided by people who said – "What do you expect, riding through here? You shouldn't ride and not expect dogs to follow you. They have every right to be here". I couldn't believe the arrogance of some of these people. My understanding is that bicycles are allowed, as no signs prohibiting them are there, and I was riding very slow. Why should I expect to be attacked? Things are clearly out of control, and the behavior of some of the people is much worse than the dogs!

Another incident occurred just 2 weeks ago. I was riding with a friend this time, extremely slowly on the path, just barely staying upright on the bike, as there were so many dogs one had to go very slow to navigate through them. I glanced over to the vegetation to see some low silver barrier in the ice plant, which was new and I was curious what it was. I was pointing it out to my friend and since I glanced away looking at the silver thing, I hadn't seen the dog run directly in front of me. My bicycle physically hit the dog (but not injuring him since I was going so slow) but I fell off my bike and landed on my wrist. The dog owner apologized and once I saw that I was OK, I apologized and inquired about the dog. So at least there was not the unpleasant interchange I had with the other incident. But both incidents would have been avoided if the dogs were on leash.

**Dogs off-leash would not be a problem for other visitors if it weren't for the <u>shear volume</u> of them.** There are simply too many at Fort Funston, and one is so overwhelmed by dogs that one cannot enjoy what the park has to offer. It is so unpleasant, I have gone less and less. I guess this is what they want, for it to be a dog park. This is what it has become. But it shouldn't be. It should be for everyone. **Please keep dogs on leash and enforce!** Perhaps a leash free area can be set up or something. They have a right to be there, but so do I!

Thanks for you consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Karen Vitulano

Karen Vitulano
40 Park Manor Dr.
Daly City, CA 94015

3537-01-1C

March 8, 2002



To: Superintendent O'Neill

Subject: I support off-leash recreation

I just recently started visiting the GGNRA Park with our family dog. I really enjoy hiking with her in the park with my friends. It is great to have off-leash recreation in a park that is so close by. I would like to keep it that way for my generation and future generations. There is enough space for everyone. I meet people with their dogs and they have been friendly.

I have no problem with dogs being off-leash. Our dog is very friendly since she interacts and socializes with other off-leash dogs.

The park can set aside some land for off-leash recreation. The amount of land for off-leash is not even 1 percent of the park total. The park should set aside some areas for dogs to run off-leash. Seems like the park accommodates all the other types of recreation. Why not include off-leash recreation?

856 Beechwood Drive
Daly City, CA 94015

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

3538-01-1A

Date: 3/4/02

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: KC Sterling (optional: Age: 50 Sex: M F Ethnicity: _____)

Address: 111 Pine St #312 (street) SF (city) CA (state) 94109 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

weekly
Ft Funston
Crissy Field Area
Walking - Enjoyment

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

I enjoy watching the dogs run free. I am not a dog owner but have socialized with many owners during my walks.

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

I love the dogs to have some freedom. I enjoy to watch & pet them. I do not see dogs off leash ruining the environment.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

Many dogs & owners would feel stifled. GGNRA stands for freedom of the outdoors for those who respect wildlife & nature.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

N/A

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Signed: KC Date: 3/4/02

PLEASE MAIL BEFORE MARCH 10th

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3539-01-1A Date: 3/08/02

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: ADA WONG (optional: Age: 50 Sex: M (F) Ethnicity: C)

Address: 1534 -8th AVE. (street) SAN FRANCISCO (city) CA (state) 94122 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I walk my dog everyday at Fort Funston. I visit Fort Funston primarily to get exercise for myself and my dog. I love the ocean view and watching the hang gliders soar above.

Fort Funston is shrinking in size due to natural erosion of the cliffs and closures by the National Park.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

I get to meet other dog owners and my sister and I walk our dogs together at Fort Funston. Sometimes I would meet up with my co-worker to walk our dogs.

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

Off leash is appropriate for Ft. Funston and the beach area south of Sloat Blvd. Fort Funston is a vast and open area for dogs to romp in the sand and play safely with other dogs (no vehicular traffic).

Park Service should not close off any more trails such as the trail on the western side of Ft. Funston. Asphalt was removed & replaced by sand resulting in an uneven trail. Less people tend to utilize this trail.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

I wouldn't go as often to Fort Funston if I have to leash my dog. I would most likely walk my dog on city streets or in Golden Gate Park which I don't feel it's safe for a female to walk alone.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

I would feel safer with the presence of off leash dogs. Dogs are friendlier when they are off leash. They are also, not as agressive and territorial when off leash. I have encountered homeless people in the past at Fort Funston particularly on the by Skyline Blvd. I do not feel threatened knowing there are dogs and their owners on the trail.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

354D-02-1A

Michele Goss

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

March 7, 2002

Dear Sirs,

This letter is in support of off-leash recreation for dogs in both Fort Funston and Crissy Field where I walk my dog.

Walking a dog off-leash is the most effective way for both dog and walker to get maximum exercise. Dogs were in the design plan for the remodeled Crissy Field so that, as you know, fences are already in place to protect native plants and birds. I have never seen a dog inside one of these fences. Off-leash walking was part of the plan when these two areas were given to the GGNRA because the people of San Francisco acknowledged

1/2

3540-02-1A

The need for a place where humans and dogs can exercise happily together. I implore you not to take away something which was not just a privilege, but a right!

Other compromises might be made, but please do not take away our one mile stretch of walkable path. It is barely long enough as is for a medium sized dog. Dogs are our companions as well as friends, and they do deserve some space to exercise and socialize without the physical and emotional constraints of being tethered to a human.

Sincerely,

Nicole Fox

2/2

3541-01-3B

January 25, 2002

GGNRA
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, 94213



Dear Friends,

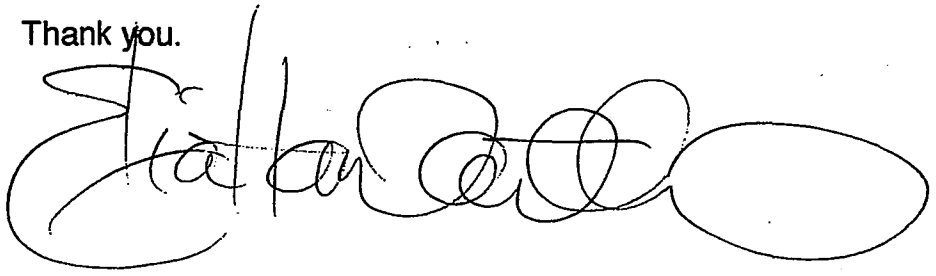
This is regarding the issue of having places within GGNRA where dogs are allowed to be off leash.

One of my great joys is regularly walking with my dogs! I can be solitary and yet feel safe and I delight in their company. It is very clear to me that they are better behaved, healthier and happier when they have time to run and explore off leash. My dogs are never far from me, but they probably do two miles as they play, for every half mile I walk. That exercise isn't possible on leash.
This does require me being alert and responsible for my dogs, and keeping them near me.

I don't go to crowded places myself, I walk where I rarely see other people and dogs. I understand the potential for problems at crowded beaches, or where dogs might chase cattle...perhaps this can be addressed by enforcing stiff fines on the owner of misbehaving dogs.
**PLEASE do not punish all of us for the behavior of a few!**

Please don't eliminate an essential part of our lives, our daily walks with our dogs in the very few places we can have them off leash as it is!
Our sense of joy and freedom in how we participate in the park is certainly as valid as allowing people to come to the park with their gas guzzling, polluting recreation vehicles! Out of the thousands of acres in the park, surely you can allow us dog owners and tax payers to enjoy the few places we have. Some of these places have been used by dog walkers for at least 50 years! And surely, with the dangers our nation is now facing from terrorism, our tax dollars need to be spent of more essential security then having park rangers harassing dog owners! Instead of becoming a police force to squash the joy of many for the failings of a few, why not find ways to inform and enforce individual responsibility? Do not take away our places to walk our dogs off leash!

Thank you.



3542-01-1A

February 22, 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). There is a large population of dog lovers in the Bay Area. These are tax-paying citizens who support the National Park Service and request only to enjoy a small portion of this land with their beloved pets. I respect the actions of the Park Service to set aside key pieces of land for bird habitats and plant rejeuvenation but there is enough room for humans and dogs to enjoy this area alongside these conservation efforts, since off-leash dog walking is available in only 0.5% of its 75,000 acres of land. Even those who do not have pets can appreciate setting aside land where dogs can get adequate exercise and socialization with other dogs in order to be happy and healthy members of the Bay Area community. These off-leash locations are family friendly, attracting people of all ages who want to enjoy the day with their entire family, including the family dog. In addition, these locations encourage an atmosphere of community where people feel safe visiting at all hours of the day.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning."(16 USC 460bb). The 1979 GGNRA Pet Policy upheld this activity by creating a special provision allowing off-leash recreation. It is now time for the National Park Service to recognize the will of the people and create a Section 7 special rule for off-leash recreation in the GGGNRA. Please act now! Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Hesselman

Additional Comments:



Please Print:

Name: John Hesselman (optional: Age: ___ Sex: (M) F Ethnicity: _____)

Address: 1735 Van Ness Ave (Street) San Francisco (City) CA (State) 94109 (Zip)

3543-01-1A

March 4, 2002

GGNRA
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



Dear GGNRA:

This letter comes in response to your upcoming consideration of an off-leash ruling. We would like to express our general disgust at the thought of all dog owners being forced to keep their dogs on a leash in all locations. This does not allow fun-loving, gentle animals their need to exercise themselves in any respectable way. In fact, it is our belief that it will in turn be counteractive by making these under-exercised dogs more aggressive. Dogs, like children, need to exercise and play in order to keep themselves in shape and happy. If dogs are restricted from this behavior in ALL parks and beaches, they will eventually become frustrated and possibly even short tempered. Dogs need access to parks and beach areas where they can run, jump, swim and play with their owners and other dogs. This simply cannot be done on a leash!

We do not think that it is fair to go to the extreme and think that you are solving the problem. An extreme decision will only lead to more problems. This is not the solution. One solution would be to designate certain parks (or areas of parks) and beaches dog friendly. That way, dogs could do their playing and people, who didn't like off leashed dogs, could stay away and use the other parks. This does seem the most logical and simple solution.

We have been going to the San Francisco area parks and beaches for some time now. We have never experienced or seen a major incident between dogs and people. We do not think that it is fair to make dogs and their owners suffer for the extremist beliefs that exist in our city.

Sincerely,

Beth Raia Hickey

3544-01-1A

Date: 3/7/02

To: Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



As a response to the National park Service ANPR intended to solicit comments from the public regarding pet management within the GGNRA:

I ask for the analysis of any alternative to the current restrictive regulation be measured from the baseline of the former policy that allowed off leash dog walking in certain areas.

I ask that the current regulation be changed to designate former "voice control" areas for off leash dog walking at Fort Funston, Ocean Beach and Lands End at the very least.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[signature] (signature)

ASHOK K JANAM (name)

91 Woodland Ave (address)

SF, CA 94117

Comments accepted Jan. 11, 2002 through March 12, 2002

3545-01-5A

# eac

The Environmental Action Committee *of* West Marin

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

March 6, 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill ,

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin wishes to express our support for the National Park Service's current "dogs on leash" regulation (CFR 16.2.15).

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) was established to "utilize the resources in a manner which will provide for recreation and educational opportunities consistent with sound principals of land use planning and management...and (to) preserve the recreation area, as far as possible, in its natural setting, and protect it from development and other uses which would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character."

Furthermore, the "Organic Act" established the guiding principal of all National Parks and Recreation Areas "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Recreational activities within National Parks and Recreation Areas must be consistent with resource preservation in order to provide "for the enjoyment of future generations." Local jurisdictions do not have this strong mandate for resource preservation and restoration. Local jurisdictions have converted their public lands for recreational uses such as soccer fields, tennis courts, and off-leash areas. Off-leash recreation is a legitimate activity that deserves its space. Not, however, on National Parklands, where the resources must be protected. No other National Park in the country offers off-leash recreation...all follow the current "On-Leash" regulation.

The GGNRA was established as a grand experiment to bring the National Park experience close in to an urban area. It would be a travesty of that vision if instead, the urban experience increasingly encroached into the National Parks. The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin joins with the Golden Gate Audubon Society, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Center for Biological Diversity, and other environmental groups in support of the current NPS "On-Leash" regulation.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Catherine Caufield

Catherine Caufield
Executive Director

Box 609, Point Reyes Station, California 94956 tel: 415-663-9312 fax: 415-663-8014 eac@svn.net

3546-01-1A

1857 Ninth Ave.
San Francisco, California 94122
4 March 2002

National Park Service
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason
San Francisco, California 94123



RE: Pet Management in GGNRA

Gentlemen/Ladies:

Do not change dog regulations; there is no reason to do so.

Allowing dogs off leash in national parks or recreation areas makes no sense when one of the main purposes of these areas is the preservation/restoration of indigenous wildlife and plants. Dogs off leash destroy these. At issue is not simply the natural behavior of dogs off leash. A larger associated problem is the lassez faire, lazy, arrogant, or just plain ignorant behavior of a disgustingly large percentage of their human companions. Accompanying a dog(s) more often than not is interpreted as license to walk into, invade sensitive areas along with the dogs. This behavior has been observed repeatedly in San Francisco parks--and in all leash-only areas. The disregard for all else is appalling and pervasive.

There is no reason to change regulations mandating that all visiting dogs in all national parks be leashed. San Francisco has bent over backwards to accompany the usually loud, inconsiderate, and selfish individuals who insist on having dogs too large for the living accomodations they can provide. They then demand (and often just take) encroachment on national property. If these individuals have dogs so large they require more room than their human companions can provide and more than has been recently given to them in San Francisco (and, in reality, they appropriate vastly more area than they were given or just ignore rules anyway) parks they more appropriately should be charged with animal abuse. Their demands are absurd, unethical, and should not be entertained. What is needed is public education on ecology and the environment, not spending time and money on these hell-bent selfish libertarians whose behavior is more that of anarchists--i.e. "We will do as we damn well please."

Please continue to maintain our national land for indigenous wildlife, plants and the ecologically-intelligent visitors.

Sincerely yours,

Janet Fiore

Janet Fiore

March 8, 2002

3547-01-ID



Dear Sir/Madam,

Please do not make an exception to the National Park Policy of dogs on leashes only.

My husband + I walk a lot including San Francisco and it's parks. I don't want to be chased by someones "friendly" dog or even jumped upon.

Sincerely,

Connie Corkhill
1029 Kingston Ln.
Alameda, CA 94502

3548-01-1C

ident O'Neill:

ash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

RICHARD HUNN (printed)

ess: 365 INNISFREE DR. (street) DALY CITY (city) CA (state) 94015 (zip)

I BELIEVE DOGS NEED EXERSIZE AND THE FEELING OF FREEDOM OCCASIONALLY AS DO I. GO TO FORT FUNSTON SOMETIME. IT IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE WHEN THE RANGERS ARE ENFORCING LEASH LAWS. (THE PEOPLE AND THE DOGS) WE NEED FEWER RULES, NOT MORE.

LET THE DOGGIES PLAY

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now? Where would you LIKE to visit if off-leash was permitted?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation?
- Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area?
- Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: [signature] Date 3/1/02 (optional: Age: 50 Sex (M) F Ethnicity WH)

Version 2.0

3549-01-1A

March 7, 2002



Superintendent, GGNRA
Attention ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 92123

Dear Superintentent:

I am writing to express my support for the current dog leash-law restrictions at Golden Gate Park. As a frequent user of the Park's wonderful facilities, I appreciate the fact that dogs and people can both enjoy the park, but feel much safer when dogs are leashed. Also, I feel strongly that leashing dogs will help protect the plant life and contribute to a cleaner environment.

Thank you for the great job you in managing the park and making it such a beautiful place to visit.

Sincerely,

Carol Simmons

Carol Simmons
3845 20th Street, #5
San Francisco, CA 94114

3550-01-1B

8 March, 2002

Supt. Brian O'Neill
GGNRA
Att. ANPR
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201
San Francisco, Ca., 94123



Dear Supt. O'Neil,

I believe that existing Federal regulations should remain in effect in the GGNRA. The National Parks were not designed for the recreational needs of domesticated predators like dogs.

I would prefer that dogs were not allowed in National Parks at all, but if they must be allowed it should be ONLY when on a leash. They should never be allowed in under 'voice control'. 'Voice control' is a fallacy that exists only in the minds of dog owners.

Sincerely,

Lou Wilkinson
155 Cazneau Ave.
Sausalito, Ca., 94965-1824

3551-01-1A

**TERRY BERGMANN**
2821 Pine Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
415.922.6039

March 7, 2002



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, California 94123

Dear ANPR:

I am writing to express my support for continued off-leash pet areas at the GGNRA properties.

When I was growing up as a kid, I always had positive experiences with Park Rangers and Park Police. The days of the image of a helpful "Smoky the Bear" ranger are long gone. The way that the GGNRA has handled the Pet Management policy and specifically the actions of Brian O'Neal have created a recreation area full of tension and hostility. What has made me crazy is the fact that there has been no attempt at compromise to accommodate all points of view.

My wife and I are extremely disappointed with the heavy handed way the Park has approached the Pet Management policy process and have subsequently withdrawn our financial and volunteer support of the GGNRA.

What is especially insidious to us is the insistence of the GGNRA management to hold the Presidio to the same environmental standards as other National Parks such as Yosemite and Yellowstone. The Presidio is a City Park in the center of a major metropolitan area. You must take into consideration the user population that reside next to it. There must be compromise!

As to my position on what the rules should be for Pet Management in the GGNRA I propose the following compromise:

- Allow off-leash dogs at the beach during the early morning and evening hours. Close the beach to off-leash dog walking from 10 am to 4 p.m. daily.
- Designate specific areas within the GGNRA for exclusive off-leash activity.
- Regulate commercial dog walkers within the GGNRA who allow their dogs to run free on the trails. These commercial dog walkers with multiple dogs often do not have control of their animals and create heavy impact when off-leash.
- Enforce dog waste laws. Cite dog owners who do not have voice control over their animals.

Please seek a compromise that would satisfy a majority of people. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terry Bergmann

3552-03-1A

March 7, 2002

Sally Cancelmo
2247 Sutter Street
San Francisco CA
94115

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco CA 94123



RE: Pet Management in the GGNRA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a strong advocate for off leash dog walking in the GGNRA. I have worked towards this goal since the National Park Service took over Crissy Field. I believe the intention to have dog walking as an intended recreational use began when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA. I also believe that most dog owners are responsible citizens who share your desire to conserve and protect our precious parklands, and who wish for the GGNRA to find a place for all within its vast territory.

**Reasons for Support for Off Leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA**

1. The GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning" (16 USC 460bb). Dog walking was an intended recreational use.
2. While it may not be technically "legal" to have off leash dog walking in the GGNRA, historical usage and the 1979 Pet Policy allowing more than 20 years of coastal access for our pets, makes our situation different than most other parks in the nation.
3. Crissy Field was designed with dogs as intended park users with special fencing to protect native plants and birds. This plan approved by the NPS in 1996 also promised to increase available acreage for off leash dog walking from 38 to 70 acres.
4. The GGNRA controls the entire city coastline, so there is little alternative for the 120,000 dogs that live in the City of San Francisco particularly for the sporting breeds who need to swim for exercise.

5. Dog walkers are the most constant users of the park and as such act as volunteers who clean up trash, poop and dangerous debris on a daily basis, monitors who report injured birds and seals, potentially dangerous individuals (I *once called on a man who repeatedly exposed himself to joggers)*, accidents (*I know dog walkers who have called for injured runners and cyclists*) and fires --*a friend was the first to call recently when seeing a fire from the beach at Crissy Field in the hills above Lincoln Boulevard).* The presence of dog walkers at all times of day makes the beaches safer places by deterring undesirable elements and drug use. The dog walkers are a strong community that supports our parks.

6. Designating areas for off leash activity will help protect and maintain areas previously closed to recreation use. These wildlife protection and native plant closures have been largely respected. If all dog walking is banned, then there may be widespread disobedience everywhere including the closed off areas thereby threatening native plants and birds. I fear that if all dog walking is banned, all bets are off and people will think as all areas are illegal, all areas are equal. This could result in great damage to protected areas.

7. As the GGNRA comprises some 75,000 acres with only .5% currently available for off leash recreation, surely there is room for our canine citizens.

8. From my 10 years as a dog walker, I know that dogs that socialize off leash are healthier and less aggressive than those who are on leash defending their owners. In my years of daily walking at Crissy Field, the problems I have seen are a result of crowding not aggression. This is all the more reason to create space for dogs to recreate freely away from crowds, small children, joggers and cyclists.

9. Concerned dog owners have joined such groups as the Crissy Field Dog Group who keep Crissy Field clean, who stock the bag dispensers and who help to educate dog owners. If dog walking is made legal, these groups can work in conjunction with the GGNRA to continue educating the public about shared use of our parks.

3552-03-1A

**Compromises**

I walk at Crissy Field and on West Pacific Avenue on a daily basis.

1. I believe that by requiring leashes on the jogging path, many of the existing problems that result from overcrowding in a small corridor would be eliminated.

2. I believe that the Central Beach and the Airfield are perfect places for off leash recreation. I rarely see anyone but dog people on the Central Beach and the Airfield is large enough to accommodate many types of activities.

3. I am conflicted about restricting the East Beach because of the impact on families with children and dogs but could conceive of restrictions that include dogs on leash between 10-4 on the weekends.

4. I believe that better NPS signage informing the public of the dog-free West Beach could alleviate some of the crowd conflicts that arise between families, picnickers and dogs.

5. I think West Pacific Avenue is a great place for dogs as it is little used, safe, controlled and it allows for owners to actually walk a good distance off leash with their dogs. With good fencing, like at Crissy Field, the new native plants near Mountain Lake can be protected while allowing for off leash recreation to continue.

6. I would like to see weekday access to the Land's End trails returned but would support weekend restrictions.

I believe the GGNRA has a great chance here to partner with the public, the large and vocal dog community as well as the native plant and bird groups to firstly, make dog walking a legal activity and secondly, to get these groups working together to find manageable solutions to shared use problems. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Sally Cancelmo

Sally Cancelmo

3/3

3653-01-1A

2255 - 18th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116
March 5, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123



REF: ANPR--Pet Management in GGNRA

I am writing to you as the owner of two Golden Retrievers and as a resident of San Francisco and my objection to restrict freedom of pets to run unencumbered.

The proposed rule 36 CFR Parts 2 and 7, specifically 2.15(a)(2). As the practice of "voice control" over the past twenty years had been instituted and honored, albeit in contradiction of NPS regulations, owners and pets have behaved in a responsible manner. To reverse this practice at this time is to create a hostile and divisive environment. Pet owners are peacable and law abiding citizens who want to enjoy the outdoors with all visitors to the park.

GGNRA is in a unique situation in that it is in a major metropolitan area, very urban, very congested and few open space. Anyone visiting GGNRA appreciates the beauty of the land and the freedom to walk, jog and run freely, this applies to pets.

I want my concerns to be noted and that the leash regulation not be implemented.

Sincerely,

Joyce Dislage

Joyce Dislage

3554-04-1A

**Steven Courlang**
**851 Rockdale Drive**
**San Francisco, CA 94127**
**(415) 293-3929**

**March 6, 2002**



**Dear GGNRA:**

As a father and dog owner I wish to voice my concern to the apparent impending changes to off-leash dog privileges at Fort Funston (I will restrict my comments to Fort Funston as I have been walking my dogs there for over 5 years and consider myself very familiar with this area.)

Since there are so many points to discuss, I will divide my letter into sections pertaining to points mentioned in the ANPR Document.

**Current Pet Management at GGNRA**: The ANPR states that "Several recent events have underscored the need for undertaking a public process concerning dog management in the GGNRA ..." Who comes up with these prejudicial, remarks? I reject this notion and feel that the APNR Document is biased, having a preferred outcome in mind.

I have been coming to Fort Funston daily for over 5 years and have spoken with people who have been doing so for 10, 15, and even 20 years. Although the weather has eroded some of the cliffs, not much else has really changed at Fort Funston. The bird life, sea life, vegetation, visitor safety, and utilization are all virtually the same. What "Recent Events" about the daily life of Fort Funston's dogs and their owners, beach goers, fisherman, horseback riders, hang gliders, surfers, etc. have really changed at Fort Funston?

My understanding is that when the GGNRA was taken to court by a dog-walking group to try to halt the closure of around Joey Hill, the tensions of litigation polarized the two sides. The true "recent events" appear to be these tensions, not any major changes in the daily ways of Fort Funston.

**Legal Loophole:** Why are we even looking into changing the dog policy? I have talked with people who have been walking their dogs unleashed and unbothered by the law for over twenty years. During this time a great community, centered on bringing your dog to roam unleashed, has developed at Fort Funston. I have never read or heard of any public outcry about problems at Fort Funston or the need for a change in the dog policy. Problems only began recently when someone noticed that the dog policy is technically not lawful. It's one thing to change the nature Fort Funston if it is not working. But Fort Funston is thriving. For thousands of users it is the best part of the Bay Area and to alter it over a legal technicality would be a huge mistake. Rather than changing a wonderful community, there must be a way to simply correct the legal flaw.

3554-04-1A

**All Units of the GGNRA Must be Treated the Same:** I've heard it said that since the GGNRA is a National Park, the dog policy must be enforced equally within all parts of the GGNRA. This statement seems wrong for two reasons: 1. The GGNRA is an Urban National Park – it is not Yosemite or Yellowstone. It is located right in a major city and thus has vastly different needs for its usage than traditional National Parks. 2. Different parts of the GGNRA already have varying dog policies. Some locations (e.g. China Beach, Alcatraz) do not even allow dogs to visit. Most other areas allow leashed dogs and a few areas, whether technically legal or not, have historically allowed unleashed dogs. Different areas of the city are better suited than others for allowing dogs extra freedom. Over the past twenty years, Fort Funston has been, and remains, the ideal location for off-leash dog usage.

**Bank Swallow and Other bird life:** Every year I see the fine bank swallows return to nest in one particular set of cliffs at Fort Funston. They are wonderful birds and its fun to watch them dart through the air. Why some people think the dogs bother them is beyond me. The bank swallows nest about forty feet above the shore on sheer cliffs. They fly high in the sky. They do not walk on the shore or come anywhere near were a dog could even interact with them. No dog is able to scale the sheer cliff to bother the bank swallows. In fact, I have never heard of a dog harming a bank swallow. To those familiar with Fort Funston, the only animal to come near these birds are people who used to climb up to check out the large cement bunker that has subsequently fallen from the cliff.

In addition, where are all these bird proponents when a serious threat to birds does arise at Fort Funston? For a week or so last December a great deal of tar (or some other petroleum product) mysteriously washed into the kelp beds and on shore. This sticky substance stuck to many sea birds making them helpless and caused many to die. For the first time in my years of coming to Fort Funston I saw healthy birds perish. Why do some people simply want to blame the dogs for everything?

**Blame the Dogs for Everything:** In reports and at meetings, I hear some people blaming the dogs for all the problems and even for some problems that do not exist. Rather than thinking the annual winter storms cause the erosion, they simply blame the dogs. Nor do they even mention the horses or teenagers who scale the cliffs, who really damage the cliffs and trails. And what about the erosion caused by the construction of the golf course? And what about the mysterious oil that sporadically washes into the kelp beds and on-shore and kills the bird life? Do you hear about this? No, it's easier for some to simply blame the off-leash dogs whether or not it is true.

3554-04-1A

**Utilization:** Visit Fort Funston on any weekend and you will find an overflowing parking lot full of mostly dog owners and their dogs. It has been this way for years. It is hard to imagine Fort Funston being even more crowded. If the GGNRA wants there land utilized, they have already succeeded at Fort Funston.

On weekdays, no matter the weather, there are always hundreds of dogs and their companions (owners or dog-walkers). By changing the off-leash policy you will not obtain more usage at Fort Funston.

**Some People do not like dogs and therefore will not come to Fort Funston:** True there are people who prefer not to be around dogs, especially unleashed ones. But they have other choices. They can easily go to one of the many other wonderful locations in the GGNRA to walk in the woods or along the beach. Dogs and their owners have no other places to go to run off-leash. That is why people from all over the Bay Area bring their dogs here. It would be a minor inconvenience for a non-dog lover to have just one less place to enjoy visiting. It would be a major life change for the tens of thousands of people who bring their dogs annually to Fort Funston if they could no longer use it to allow their dogs to exercise and socialize freely.

As for an analogy, being limited to where you can visit is not unusual, it happens all the time. There are many places in the area where my wife, son, and I will not visit because it is either too dangerous or not to our liking. Rather than tell everyone who lives there to change his or her lifestyles to accommodate us, we simply choose not go there.

One more thing ... True, there are people who do not come to Fort Funston because they do not enjoy being around dogs. On the other hand, there are many people who do not own dogs but choose to come to Fort Funston because they do want to be around dogs and the atmosphere they provide. Not everyone living in the city that wants to own a dog can do so. I have met many non-dog owners who choose to take their walks at Fort Funston simply because it is a place where dogs abound.

**Native Habitat Restoration:** We all love plants, and I agree that parts of Fort Funston should be fenced so plants can be protected. But please do not make the entire area an exclusive testing ground for some gardeners at the expense of all other users. Plant Restoration is important, but sometimes it seems to go overboard, like when the Native Plant Restoration wanted to reintroduce poison oak into the Presidio simply because it was a native plant.

Currently Fort Funston has many plants and vegetation. It is a beautiful place. Please do not make it incrementally a bit more beautiful at the expense of other user groups.

3554-04-1A

**Do dogs and their owners have any rights:** I realize that dogs have virtually no legal rights. But does that make it correct for our society not to provide for their needs? Also off-leash recreation is many people's recreation of choice, just as valuable as golf, horseback riding, hang gliding, and bicycling riding- all of which have an effect on the area. Approximately one out of every four households in this area has a dog. With so many dogs, we need a place for them to go and get their needed exercise and socialization. Fort Funston has been that place for decades. There would be a huge adverse affect on this area if dogs were not allowed to be off-leash in Fort Funston and their owners would have to over-utilize other parts of the city.

**Dogs need to run around unleashed and exercise:** This topic is pretty clear. Just ask any veterinarian and they will tell you that virtually ever breed of dog needs daily exercise. I realize that a few people can accomplish this by taking their dogs on leashed runs. However, the vast majority of people, especially the elderly, cannot provide their dog their needed exercise.

**What Fort Funston would be like if all dogs were on leashes**: Have you ever thought what Fort Funston would be like if the policy was changed and all dogs had to be leashed? There would be hundreds and hundreds of dogs walking side by side on the trails. Does anyone really think a bunched of densely packed leashed dogs is going to be safer? It is common knowledge that a leashed dog is more protective than an unleashed one. By forcing the dogs to be leashed and stay within restricted areas you will be making a much more stressful and unsafe Fort Funston.

**Visit Fort Funston and see for yourself:** Writing letters can only do so much. The proof is in the pudding. Before you make a ruling that would greatly damage the life of thousands of local residents who have relied on Fort Funston for so many years, please come and visit this area to see that it is not a problem that needs correcting, but a wonderful place the way it is. Please do not simply sit behind a desk and make a ruling over some technicality in the law.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions or would like to join me for a walk at Fort Funston.

Sincerely,

Steven Courlang.

4/4

3555-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: PAUL LEE (printed)

Address: 1311 LA PLAYA #5, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94122
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

I MOVED TO THE SUNSET BEFORE OFF-LEASH WAS PROHIBITED ON OCEAN BEACH IN ORDER TO WALK MY DOG THERE. NOW WE GO TO FORT FUNSTON, BUT OFF-LEASE PRIVILEGES ARE BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM US. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT SOCIAL AND EXERCISE ACTIVITY. FOR BOTH ME AND MY DOG. PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS AWAY FROM US.

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MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now? Where would you LIKE to visit if off-leash was permitted?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation?
- Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area?
- Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Paul Lee Date 3/6/02 (optional: Age: 61 Sex (M) F Ethnicity ____)

Version 2.0

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3556-01-1A Date: 3/4/02

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: ERIN MEYER (optional: Age: 27 Sex: M (F) Ethnicity: white)

Address: 1270 Grove St. #103 (street) SF (city) CA (state) 94117 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

Fort Funston 3-5 times a week. I walk my dog here to give him a chance to run free and explore while I relax and visit with my friends and their dogs.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?

off-leash recreation is a huge social outlet for myself and many of my friends. We all work and have busy lives but having Fort Funston as a gathering place to meet with our dogs has became a tradition we truly treasure. I have met new friends there and have become reunited with old friends at Funston

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

Portions of this land was set aside for off-leash recreation and this is an extremely important activity for dogs to have. Socializing dogs in an off-leash environment greatly benefits a dogs behavior making them calmer and more relaxed when interacting with other dogs and people. Dog owners respect areas that are closed to Dogs, I feel posting signs designating which areas are closed to dogs is sufficient.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

I would be deeply disappointed if this were taken away from me because this land was set aside for this purpose and dog owners in the city respect this land and are working very hard to hold onto what has been theirs. Dogs deserve an area to be free and run in the land that was set aside for them and their owners

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

I feel completely safe with off-leash dogs, in fact I enjoy meeting all the well-behaved dogs that use these areas. Owners are very responsible and leash dogs if they are at all questionable in a situation.

Signed: Erin K. Meyer Date: 3/4/02

Mail by 3/9

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

GGNRA012867

3557-01-1A

**Carolyn Bower**
**73 Rossi Avenue**
**San Francisco, CA 94118**



## Superintendent O'Neill

Please, please, please keep off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. I have been a dog owner for many years and have enjoyed countless hours of wholesome fun swimming at Crissy Fields, chasing balls and playing tag with other dogs at Fort Funston and long, leisurely walks through the Presidio. I always clean up after my dogs, do not allow digging or chasing wildlife, discourage barking or other inappropriate behavior. I am a good, responsible citizen and so are my dogs. Do not punish us for we have done no wrongs. Dogs must be allowed to run free, to play with other dogs, to chase balls, to be properly exercised and mentally stimulated. Without these activities, dogs, like people, can become socially disadvantaged with disastrous outcomes.

Generally, I walk alone and having my dogs gives me security and protection. Evildoers are less likely to approach a woman with dogs than one unaccompanied. I have made many acquaintances and friends because of my dogs. As children widen their parents' social circle, so do my dogs for me. With few exceptions, I have found most parents of children are delighted to have their children meet my dogs and pet them. Children and dogs are a natural.

To remove off-leash privileges is a bad idea. It would be extremely difficult to enforce without an extensive police force. It will cause great ill-will toward the GGNRA (and up until now, I have always thought highly of your organization), and to what purpose. ENOUGH WITH THE NATIVE PLANTS ALREADY!!!

Thank you for your consideration

Carolyn Bower

3558-07-1A

Dear GGNRA,



I am writing to you concerning the change in your dog policy for the GGNRA.

I have two flyers stating the dog policy for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. One titled "ENJOYING THE PARK WITH YOUR DOG". This was put out by the GGNRA, the NSP and the U.S. Department of the Interior. This flier states Leash Length, Dog Etiquette, Service Dogs, and What is "Voice Control"? The other side lists areas within the park were dogs are permitted off-leach titled WHERE CAN I TAKE MY DOG OFF LEASH? The other is a flier for Fort Funston put out by the GGNRA and the NPS. It states: **Walking your dog:** Dogs must be leashed while in the Bank Swallow Site. Elsewhere, the must be either leached or under voice control at all times. You must carry a leash. Always pick up dog litter. Copies of the originals, that I have, are included with my letter.

Our National Parks state their leash policy right on colorful flyers handed out at National Parks around the country. The Golden Gate flier states none. Why would that be left off just the Golden Gate flier? Because there *are* areas were dogs *can* go un-leashed. GGNRA actually put out fliers stating this.

These off-leash policies should have been posted at beaches and parks, and tickets handed out for unruly dogs. I've never seen or heard about these policies being enforced.

THIS IS AN URBAN AREA! This is not Yosemite. This is not Yellowstone. The Bay Area is one of the biggest urban areas in the country. You have a responsibility to the people of the Bay Area first. This is our **home**. Millions of people live here and about 25% of them own dogs. How can you apply the same rules to an urban area that you apply to a wilderness area? **Exceptions to the NPS system-wide policy MUST be made.** I would like to see the NPS on-leash policy waived or modified in some way by the Secretary, the assistant Secretary, or the Director of the NPS.

The overwhelming majority of the people using the GGNRA and all parks in San Francisco are people that are exercising and people that are walking and exercising their dogs. We're out there everyday of the week, every month of the year. We're there in sunny, rainy, foggy, warm and cold days. Why punish the people that use the parks the most. Also remember our beaches are not sun-drenched beaches, crowded with sunbathers.

3558-07-1A

Dogs do not get the same amount of exercise on-leash as off-leash. That is obvious to everyone. Proper exercise and socialization create health, happy non-aggressive dogs.

The horrible, bizarre story of Diana Whipple's death brought attention to all dogs in general. Some people on the street were afraid of my non-threatening and mellow looking, leashed dog. Of course comments to the park opposing off-leash dogs had increased. The people who owned those dangerous dogs, that were trained to kill, should be responsible for their dog's actions. I am angered that you used this story to further your cause?

The majority of children are happy to see and pet my dog. When children are scared or wary I keep my dog close to me. The same is true for seniors, minorities and all people. Ninety Five-Ninety Nine percent of dog owners are responsible. Why must we be punished for others who do not take responsibility for their dogs? As I stated before, tickets should be handed out for unruly dogs.

But this would be hard to enforce or prove in court, so your decision is to take the easy way out and have a straight forward policy of dog on-leash at all times. Why do we have to have a win lose situation here? Why not a win win situation? The GGNRA includes nearly 75,000 acres. Since 25% of people in our area own dogs 18,750 should be designated off-leash. Keep the current situation of designating on-leash, on off-leash areas. If this is not acceptable to you, make certain times of the day, year on-leash and certain times off-leash.

If the GGNRA see fit to change it's current policy I would support the SF Board of Supervisors resolution to have certain lands formerly owned by the city of SF returned to the city.

How can we strive so hard to protect our diminishing wildlife but at the same time be so cruel to the animals that have been so loyal to us for thousands and thousands of years. It's it our job to protect these animals too.

Thanks for you time, and I'll leave you with these final thoughts,

Karen Cohen
520 Shader #1
SF, CA 94117
415 831-6091

3558-07-1A

How can we as human beings believe that we are the only ones the enjoy nature unencumbered.

I've seen people do more damage to wildlife and vegetation than dogs.

There are not nearly enough dog runs to support all the dogs in SF.

Dog walkers are a reality of city life. They need safe areas to walk our dogs.

What is the Quality of life for a dog kept on leash?

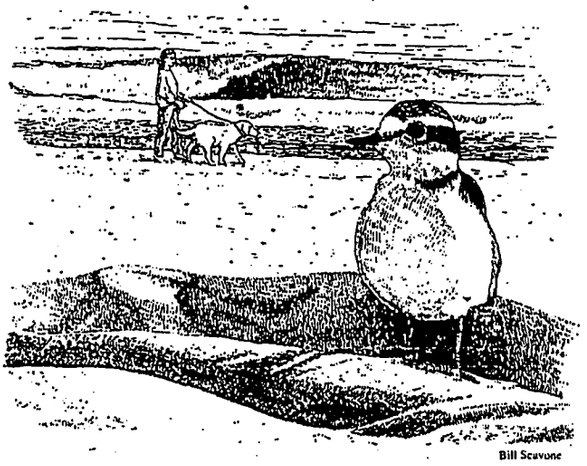
"The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated."
*Gandhi*

3/7

# Golden Gate

National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

# ENJOYING THE PARK WITH YOUR DOG



Bill Scavone

## DOING YOUR PART

There are many opportunities to enjoy Golden Gate National Recreation Area with your dog. It is important to remember that national parks contain resources that can be seriously damaged by dogs that are not properly controlled. Rules pertaining to dogs are designed to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for you and your dog, as well as other visitors, while also protecting park resources.

Your cooperation is necessary if this is to remain one of the premier national park sites in the country. Please be mindful of restrictions on off-leash dog use and observe the rules of common courtesy and dog etiquette. **You may be cited and fined for a violation of these rules. (36 CFR Part 2)**

### Leash Length

In areas requiring leashes, dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet.

### Dog etiquette

Always pick up your dog's litter. It is unhealthy, contaminates the environment, and affects the territorial behavior of some wild animals. It is inconsiderate to leave your dog's litter in public areas.

Many children (and adults) are frightened by dogs. Hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians may also be disturbed, and even endangered, by dogs that are not effectively controlled. Please show respect for others by closely managing your dog. Barking and aggressive dogs are not appreciated in any park area.

### Service dogs

A service dog is one that assists someone who has a vision or hearing impairment. If you have a service dog, please inquire at one of the park visitor centers for assistance in planning a hike.

### What is "Voice Control"?

In some areas, dogs are permitted off-leash under "voice control." This means the dog must respond immediately and obediently to single commands. In a voice-control area, a dog owner must ...

— be familiar with the boundary of the voice-control area
— carry a leash at all times
— leash the dog immediately if it displays aggressive behavior toward any person or other animal or is not responding to commands
— assure the dog does not dig holes, chase wildlife, destroy vegetation, or enter any fenced or closed areas, or disturb other visitors.

*continues on reverse*

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Ocean Beach

Dogs are allowed on Ocean Beach under voice control from Stairwell 1 south to Stairwell 21. Dogs must be on leash south of Stairwell 21 to Sloat Boulevard in order to protect the endangered Western Snowy Plover.

### Fort Funston and Burton Beach

Dogs are permitted off leash under voice control in much of Fort Funston and on Phillip Burton Beach. However, dogs must be on leash in the Bank Swallow habitat area.

### Baker Beach

Dogs are permitted, under voice control, on Baker Beach north of Lobos Creek. Dogs must be on leash south of Lobos Creek and in parking lots and picnic areas.

### Crissy Field and Beach

Dogs may be off leash under voice control on Crissy Field east of the West Gate of the Golden Gate Promenade, and north of New Mason Street. Dogs must be on leash west of the West Gate of the Golden Gate Promenade and south of New Mason Street throughout the area. Dog owners must keep their dogs out of fenced dune areas.

### West Pacific Avenue

Dogs may be off leash under voice control along the corridor adjoining West Pacific Avenue from the Broadway Street entrance to the 14th Avenue gate. Dogs must be on leash in the forest and fields east of Lovers Lane and north of the Ecology Trail.

## MARIN COUNTY

### Rodeo Beach

Dogs are permitted off leash under voice control on Rodeo Beach from the shoreline to the crest of the dune. Dogs must be leashed from the crest of the dunes inland to Rodeo Lagoon and in the parking lots and picnic areas.

### Oakwood Valley

Dogs are permitted off leash under voice control on, and immediately adjacent to, the Oakwood Valley Trail north of the small cattle pond. Dogs are not allowed off leash south of the pond, and may not enter the pond.

### Muir Beach

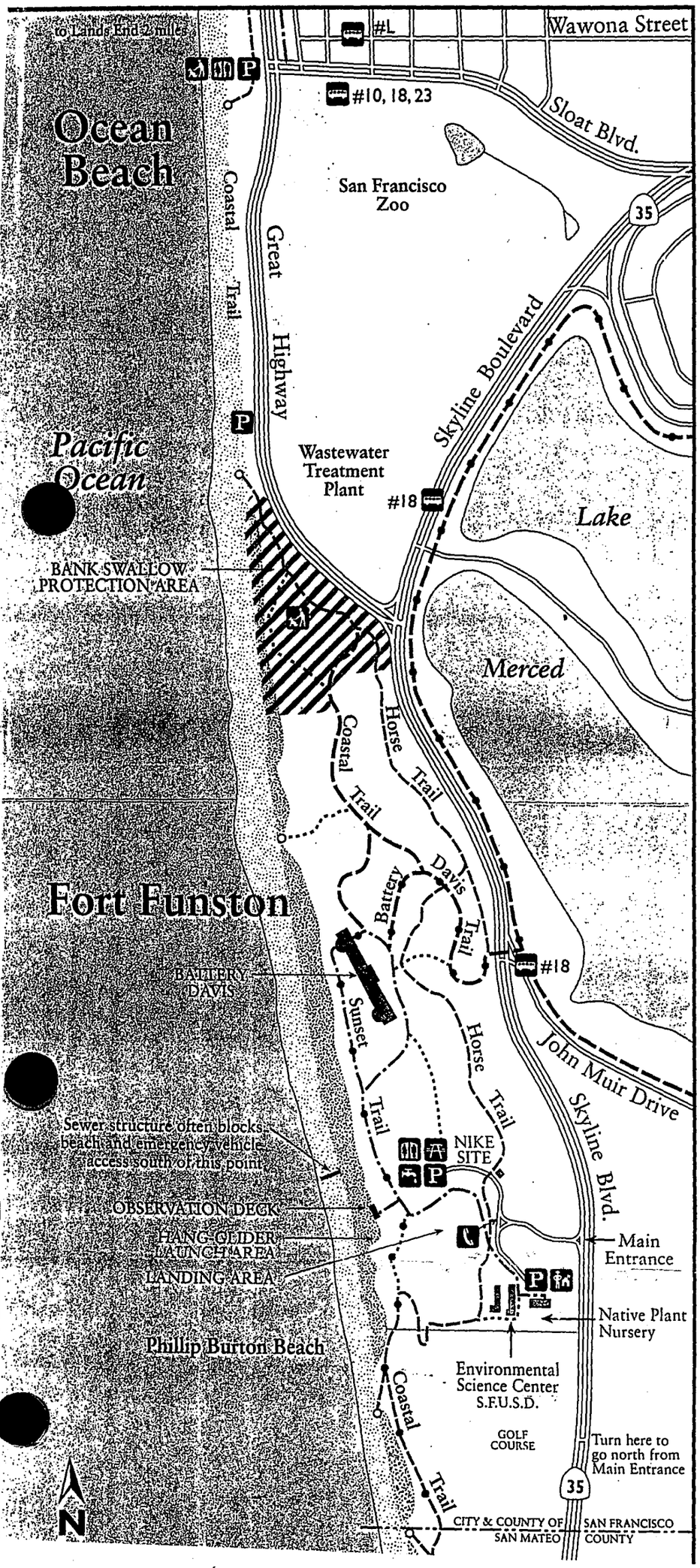
Dogs are permitted off leash under voice control on Muir Beach from the shoreline to the crest of the dunes. Dogs must be leashed from the crest of the dunes inland to Big Lagoon and in parking lots and picnic areas.

**Remember, people, dogs, and wildlife can enjoy this park together if you follow these rules. Please do your part.**

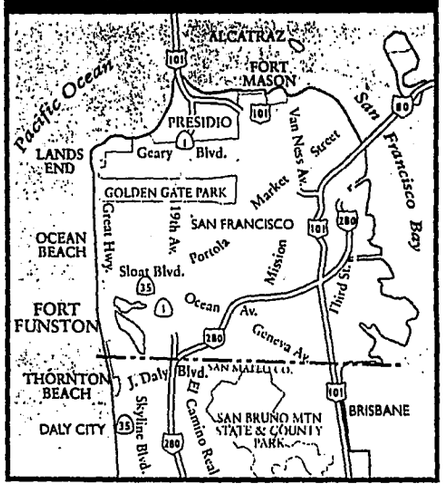

*Western Snowy Plover*

# Fort Funston

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
National Park Service




## DIRECTIONS




Fort Funston is located in the southwest corner of San Francisco. From the City, follow Highway 35 west on Sloat Boulevard then south on Skyline Boulevard. The main entrance is 1/4 mile south of John Muir Drive, on the west side of Hwy 35.

From San Mateo County follow Hwy. 35 north to John Muir Drive, make a U-turn from the left-turn lane, and return south on Hwy. 35 to the main entrance.

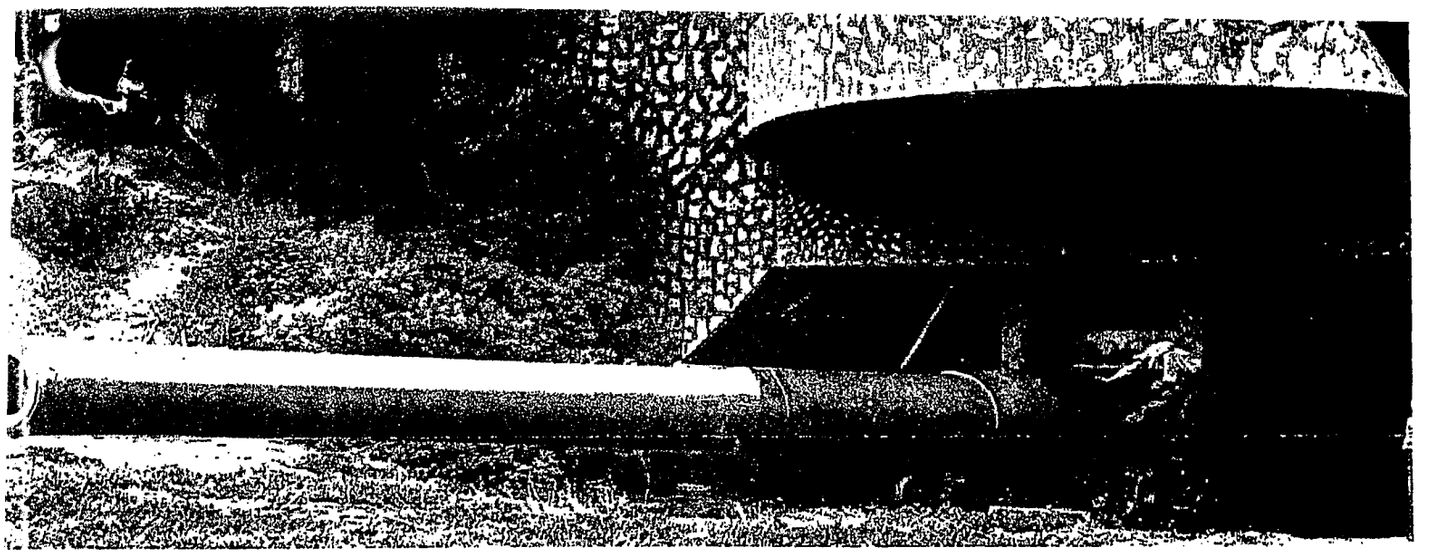
MUNI #18 bus stops near Fort Funston's Battery Davis Trail. Or ride MUNI #L, 10, or 23, and walk 1/2 mile south on Ocean Beach and the Coastal Trail to Fort Funston.

## LEGEND

- Ranger Station
- Restrooms
- MUNI Stop
- Picnic Tables
- Parking
- Drinking Water
- Telephone
- Pets on Leash

- Roads and Highways
- Disabled Access Trails
- Multi-Use Trails
- Horse Trails
- Hiking Trails
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Beach Access (subject to trail conditions)

- Golden Gate National Recreation Area Lands
- Private and Urban Lands
- Adjacent Parklands
- Beaches
- Cliffs — Stay Away from Edge
- Water



Disassembling the guns during "Operation Blowtorch" in 1948

## Swords to Plowshares

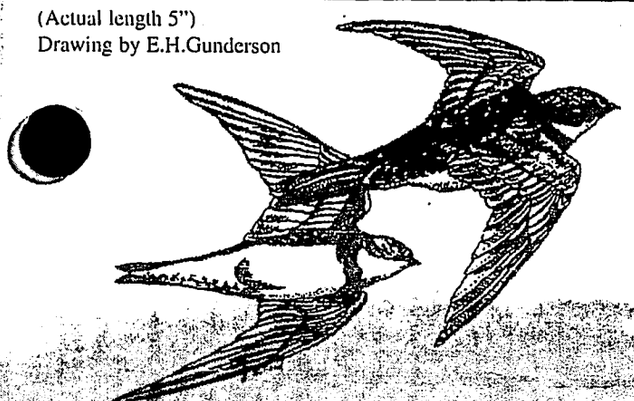
The U.S. Army acquired these bluffs in 1900 to add a link in the chain of coastal artillery batteries lining the Golden Gate. The fort is named for Major General Frederick Funston, famed for organizing relief efforts after the 1906 Earthquake. The guns of Battery Richmond Davis (1938) could fire a shell 25 miles. Nike anti-aircraft missiles stood guard here from the 1950's until the fort's closure in 1963. Transferred to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in 1974, Fort Funston now [illegible]es military history, wildlife habitat and open space. The missile-mens' barracks house the Ranger Station and [illegible]nmental Science Center, and the Nike Missile magazines lie below the main parking area.

## Preserving the Dunes

Sand dune habitat once dominated San Francisco's west side. Fort Funston preserves some of the area's last natural dune systems. Exotic plants like Iceplant threaten this habitat by displacing the native plants upon which wildlife depend. Volunteers and park staff have begun restoring habitat for Bank Swallows and other wildlife by removing exotic species, working in our native plant nursery and planting native vegetation. Join us!

Native wildflowers of the dunes

(Actual length 5")
Drawing by E.H.Gunderson



## Bank Swallows: Life of the Edge

These dunes are home to Bank Swallows, which build their nests in the steep, sandy banks of rivers or coastal cliffs. Once abundant, Bank Swallow habitat has swindled due to coastal development and riverbank reinforcement, and in 1988 the State of California listed Bank Swallows as a threatened species. Bank Swallows nest here from April to July, and you can see their burrows year round from the beach below Fort Funston's northern cliffs.

[illegible] and landing areas.

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3559-01-1C Date: 3-8-02

I support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: RICHARD L. BLACKBURN (optional: Age: 62 Sex: M F Ethnicity: CAUCASIAN)

Address: 11 GARDEN LANE (street) DALY CITY (city) CA (state) 94015 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.
DAILY - ENJOYING EACH MORNINGS FRESH AIR - THE FRIENDLY PEOPLE STROLLING WITH THEIR PETS.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity?
I MEET & VISIT WITH MANY DIFFERENT FOLKS EACH DAY. I HAVE MADE NEW FRIENDS WHILE WALKING MY DOGS & THE DOGS HAVE MET & MADE FRIENDS WITH MANY OTHER DOGS & PEOPLE. MY FRIENDS (NON DOG OWNERS) HAVE COME WITH ME AND WERE IMPRESSED BOTH BY THE WALK & THE WAY THE DOGS GET ALONG.

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.
IN MY OVER 10 YEARS OF WALKING DAILY I HONESTLY HAVE ONLY WITNESSED TWO CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN DOGS. THESE BOTH WERE IMMEDIATELY TAKE CARE OF BY THEIR OWNERS.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
I NO LONGER WOULD HAVE A REASON TO GO TO FORT FUNSTON EACH DAY, THEREFOR I WOULD MISS THE HEALTHY WALKS & INTERMIXING WITH VERY NICE DOG OWNERS.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?
I FEEL COMPLETLY SAFE WITH THE OFF LEASH CONDITIONS.

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Signed: Richard L. Blackburn Date: 3-8-02

mail by 3/10

3660-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: THOMAS H. CRAWFORD (printed)

Address: 67 - 7TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94118
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What ar the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

Daily; either the Presidio, Crissy Field, or Baker Beach. My wife and I walk for pleasure or run our dog off-leash.

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

My wife and I are 65. We routinely encounter children and people of all ages, races and cultural backgrounds who enjoy petting and being with our dog. The Park Service is seriously misguided if they believe off-leash dog areas in any way diminish the appeal or value of GGNRA

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longe off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you hav suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

yes.

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

NO.

Signed: Thomas H Crawford Date 3/6/02 (optional: Age: 65 Sex (M) F Ethnicity

California born Caucasian

Version 1.0

3561-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Craig M. Hill, Teacher (printed)

Address: 3985 18th St. San Franaisco CA 94114
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Off-Leash at Ft. Funston is the BEST use of this park. There is little else to attract people to this park.

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now? Where would you LIKE to visit if off-leash was permitted?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation?
- Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area?
- Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: C M. Hill Date 3-3-02 *(optional: Age: 40 Sex (M) F Ethnicity )*

Version 2.0

3562-01-1A

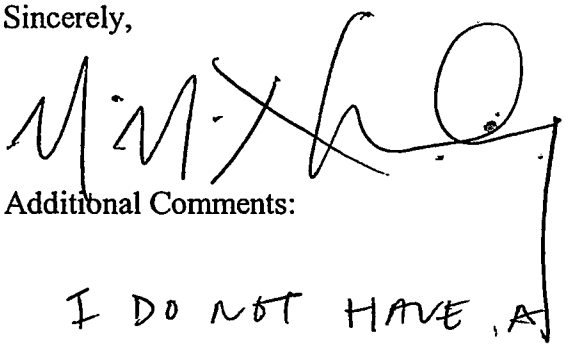
February 22, 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). There is a large population of dog lovers in the Bay Area. These are tax-paying citizens who support the National Park Service and request only to enjoy a small portion of this land with their beloved pets. I respect the actions of the Park Service to set aside key pieces of land for bird habitats and plant rejeuvenation but there is enough room for humans and dogs to enjoy this area alongside these conservation efforts, since off-leash dog walking is available in only 0.5% of its 75,000 acres of land. Even those who do not have pets can appreciate setting aside land where dogs can get adequate exercise and socialization with other dogs in order to be happy and healthy members of the Bay Area community. These off-leash locations are family friendly, attracting people of all ages who want to enjoy the day with their entire family, including the family dog. In addition, these locations encourage an atmosphere of community where people feel safe visiting at all hours of the day.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning."(16 USC 460bb). The 1979 GGNRA Pet Policy upheld this activity by creating a special provision allowing off-leash recreation. It is now time for the National Park Service to recognize the will of the people and create a Section 7 special rule for off-leash recreation in the GGGNRA. Please act now! Thank you.

Sincerely,





Additional Comments:

I DO NOT HAVE A DOG BUT I THINK ITS VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE SPACE SET ASIDE FOR DOG LOVERS AND THEIR PETS. PLEASE ACT NOW!

Please Print:

Name: MATT McNEELY (optional: Age: 27 Sex: (M) F Ethnicity: BLACK)

Address: 1544 McAllister St #5 (Street) SF (City) CA (State) 94105 (Zip)

830 Congo St.
San Francisco CA
94131

3568-01-1A

March 8, 2002

Whenever the issue of off-leash dogs has come up those of us who want enforcement of the leash law have been shouted down by dog owners and not allowed our voices to be heard.

Dog owners have made it impossible for anyone else to use or enjoy area managed by the GGNRA.

Dogs off leash impact the land, bother people who do not want to be smelled, jumped on or fear being knocked down have no access to these public areas.

Please enforce the leash laws. Keep these areas open for all to enjoy. Dogs have been allowed to dominate and destroy these public areas and there is no justification to allow it to continue.

Sincerely
Miriam Moss

3564-02-1A

CLIFFORD J. LIEHE
131 PARKER AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94118

March 8, 2002

Via fax to 415-561-4355 and U.S. Mail

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



Re: ANPR/Support for off-leash dog walking

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a dog owner and resident of San Francisco. I frequently walk my dog in the Presidio, at Fort Funston, and at Crissy Field. I also frequently jog, bike, and hike in those and other parts of the GGNRA without my dog.

I urge you as strongly as possible to continue to allow off-leash dog walking in the GGNRA. Legally speaking, off-leash dog walking is authorized by the enabling statute for the GGNRA, the legislative history, the terms of the transfer of GGNRA property from San Francisco to the National Park Service, the Pet Policy established in 1979 by the GGNRA Citizens' Advisory Commission, and the implementation of that policy for many, many years. The GGNRA should continue to abide by policies established by its own Citizens' Advisory Commission and should keep its commitment to the people of San Francisco.

The National Park Service has begun claiming that it must rely on a rule prohibiting off-leash dogs in National Parks. But there are exceptions to that and other rules. Off-leash hunting dogs, off-trail bicycle riding, and hang gliding are all allowed as exceptions in various parks.

Off-leash dog walking provides healthy exercise for dogs and dog owners, but also much more. It is a social and recreational activity, including one for families and non-dog walkers. It allows children to interact and play with dogs. It helps people interact. It makes dogs more sociable and less aggressive toward other dogs. It makes recreational areas safer because there are more likely to be people (i.e., dog owners) present. It is part of life in a diverse, urban community like San Francisco.

Of course there are other users of the GGNRA. But that does not mean that the GGNRA can not be shared. It is my understanding that traditional off-leash areas account for no more than 0.5 % of GGNRA land.

Banning off-leash dog walking would have a serious impact on the parks of San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin because of drastically increased usage in those counties. Such a ban may very well create dog-human and dog-dog conflicts because dogs would be less socialized and might be more aggressive on leashes.

3564-02-1A



I carefully read the ANPR pertaining to this issue. I was deeply disappointed to discover that instead of being objective, the ANPR was blatantly slanted in favor of a ban on off-leash dog walking. Its mention of the tragic death of Diane Whipple as underscoring the danger of dogs was particularly outrageous. That incident admittedly occurred outside of GGNRA boundaries. It appears to have been inserted in the ANPR solely to appeal to emotions instead of reason or logic. That is like referring to the murder a couple years ago of a Yosemite National Park employee to underscore the danger of people in National Parks and therefore the need to ban people from National Parks.

There are, of course, a few irresponsible dog owners in the GGNRA and elsewhere. They deserve to be cited or otherwise prosecuted. Responsible dog owners such as myself fully support such action. But those few irresponsible dog owners should not overshadow the far more numerous responsible ones who control their dogs, clean up after their dogs, and often clean up after the irresponsible dog owners).

The GGNRA is an urban park in the midst of a very diverse community. It should continue to be used for diverse, urban recreational activities, including off-leash dog walking, just as it has always been.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Clifford J. Liehe

cc: SF Dog
Crissy Field Dog Group

2/2

3565-01-1D

March 8, 2002

Dear Commissioner O'Neill,

For the sake of the birds and animals that live within the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and for the sake of children and elderly people who may be injured even by friendly dogs, please do not allow dogs off the leash in the GGNRA.

Sincerely yours,

Martha D. Paley

[redacted]

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern: 3566-01-1A

**I strongly support existing regulations that require pets to be on leash and on trail when in national parks.** I support Option A as proposed in the recent ANPR.

Changing the leash law for just the GGNRA would set a dangerous precedent for national parks throughout the country. Allowing pets off-leash is inconsistent with the park mission to protect natural resources and the safety of all visitors. Numerous scientific studies—including one by the American Humane Association—identify off-leash pets as a threat to visitor safety and wildlife and therefore recommend that pets be leashed in natural areas.

Lax enforcement at GGNRA has resulted in many documented cases of off-leash pets threatening or biting park visitors and hazardous rescues of uncontrolled pets and their owners. It is no surprise that 82% of Bay Area residents (KPIX poll) prefer pets on leash. I agree!

Sincerely,

Alejandro F. Alvarez

Barbara Koch

Hector Alvarez

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3567-01-3B

E-86
SAN FRANCISCO CABLE CAR
California Street cable car climbs from the Financial District to historic Nob Hill.
Photo by Jim Doane © 1988
Printed in Korea

Please, Please
Leash all dogs
At our Parks—
Not all dogs
Are SAFE

Supt GGNRA
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason
S/F, Ca 94123

Smith Novelty Co., 460 Ninth St. San Francisco, California

SAVE

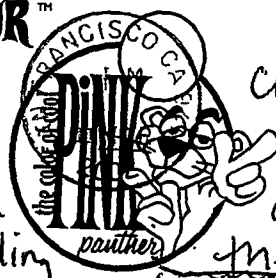
USA 34

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
POST CARD

3568-01-1A

**TOO SEXY FOR HIS FUR™**

I am a tax paying citizen and an AVID public school teacher in San Francisco and I am supporter of providing the people of this city with an OFF LEASH recreation area for their dogs. There are enough parks to go around. Please SHARE your parks between people of all concerns: dogs, people, plants and nature can THRIVE in the GGNRA.




FAST FREE SEA
FIGHT CRIFF


Superintendent
Golden Gate Nat. Rec. Area
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason Bldg. #201
San Francisco, CA
94123

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE



Nora O'Farrell
330 Rome St. S.F. 95112

3569-01-2

To Whom It May Concern:

**I strongly support existing regulations that require pets to be on leash and on trail when in national parks.** I support Option A as proposed in the recent ANPR.

Changing the leash law for just the GGNRA would set a dangerous precedent for national parks throughout the country. Allowing pets off-leash is inconsistent with the park mission to protect natural resources and the safety of all visitors. Numerous scientific studies—including one by the American Humane Association—identify off-leash pets as a threat to visitor safety and wildlife and therefore recommend that pets be leashed in natural areas.

Lax enforcement at GGNRA has resulted in many documented cases of off-leash pets threatening or biting park visitors and hazardous rescues of uncontrolled pets and their owners. It is no surprise that 82% of Bay Area residents (KPIX poll) prefer pets on leash. I agree!

Sincerely,

Ellen Sorg
103 Wilkes Pl
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3570-01-3B

"Fort Funston" <fortfunston@hotmail.com>
03/12/2002 06:26 PM PST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Fwd: off-leash comment

----Original Message Follows----
From: MachneDoc@aol.com
To: fortfunston@hotmail.com
Subject: off-leash comment
Date: Tue, 12 Mar 2002 11:03:15 EST

Dear GGNRA;

I am writing in response to the proposed rule making to determine whether there is sufficient public will to continue the long-standing tradition of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

We believe that there is room for off-leash dog recreation activities in your areas. I have read that off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA.

We hope that off-leash activities can continue as the public respects the parks others uses including preservation of its natural resources. We have enjoyed off-leash areas and hope to be able to continue to do so.

Charles and Stephanie Aiken

3571-01-1A

"Ghosh, Bishakh"
<bghosh@kpmg.com>
03/12/2002 08:56 PM
EST

To: "'goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov'" <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Leash Laws

To whom it may concern,

I am ardently against the implementation of leash laws in the parks in the Bay area. I am a homeowner in San Francisco, and find that one of the most appealing aspects of the parks and beaches of the Bay area is the fact that people can walk their dogs without a leash on the beaches and in the parks of the area. Please note my opinion in any surveys that are being taken and inform me if there is anything I can do to support this position.

Thanks for your assistance.

Best regards,
Rono Ghosh

Bishakh Rono Ghosh
Senior Associate
International Corporate Services

kpmg
KPMG LLP
3 Embarcadero Center
Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94111
Direct: 415 / 591-7481
Fax: 415 / 986-3365
email: bghosh@kpmg.com

3572-01-3B

"Fort Funston" <fortfunston@hotmail.com>
03/12/2002 05:48 PM PST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Fwd: pets off leash

----Original Message Follows----
From: ADCX5805@aol.com
To: fortfunston@hotmail.com
Subject: pets off leash
Date: Tue, 12 Mar 2002 18:08:04 EST

Please keep Fort Funston and Crissy fields as off leash areas for people with
their dogs. We need a place to walk off leash; it is best for the dogs and of great benefit to people who otherwise would not be out walking. To prohibit dogs would put too much pressure on city parks. I love the native plants and the birds but I do believe we can coexist, we are also part of nature, we must all respect one another.
Sincerely
Claire Chow(and Oliver)

---

3673-02-3B

**Will Smith**
**<iamwill@mindspring.com>**
03/12/2002 03:09 PM
GMT

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: anpr comments

Hi:

To what avail proposed rulemaking if current law were woof without bite?

Current law, 36CFR2.15 requiring that dogs be restrained on leash while at Fort Funston and Burton Beach is not being enforced because of credible stated concern for officer safety.

At Fort Funston, a week ago today, Law Enforcement Ranger M. Warmerdam stated that 3 person teams were necessary to manage, with adequate margin for safety, the crowd dynamics experienced when attempting to enforce this law. He said that, when a properly armed and armored officer has attempted to require that dogs be restrained on leash while at Fort Funston and Burton Beach as required by law, he has quickly found himself surrounded by a crowd of 15 to 20 persons some of whom kicked dirt upon him. others of whom spat upon him. Thus adequate backup is required to discourage attempts to intimidate or otherwise assault the Law Enforcement Ranger.

Statements made by Law Enforcement Ranger Warmerdam without contradiction by Law Enforcement Ranger Lopez are highly credible to me based upon my direct observations over more than a decade of, on average once per week, walking from home at 655 John Muir Drive through Fort Funston to the ocean at Burton Beach.

Two cases in point:

At approximately 12:41 PM Friday 01 December 2000, at Fort Funston, I observed attempts by a crowd of persons to intimidate 2 law enforcement officers working together in response to a complaint based on an attack by unleashed dogs where one of the officers had directly witnessed the attack. At least one of the officers was armored. Both were visibly armed. Though no case number was provided, the officers are San Francisco Park Police Officer Harrison, and National Park Service Law Enforcement Ranger Eric D. LaSalle.

At approximately 2:00 PM Monday 03 March 1997, at Fort Funston, attack by an unleashed dog became the subject of case number 1757 investigated by Law Enforcement Park Rangers Heather P. (Rosselle) Irwin and Raquel Lopez. As cited in the case file, the human who sicced the unleashed dog stated that law enforcement was not a concern for him.

My tax monies will be spent either to pay for adequate law enforcement backup or to pay for that first successful tort base on failure to enforce existing law. Officer Safety and Public Safety need not conflict.

I urge that resources be temporarily redeployed or created so 3 person teams of Law Enforcement Rangers can experience adequate safety as they enforce current law, 36CFR2.15 requiring that dogs be restrained on leash while at Fort Funston and Burton Beach.

Enforce current law while creating new law and thus "maintain within the parks an atmosphere that is open, inviting, and accessible to every segment of American society."

1/2

3573-02-3B

Will iamwill@mindspring.com 1-415-337-8909

2/2

3574-02-ID

"McAlister, Anna M." <AMcAlister@brobeck.com>
03/12/2002 03:46 PM PST

To: "'goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov'" <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Ft. Funston dog-leash opinion

Dear Sir/Madam:

After reviewing the March 8, 2002 article in San Francisco Chronicle I decided to provide my opinion.

I am a dog owner who frequents Ft. Funston and I absolutely love the opportunity to allow my dogs to run freely on the beach. It is an equally beautiful sight to watch my dogs running happily on the beach as it is to look out onto the amazing ocean. Nature is beautiful in all forms.

I am a responsible pet owner who picks up after my dogs as I would pick up after myself and who has trained my dogs to adhere to my commands. My dogs need to be able to run free for their physical and mental well being. It is not part of a dog's nature to be leashed at all times, it is not humane or fair to the dog.

I agree that in developed areas it is best to keep dogs on leash to maintain order and to protect the dog as well. Dogs have no business running around the streets off leash, they do not have the brains to protect themselves or to behave in a civilized fashion. However, undeveloped areas should be a source for any natural being to enjoy. I understand the danger of the cliffs and the preservation of the natural vegetation and agree to the safety conditions and preservation of beauty in those areas. Those areas should not be used by dogs or people.

My thought is that there are alternatives for those people who are uncomfortable around dogs. There is a huge stretch of beach to be utilized by all and those who are uncomfortable around dogs can simply stay on the side of the beach where dogs are required to be leashed or where dogs are simply not allowed. I and my dogs would not have an alternative if Ft. Funston were to be condemned to an on-leash beach. We would not have the choice to go to another stretch of beach to run and play. People simply have to learn to share. Dog owners pay taxes and have paid for the right to utilize those very few pieces of land where they can allow their pets run free without being harmed.

Presumably, if dogs are not allowed to run off leash at Ft. Funston people will take comfort in that they will not be attacked or bitten by a dog and the beach will be free of canine excrement. Do these same people believe they are free from human attack or from unsightly human excrement or trash on the beach? It is rare that you hear of a dog killing a human, it is not so rare to hear of a human killing a human. It is not rare to hear of a dog biting a human, it is not rare to hear of a human hurting a human. If excrement is left on the beach the tide will wash the beach clean and nature will take its course. The tide will take away trash temporarily only to deposit it back on the beach where some poor bird will eat it and die. People are the source of the trash not dogs. The only answer to preserve absolute safety and cleanliness is to prohibit people from utilizing the beach.

I respectfully urge the National Park Service to maintain the privilege of allowing dogs to run free at Ft. Funston while under supervision and that privilege not be taken away because of fear or some warped sense of who pollutes the beach. The small amount of land where our dogs are allowed to roam free from harm just simply cannot be reduced. My intention is not to

1/2

3574-02-1D

sound melodramatic, but in the big picture there are so many horrible events in life caused by human beings, not animals, that it is truly wrong to punish an innocent animal by not allowing it to simply run.

Please allow us to maintain this one small privilege.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anna McAlister
83 Kensington Road
Kensington, California 94707



2/2

3575-01-3B

**Socatalina250@aol.com**

03/12/2002 06:55 PM EST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Please keep the lease law, protect the birds and keep the beach safe

Hi,

I walk on the beach in SF weekly have been bitten twice over the years.
I have the bite marks to prove it.
Why should I feel afraid of dogs when walking on the beach?

What about the wildlife.
Most of the dogs I've seen terrorize the birds. But thats just fun, right?

Shouldn't our parks and beaches be safe, peaceful places for people to relax?
To say nothing of the wildlife.

Why do the SF dog owners deserve special exemption from the rules?
Will other communities then challenge those rules.
Will the bears of Yellowstone mind being chased by dogs?

If my children are playing on the beach should I be afraid a dog will attack them?
Should I carry a baseball bat to defend myself?
Better yet, perhaps I should get an attack dog!

I'd like your advise.
If I am bitten again, should I sue the dog owner?
AND
Should I sue you for not enforcing the regulations and creating a hazardous situation?

If you are going to let them run wild you should have a Warning Signs:
**Beware of Wild Dogs**
and/or
**Parents Your Children Are Not Safe On This Beach**
(and also mention that the government accepts no liability for the dog behavior)

Ask any parent if they are concerned about unleashed dogs running wild around their kids.

Why can't the dog owners use those 25' leases so the dogs have some free movement but are controlled around people and wildlife.

3576-01-3A

"C. K. Picker"
<phafhrd@juno.com>
03/12/2002 11:57 PM
GMT

To: "Brian O'Neill" <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: I Support Alternative A - Keep Dogs Leashed!

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
ATTN: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am writing to support Option A in the ANPR and further request that the Park Service continue to allow leashed pet recreation where currently permissible, while minimizing pet impacts to visitors and park resources.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the world's largest urban park, provides critical habitat for some of the state's most rare and threatened species including 11 federally listed endangered wildlife species and 9 federally listed plant species. While parks such as GGRNA also provide a great place to recreate with pets, I am concerned that the ANPR could lead to changes in the current leash policy that would put sensitive park resources and public safety in jeopardy.

Numerous academic and government studies identify off leash pets as threats to visitor safety, wildlife, and the integrity of natural and cultural resources. For example, a study by the American Humane Association documents injuries to humans, wildlife, and pets as a result of unleashed pets and recommends that pets be leashed in public areas set aside for natural resource protection purposes. Golden Gate National Recreation Area records indicate numerous incidents of dog bites, threats of dogs to park visitors, and instances where park rangers were forced to risk their own safety to rescue uncontrolled pets and pet owners trapped on cliffs or in the ocean.

For these reasons -- threats to public safety and park resources -- I support Option A. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

C. K. Picker
9108 Arline Avenue
Overland, MO 63114 - 4850
phafhrd@juno.com

3577-01-1A

**"John & Virginia Kibre" <jvkibre@ix.netcom.com>**

03/12/2002 04:55 PM PST

To: <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: dogs

Dear NPS

No unleashed dogs where people or wildlife are! I suggest a fenced in dog run--a LARGE one of three or four acres under the eucalyptus trees. Let the dogs run on the ivy.

Yours truly,
Virginia Kibre
46 Prospect
San Francisco 94110

3578-01-3B

**"Tim Lee" <elemcbride@earthlink.net>**

03/12/2002 02:50 PM PST
Please respond to elemcbride

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Comment on Fort Funston dog policy

I am writing to emphatically support an exception to National Park policy that forbids unleashed dogs at Fort Funston. An exception would be consistent with the long-established use of the area in accordance with the prior agreement of GGNRA in 1979. It is completely unfair to change the terms of the agreement at a later date. If no exception is granted, the area should be given back to the City to use as it sees fit, including for unleashed dogs. The longstanding historical use, including use for unleashed dogs, strikes the proper balance of uses and should be maintained. I am a longtime supporter of the Audubon Society and Nature Conservancy, but I think they are wrong on this one.

--- Tim Lee
--- elemcbride@earthlink.net
--- EarthLink: It's your Internet.

3579-01-1B

**Laurie Dunn**
**<lauried_6@yahoo.com>**

03/12/2002 02:56 PM
PST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Pet Policy

Attn: GGNRA

I have been a Marin County resident for 28 years. I strongly support the "voice control" policy. I would also like to see a reduction (or elimination) of park areas that forbid dogs altogether.

Thank you for the option to communicate my opion via e-mail.

Laurie Dunn

3680-01-1D

"L Kondrick"
<lkondrick@hotmail.com>

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc: fortfunston@hotmail.com
Subject:

03/12/2002 12:57 PM
PST

A citizen's comments for the record:

I am in favor of off leash dog walking in our National Parks. Horseback riding is allowed in our parks. Cars and trailers are allowed in our parks. Horses and motorized vehicles too present safety issues and impact the park environment, but will these activites be ended or even curtailed in our National Parks?

Dogs are an American way of life. We own dogs for companionship, for protection, and many times as a means to socialize with people. Dogs need exercise and many dog owners in the Bay Area do not have a large fenced in yard to freely exercise their dogs. A dog at the end of a leash cannot be properly exercised or socialized with other dogs and people.

I believe that enforced current off leash dog laws are adequate to protect the interest and safety of all who use the National Parks. We have lost so many freedoms lately, can the American people stand to lose yet another freedom? It will be a sad, sad day. Please, do not adopt leash laws for our National Parks.

Laura Kondrick, El Cerrito, CA

3581-01-3B

**GGoerss@aol.com**
03/12/2002 05:27 PM
EST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Dogs on leash

Dogs should be on leash in parks and at the beach. There are ample free leash zones around town for dog owners to let their dogs run free. Fort Funston should be a leash free zone because it has been for so long, but not Ocean Beach or the Presidio.

3582-01-1A

**Ken Horiszny**
**<ken@hkadesign.com**
**>**

03/12/2002 04:59 AM
MST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Dogs in "Metropolitan Parks"

To: GGNRA

I am writing to voice my disgust for the bureaucratic attempt being made to require dogs to be on leash in National Recreation Areas that are located within metropolitan areas.

Metropolitan Parks such as Crissy Field, Fort Baker and Fort Cronkite which are essentially renamed military compounds, cannot and should not become nature preserves. The park services attempt to make them so is ludicrous especially when such a policy flies in the face of agreements made with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and established public use of such areas.

I fully support the San Francisco Board of Supervisors intent to take back the federal parklands donated by the city in retaliation for your intended revocation of dog-walking rights.

It is time that the park service recognizes that there is a fundamental difference between metropolitan parks and wilderness parks and that the two types of parks have different purposes and require a different management approaches and regulations. It is also time that the park service woke up to the fact that it is in existence to serve the public not too create asinine restrictions which adversely affect thousands of metropolitan citizens and their pets.

Get Real.

Ken Horiszny
639 Front Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

3583-01-3B

"Kara Parsons"
<KParsons@macys.com>
03/12/2002 06:59 AM
PST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: dog leash ruling

please enforce the leash laws in ggnra. unleashed dogs are a problem and a menace to small children, hikers, and cyclists. most dogs are ok, but it is the problem dogs that make this law necessary. i have been chased countless times by unleashed dogs and it poses a hazard to all.

kara parsons
vp marketing
macys.com
415-932-0402

3584-01-1B

**"Linda Maxwell" <lmax2000@earthlink.net>**

03/12/2002 08:42 AM PST

To: <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject:

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my support of off-leash recreation for dogs at Crissy Field and elsewhere in the GGNRA. I have two dogs that thoroughly enjoy the play/exercise time available to them at Crissy Field. It would not be an option for us to go there with the dogs on the leash. We respect the boundaries of Crissy, and always are attentive to the care of the place and clean up after the dogs. I observe these two practices in other dog owners, and therefore feel that all users of the Field can coexist side by side. Limiting the use of the GGNRA will take the play/recreation out of this place. Please continue to allow this great enjoyment of our space.

Sincerely,

Linda Maxwell
55 Cascade Drive
Mill Valley, California 94941

3585-01-1B

**Rachel Dangermond**
**<rachel@dangermond.org>**

03/12/2002 08:37 AM
PST

To: <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Comments on Pet Management

Please do not go to an on leash policy at GGNRA. There are few open spaces in this dense city to enjoy walking freely with your dog. Obviously there are dogs that should not have this freedom, but there are certainly equal amounts of people who should not as well. I have recently moved to Marin after having lived in North Beach for 7 years and Portrero Hill for 5 years. While on Portrero Hill, I had to contend with more human feces on the sidewalks than canine. While in North Beach the Presidio area was such a wonderful retreat into greenery and romping room - that to restrict it to a leash only area would ruin the experience.

There is room for everyone in this compromise. Offleash dogs who are aggressive or dog owners who are irresponsible should be fined heavily for their misuse of the GGNRA, however, well behaved dogs and people should not be punished for the misdeeds of a few.

Rachel Dangermond
415.256.8112

3586-01-3B

"DENNIS N DEHNE"
<ddehne@hotmail.com
>

03/12/2002 08:45 AM
PST

To: <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Fort Funston

Gentlemen:
My dogs Lucy and Molly would be most appreciative if you would allow them to use the Fort Funston area without a leash. They need to run and get exercise. This is the only place I know that they can do this. Please find it in your heart to allow them this simple but necessary pleasure.
Thanks in advance,
Dennis Dehne
Lucy and Molly

Girls on couch.jpg

3587-01-3B

**Chris Griffin**
**<katinaandchris@sprintmail.com>**

To: <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Dog leash law comments

03/12/2002 09:27 AM
PST

Dear GGNRA,

I have long enjoyed all the work your organization has done in order to allow access to, maintain and protect some of the most beautiful land in this country. Thank you for all your efforts.

This e-mail is specifically to address the issue of dogs and the ability to have them off leash in the GGNRA. My wife and I have taken our dog to training school. She (our dog) is very well behaved and excellent at voice control but we are also aware that there are numerous pets out there who may not be trained in the same manner. While we'd love all areas to be open to all dogs off leash we understand the reality of ill behaved dogs and their potential damage to local wildlife, vegetation as well as possibly intimidating those people using the GGNRA who do not like dogs.

So taking in the global reality of the situation we still do feel it is essential to have SOME areas allotted to allow dogs to run off leash. They are wonderful and joyful to watch as they gain their bliss running to their hearts content. The truth is, so many of dogs misbehaviors can be rectified if they were only exercised more and when we make that less of an option by limiting where they can be let off leash, we create more problems. "Dog Run" areas are great but not enough.

We think there should be strategically located areas (ie Rodeo Beach, Oakwood Valley, etc.) that allow dogs to be off leash. The areas designated need to be situated so that people don't have to drive a far distance to get to them (ie some for Novato, some for San Rafael, some for Mill Valley, some for Sausalito and San Francisco). We also are in agreement that there are some places that should not allow dogs off leash because of their already heavy use and dense population (ie the main trail of Tennessee Valley. Although the upper trail of Miwok would be nice to be off leash).

We also think the areas designated for dogs should not be on a schedule. I've heard of proposals that state Tue/Thurs at Muir beach or AM/PM restrictions at spots, etc, etc. Rather than trying to remember what day of the week it is or time of day and if we are allowed at a certain area, we think it would be better to just have some locations that dogs are allowed off leash at all times. And yes, that means the dogs may not have access to all areas of the GGNRA but that's the compromise.

We know this is a heated debate and not an easy one to solve. We appreciate you taking on this task, wish you well in its resolution and truly hope you can find a way to let our dogs have more freedom, health and happiness in their lives by allowing them off leash in certain areas.

Sincerely,
Chris

P.S. I ask that you honor my privacy by keeping my comments anonymous and not giving out my e-mail address.

-- Live Simply and Love Deeply

3588-01-3B

**Psycobab@aol.com**
03/12/2002 02:05 PM
EST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Fort Funston

We would like to inform you that one of our favorite family outings is walking along the paths at Fort Funston and talking to the dogs and their owners. My four children love the dogs, and we have yet to meet a hostile owner or pet. We were all born in San Francisco, and we love this park. This park gives me the most sense of security, because the dogs are accustom to people and other dogs. The dedicated animal lovers we have met over the years at Fort Funston have enriched my children's lives by sharing their pets with my dog deprived family. Please do not restrict the exercise routine of these well behaved animals because of the perception that all pets should be leashed when in public.

3589-01-1A

**Sarah Jackson**
**<jacksons@socrates.Berkeley.EDU>**

03/12/2002 10:18 AM
PST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: please uphold leash laws in the GGNRA

To Whom it May Concern,

As a San Francisco resident and a person who values the habitat of all animals, domestic and wild, I urge the GGNRA to uphold its rules re. dogs on leashes in order to make the space more pleasant, safe, and ecologically healthy for ALL users. I enjoy running and walking on the beach (although I've been literally knocked down by an unleashed Rottweiler there), using the cliffside trails at Fort Funston (though I've had to watch my step so as not to tread on dog droppings there), and spending the twilight hour watching the sun set from the shore.

It puzzles me that so many dog owners who profess to "love animals" in fact seem to love only one animal, their own dog, as they allow their pet to destroy the habitat of native birds that live in the delicate seashore areas of Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, and Crissy Field. I have seen dog owners, time and again, pointedly ignore signs requesting that they keep their dogs out of certain areas, and sulk when they are reminded of posted signs.

The dangers that unleashed dogs pose to children is another big issue for me, as my own nephew was recently bitten in the face by an unleashed dog. Why should the beach be a safe place for dogs and not for children? Unleashed dogs can also be a threat to other dogs.

I happen to love dogs and I believe their companionship can greatly enrich human life. It's not the dogs that I fault; it's the owners who refuse to take responsibility for their pets. I ask the GGNRA to insist that dogs be leashed within its boundaries, for the happiness and safety of all citizens and their pets.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sarah Jackson
Noe Valley

3590-01-1A

**Daniellec1@aol.com**
03/12/2002 01:14 PM
EST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Dog policy

Please don't make an expection to allow dogs unleashed! Dog owners already have their dogs running all over the city - especially in parks and other areas marked leash only - and I am very uncomfortable walking around with my young son. Let them used the many already desigated areas for running their dogs and please enforce the current policies!
Thank you,
Danielle Conrad
San Francisco

3591-01-1C

**Lindaruthe@aol.com**
03/12/2002 02:19 PM
EST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Please keep dogs on leash at all times in public parks

Linda Rutherford
PO Box 371063
Montara, CA 94037

March 12, 2002

Superintendent GGNRA
Attention ANPR
Building 201--Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94132

Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to request that dogs be kept on-leash to the greatest extent possible in federal parklands.

By running up closely and barking aggressively, many untrained dogs harass innocent hikers. I have been frightened frequently by aggressive dogs that run free. Dogs need to be kept on a leash at all times in all parts of public parks.

I feel forced to carry a stick to protect myself, and even when doing carrying a stick, I feel uneasy. My sister has been bitten twice by wild running dogs. Once she was required to get a rabies shot. Dogs have jumped up with their two front legs on my chest and scared the heck out of me. I was trembling for five minutes after the last dog did this which was about a month ago.

Also, the dogs chase and kill birds, rabbits and other small animals.

If more people trained their dogs, it would be safer. But apparently, people no longer have the time and dedication required to train their dogs.

Thank you,

Linda Rutherford

3592-01-3B

**"jean pierre demedy" <jpdemedy@hotmail.com>**

03/12/2002 11:33 AM PST

To: <goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Dog @ The Fort

Please allow dog access to Fort Funston. The beach south of the Fort is hardly ever used and most dog owners are very responsible with their pets down there. If your concern is for the birds then you should consider banning children from the beach since on more than one occasion I have seen children harrassing the birds, and then of course horses would have to be banned, perhaps the birds can have the beach from the Fort north and tax payers who in affect pay your salaries can use the beach south of the Fort to exercise their dogs!

3593-01-1A

**Amy Hoffman**
**<AHoffman@MARKETCOMPASS.COM>**
03/12/2002 11:46 AM
PST

To: "'goga_pets_ANPR@nps.gov'" <goga_pets_ANPR@nps.gov>
cc: "'fortfunston@hotmail.com'" <fortfunston@hotmail.com>
Subject: ANPR Comment: In Support of Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA

Dear Sir or Madam,
I am a citizen of Pacifica, California and wish to write to express my fullest support for developing a reasonable and fair approach that would allow dog owners to use certain GGNRA lands to recreate with their animals off leash. My understanding is that one of the primary purposes of setting aside land within the GGNRA is to provide needed open space to allow for recreational activities for people living in populated urban areas. People and dogs need and richly deserve the opportunity to exercise and run off leash in these areas. The use of these resources should be managed to accommodate the needs of a diverse citizenship, and should not be preserved as pristine wilderness (which is not the purpose of GGNRA) or for the use of only a certain segment of the population (families with children as opposed to other segments of society).
The opponents of off leash recreational would have us think that dogs destroy the environment and protected species (not anywhere near what human beings are doing) and that there is a vicious dog waiting to attack a child around every corner (again, most dog bites are of children in family/backyard situations).
There are many wilderness areas, local and county owned parks and other facilities that do not even allow dogs on leash, or which are reserved solely for children. The population of this country is growing older, getting fatter, and is more resistant to sharing limited resources. This is a trend we have to fight in order to teach citizens, and especially children, tolerance and sharing and humanity (for other human beings and for animals) and preserve our quality of life by being able to freely recreate in ways that will benefit our social, emotional and physical well being.
I strongly urge you to do the right thing and formalize a long standing policy on allowing well socialized dogs under adequate voice control to run off leash in certain areas of the GGNRA.
Thank you,
Amy S. Hoffman
Founder
Market Compass, Inc.
220 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94104
415.982.0431 (w)
415.982.0436 (f)

3594-01-1A

**Jim Musselman <jminsf@mindspring.com>**

03/12/2002 12:38 PM PST

To: goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Dogs in the GGNRA, specifically Ft. Funston

Dear NPS:

This email address (gogo_pets_anpr@nps.gov) appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on 3/8/02 as the place to send comments/opinions on off-leash dogs in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). So I would like to submit my comments. Here they are:

I think off-leash dogs should be restricted to small, enclosed, designated areas of the GGNRA. In particular, at Ft. Funston, off-leash dogs should be much more restricted than they are now. As it is now, people without dogs cannot enjoy Ft. Funston because of the dangers and hazards posed by all the hords of off-leash dogs. It certainly is not a safe place to take children, senior citizens, or disabled people (I'm disabled) due to all the roaming, marauding dogs. If they are to be allowed off-leash, it should be only in some smaller and very-restricted areas. Owners of off-leash dogs in restricted areas should be cited and fined. Not only should we humans be protected from off-leash dogs and allowed to enjoy Ft. Funston free of these dogs, the natural resources suffer greatly from the dogs' use; that, alone, is a good reason to restrict off-leash dogs.

I like dogs, but I think they need to be restricted vis-a-vis we humans who also want to enjoy the GGNRA and vis-a-vis the wonderful but sometimes fragile natural resources of the GGNRA.

I hope you will consider my comments when planning off-leash dog policy for Ft. Funston and for the GGNRA in general.

Jim Musselman
266 Byxbee Street
San Francisco, CA 94132

3595-02-4B

AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
1931 N. MEACHAM ROAD, SUITE 100 • SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS, 60173-4360
PHONE (847) 925-8070 • FAX (847) 925-1329 • www.avma.org

March 11, 2002

Docket No. 02-568
Superintendent
Attention: ANPR
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

**Re: Docket No. 02-568, Pet Management in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California**

Dear Sir or Madam:

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), on behalf of its more than 67,000 member veterinarians (representing approximately 85% of veterinarians in the United States), is pleased to offer the following responses to options posed by the National Park Service (Interior) for addressing appropriate pet management within Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

***Option A: Enforce existing regulation/dogs on leash and on trail***
Because authority does not exist for policy established by the GGNRA Citizens Advisory Committee to supercede that established by the National Park Service (NPS), the AVMA believes that on-leash regulations established by the NPS for dogs in the GGNRA must be actively enforced, at least until such time as the NPS determines that off-leash dog use is acceptable, and under what conditions. The AVMA supports the idea of public education regarding park policies, and recommends that related materials aggressively emphasize responsible dog ownership as an important part of enjoying canine companionship in National Parks. Responsible dog ownership, as defined by the AVMA, includes preventive and therapeutic veterinary care (to include vaccination and parasite control), licensing, and appropriate socialization and training activities.

***Option B: Identify specific locations/ways to address off-leash use within GGNRA***
Off-leash dog activity within National Parks, including the GGNRA, should only be permitted in areas where there is reasonable assurance that such activity will not negatively impact ecologic integrity, wildlife health, and visitor safety. Documented incidents resulting in degradation of critical wildlife habitat, disruption of normal wildlife behavioral patterns, and injuries to pets and people, suggest that "voice control" is not an adequate means of restraining pets in areas that are home to sensitive wildlife or in areas having physical features (e.g., cliffs) that present increased potential for injury. When determining whether a particular area is or is not acceptable for off-leash dog use, the potential for bi-directional transmission of disease and parasites between domestic pets and indigenous wildlife must also be considered. While not the only infectious

3595-02-48

disease of concern, canine distemper could be especially devastating to naive marine mammals, and could be transmitted to them indirectly, following interactions between dogs and susceptible terrestrial wildlife. Responsible dog owners will be equally concerned about the potential for transmission of enzootic disease to their pets.

When considering whether to permit off-leash dog use within the GGNRA, the AVMA urges the National Park Service to realistically assess the availability of alternative recreational areas where owners might enjoy mutually beneficial exercise with their dogs off leash with fewer potential negative impacts to flora, fauna, and human and animal safety. If such areas are readily available, or arrangements could be made to make alternative areas available, the need for areas within the GGNRA for off-leash use might be reduced and competing interests satisfied.

The AVMA chooses to make one additional comment specific to a citation from the report of the AVMA Task Force on Canine Aggression and Human-Canine Interactions, which has been included in the *Federal Register* notice as an expert opinion supporting the need for leash requirements. This quote has unfortunately been taken out of context. The report of the Task Force, "A Community Approach to Dog Bite Prevention," does not specifically address off-leash dog recreational areas, and comments referring to "unrestrained dogs" are not intended to reflect either support or opposition to such areas.

The objective of the AVMA is to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine. The Association is the recognized voice for the profession in presenting its views to government, academia, agriculture, animal owners, the media, and other concerned members of the public. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments.

Sincerely,

Arthur V. Tennyson, VMD
Assistant Executive Vice President

CHAB/CEI/GCG

2/2

3596-03-1A

MARIN CONSERVATION CORPS
33 Commercial Blvd, Ste.B, Novato CA 94949
phone: 415-454-4554 fax: 415-884-3522

## FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

Date: 3/12/02

Number of pages including this one: 3

To: ANPR

Title: Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Company:

Department: Fort Masan, Bld 201

Telephone: 415-561-4728

Fax #: 415-561-4355

From: Paige Green

Notes: Here is my letter concerning pet management in the Presidio.

1/3

3596-03-1A

Paige Green
784D Sanches St
SF, CA 94129

To Whom It May Concern:

As a dog owner, conservationist and resident of the Presidio I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion about pet management within the Presidio. I am also grateful for the information about the topic. I am a dog owner and therefore in favor of having a place to let my dog run free. I just moved here from Atlanta and I think that one of the best qualities about San Francisco is its tolerance for dogs. Dogs are an important part of many people's lives. They are companions and friends for many people and it is important that we properly take care of them. Dogs are social animals so to care for them properly means giving them the opportunity and space to interact with other dogs.

I was excited to live in the Presidio, not only because it is a beautiful natural area but also because there are many wonderful places to go with your dog. Going out to stand with other dog owners became a great way for me to meet new people, to find out more about the Presidio and more about San Francisco.

Therefore I was saddened when I first heard the rumors that the Park was starting to ticket for dogs off the leash. I couldn't understand why when it seemed that dogs have been a part of this area for a long time, as can be seen in the Pet Cemetery and at Chrissy Field with the Christmas tree decorated with pictures of dogs. My first reaction was that dogs should be grandfathered in due to their historic presence.

However as an environmentalist, and as an employee for the Marin Conservation Corps, I realize the pressure dogs have on the environment. I understand the reasoning behind ~~keeping dogs on a leash. I was not aware of the magnitude of their influence, which is~~ why I was grateful to receive the literature. I definitely want to protect the native plants and animals in the Presidio especially because there are so few natural areas left. However I hope that there is a way we can maintain some areas for dogs to run.

I hope that we can compromise. I think education is essential, the more dog owners know about why dogs should be leashed the better. I think keeping areas that are clearly marked as off leash areas for dogs is important. If an area is marked then other visitors who do not like dogs can stay away and dog owners will still have a place to go so they do not feel compelled to go to areas that are more sensitive. I think that it would be great to keep one area of the beach open to dog use, it seems like dog owners can have more control over their impact on the plants at the beach.

I think that it would be a good idea to allow certain areas be off leash at certain times during the day or even during certain seasons depending on behavior patterns of the animals that live there. If there is a vote for times of day I would prefer mornings and

3596-03-1A

afternoons after five. I think that liability could be stated on marked signs, for example 'this area is an off leash area enter at your own risk'. The owners would be held liable for their pets' actions and be held responsible for picking up after their dogs.

I think that dogs are an easy target to attack. I am happy that the Presidio is taking an interest in the environment but I would like it to be more well rounded, for instance discontinuing the use of pesticides on the golf course and on the playing fields, placing recycle bins at all of the playing fields and joining the citywide household compost collection.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concern. I hope that a plan can be reached that will make everyone happy, even me the dog owning environmentalist.

Sincerely,.
Paige Green
Paige Green

greeniep@hotmail.com
(415) 928-4135

3/3

3597-01-1B



ATTENTION: ANPK, FT MASON

To Whom It May Concern @ GGNRA

I have a young dog whose greatest pleasure is walking off-leash. Since the GGNRA has so much prime beautiful open space, I am petitioning on behalf of dog owners everywhere to continue to allow this practice to occur on GGNRA lands. Thank you for your considering this blessed option, which serves as excellent recreation for people and pets. I am a San Francisco native and long time resident of Marin County, and find this area to be the best anywhere when it comes to being dog-friendly. This is a great service you provide to the bay area population.

Thank you

Sallee Orrok
33 Myrtle Ave
Larkspur, CA
94939

3598-02-1A

# Balboa High School

San Francisco Unified School District

1000 Cayuga Avenue
San Francisco, California 94112

Patricia J. Gray, Principal

Phone: (415) 469-4090
Fax: (415) 469-0859

## FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

**Please deliver the following pages to:**

Attention: ANPR

**NAME:** GGNRA

**LOCATION:** FORT MASON BUILDING 201

**FAX PHONE:** (415) 561 - 4355

**Total number of pages, including cover sheet:** 2

**DATE:** 3/12/02 **TIME:** 1000a

**FROM:** ERIN ANDREWS

**DEPARTMENT:**

**COMMENTS:**

SUPPORT OFF-LEASH LAND USE @ GGN RECREATION AREAS

1/2

3598-02-1A

March 11, 2002

Dear ANPR,

I would like to express my opinion concerning off-leash recreation for dogs at our City's finest and most fun Golden Gate recreation parks and areas. These park areas provide absolutely necessary dog socialization and exercise that my pet cannot get from just walking around the city on leash. It is extremely vital to have outlets free from leash restrictions. If the GGNRA closes these areas to dogs, I would no longer want to live in San Francisco.

The Golden Gate recreation parks and beaches are my sanctions. These are parks for the community. I am part of this community. This city is basically one giant community, and there are not that places that dog owners use. I regularly see the same people in the at most 1% land of the recreation park areas. Most of the people I have met are very responsible. S.F. beaches and bluffs are for the people.

I participate with the Surfrider Foundation cleaning beaches all up and down CA Coast. I am very active in preserving natural resources and would also be willing to volunteer to any park preservation in the area. There is plenty of room for everyone and their dogs to enjoy the true beauty of San Francisco. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Erin Andrews

p.s. My dog is currently on leash restriction and it is impacting on his mental health and it is especially difficult to have his socialization needs met. If this is how it would have to be for every dog, there will be a lot more problems than just this one we are facing now.

3599-01-1A

March 12, 2002

GGNRA
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201
San Francisco, California 94123
Fax: 415-561-4355

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a San Francisco dog owner, and I support off-leash areas in Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

My dog is actually very small (10" and 8 lbs.) so off-leash areas are not as important to the well-being of my dog. However, I enjoy walking on the trails and beaches of San Francisco with my family and that means my dog as well as my husband and children. In addition, I enjoy seeing other dogs running free on the beach, chasing balls, swimming, and digging in the sand. I also love to see dogs playing together. I am a strong proponent of off-leash recreation and there are fewer and fewer places where off-leash recreation is allowed. I also believe dogs should be allowed on more walking trails for on-leash recreation.

On the other hand, I respect that some people do not have dogs or do not want to be bothered by dogs. If I were sitting on the grass somewhere enjoying a picnic with small children, I would not want "stray" dogs darting in for a sniff. I know that when I am running or when I am walking with my children, I do not want strange dogs running in front of me or approaching my children. However, the only time dogs present a problem is when on trails without leashes. Actually, I have experienced similar problems with bikes on trails.

There is room for everyone. The solution is not to eliminate off-leash recreation or to prohibit dogs from walking on trails. The solution is to designate special areas for each activity or combination of activity. There should be designated areas and trails for each of the following:

1. Beaches and Parks
    a. People only
    b. People and dogs on-leash only
    c. People and dogs off-leash
2. Trails
    a. People only
    b. Horses only
    c. People, dogs on-leash, and horses only
    d. People and dogs off-leash
    e. Bikes only
    f. Open: People, bikes, horses, and dogs on-leash

There are many trails, parks and beaches. I am sure we can find a way to accommodate everyone. In determining which trails or beaches are appropriate for each activity, common sense should be employed. Beaches and trails for People Only should be those that are appropriate for small children or families (i.e. the water is safe for wading; the trail is not too steep, etc.). The trails for Horses Only or those classified as Open should be wide; they should also have outlets with parking and easy access for trailers.

Let's keep GGNRA open to all recreation and share the wonderful resource we have.

Sincerely,

Tina Tunney
3514 Scott Street
San Francisco, California 94123

Cc: Fax: 978-477-7757

From:

P.01

3600-02- 1A

3/12/02

Yesterday I sent the attached fax message from my neighbor's machine (mine was not working) and neglected to add my name, etc. Since you may not accept anonymous messages, and I want to express my opinion, I am re-transmitting this morning because I believe this is the last day for input. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Jeanne Yturbide
2064 Jackson St.
San Fran. 94109
(415)922-4378 (phone)
(415)885-0592 (fax)

1/2

From: ☎ P.02

3600-02-1A

3/9/02

Comments concerning off-leash dog-walking privileges for users of GGNRA

FAX # 415/561-4355

Although for 35 years I was the owner (and therefore the walker) of large dogs in San Francisco and frequently used public areas throughout Northern California for their exercise, I am firmly opposed to off-leash dog-walking in any place where the general public, especially children, utilize the area for recreational purposes.

Most pet dogs are -- most of the time -- well-behaved, obedient -- or at least responsive -- to their owners' wishes concerning behavior, and seldom intentionally aggressive or frightening to other dogs or people. However, every single one of them, big or little, does have the potential for anti-social behavior of a possibly dangerous kind, and no one can predict precisely when such an incident might occur. My own dogs, with one exception, were docile and quite friendly, but I kept them leashed because I observed many incidents which could have caused problems. (Example: unleashed dog minding its own business or playing; unsupervised child, friendly or curious and intrigued with dog's activity, suddenly interferes with dog's play or take its toy or decides to hug the animal, and dog reacts negatively; child becomes frightened, might even get bit, unsupervising parent is hysterical, furious and perhaps also frightened by dog's behavior;) All too often the result of such an example is that most witnesses will be turned off by the dogs actions, no matter that it was provoked.

In our society it doesn't matter whether the dog is truly at fault; the person, especially if a child, is not supposed to be put at risk by any action on the part of the dog. Since the aim should be to prevent ALL unfortunate incidents, not just remedy or explain them, the surest method of prevention should be required at all times, and that is a leash (Enclosed areas for off-leash exercise exist and should be utilized by owners who desire that for their dogs.)

It would be wise for authorities to remind dog-owners that even only one ugly incident can result in a very wide ripple effect of negative response by the public to all dogs. Many children and some adults are simply afraid of dogs (a concept most of us who treasure their companionship find it hard to understand), but those fearful people have a right to enjoy public recreational areas without worrying about the appearance of an unleashed dog.

fax 561-4355

2/2

3601-01-1B

307 North Street
Sausalito, CA 94965

March 11, 2002

Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
FAX No. (415) 561-4355

Subject: Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Pet Management in Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Dear Superintendent:

I strongly urge you to fulfill your legal mandate to require dogs ON LEASH in all areas within GGNRA. Your strong compliance with a full leash law on NPS lands is required to protect natural resources and minimize conflicts between dogs and people.

As you know, many studies have proven that off-leash dogs harm and harass wildlife and destroy native vegetation. Further, there is no reason why dogs can't get their exercise while on a leash; in fact, their owners would get more value from walking their dogs if they kept them on a leash and walked or ran with their dogs at a faster pace.

I urge you to not succumb to the pressure of the often-rude comments and outrageous arguments of the proponents for dogs off-leash. It is ridiculous to believe people can control dogs through "voice control." If a dog wants to chase wildlife, it will do so on instinct and loose dogs act as pack animals.

I am also concerned that if NPS lands are transferred to the City of San Francisco, there would be a further weakening in the enforcement of the existing leash law. Therefore, I suggest that the NPS deny such a transfer and, instead, work with the City of San Francisco to identify other City-owned lands where additional dog parks can be created in City neighborhoods.

Our national parks should be protected and preserved for natural resources and esthetic experiences by those who use them, not serve as areas where people can run their dogs. Off-leash dogs should be prohibited and the National Park Service should strictly enforce its existing laws requiring that dogs be on leash at all times within the GGNRA.

Sincerely,

Ruth T. Pratt

3602-01-1C



Dear Superintendent O'Neill: ← FAX To: 415 561 4355 Date: March 11, 2002

support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. Following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA, as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: SUSAN QUINTON (optional: Age: 47 Sex M (F) Ethnicity: W)

Address: 622 CARMEL AVE (street) PACIFICA (city) CA (state) 94044 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA. What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

FORT FUNSTON, CARRIGY FIELD ARE WONDERFUL PLACES TO ENJOY NATURE WHILE SOCIALIZING WITH LIKE-MINDED ENTHUSIASTS.

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? ABSOLUTELY! YES, YES, AND YES!

3. Do you believe that off-leash recreation is appropriate for portions of the GGNRA? Why? Please make specific recommendations for ways the Park Service can accommodate and expand this activity while preserving these areas for future generations.

YES, I BELIEVE THERE MUST BE SOME COMPROMISE WHEN & WHERE MAN & NATURE ARE TO CO-EXIST; BY HAVING MORE THAN JUST A FEW OFF-LEASH AREAS, THE IMPACT ON NATURE WILL BE SPREAD OVER A GREATER AREA.

4. What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

IT WOULD BE A TREMENDOUS LOSS. I WOULD PROBABLY NOT VISIT THESE AREAS AT ALL.

5. Do you feel safer with the presence of off-leash dogs or would you feel safer without their presence?

I FEEL SAFE IN THE COMPANY OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS (WHETHER THEIR DOGS ARE OFF- OR ON-LEASH).

Signed: Susan M. Quinton Date 3-11-02

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, ATTN: ANPR, FORT MASON, BUILDING 201, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123

JAN-01-1900 00:02 3603-02-1A P.02

from: Daria D'Andrea
724 Brunswick St
SF, CA 94112

to: attn: ANPR
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

11 March 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I walk my dog regularly at Fort Funston and highly value the opportunity to visit such a beautiful setting with my dog. Allowing off-leash recreation in this one area is imperative to the health and well being of many dog-owners and dogs in the San Francisco area.

Among the people I meet and greet frequently at Fort Funston are many friendly faces - some who have been coming to the area for many years. I encounter a wide range of ages and ethnicities regularly. Whenever I can, I bring my 8 year old daughter, who has had many walks at Fort Funston, including numerous rides in a baby sling or stroller. I often see children and babies at Fort Funston and I never have seen any person threatened or in any danger because of an off-leash dog.

Indeed one of the striking characteristics of dog-walkers at Fort Funston seems to be their willingness to take responsibility for their dogs' behavior. I see people

1/2

watching their dogs carefully and monitoring their behavior. I see people cleaning up after their dogs without fail.

I would be devastated to hear that there would be a ban of off-leash recreation at Ft. Funston. The ability to walk there, enjoying the spectacular views, hearing the ocean, while both my dog and I get exercise and socialize is fundamental to my physical and mental well-being. The stresses of everyday life in the city fall away in this beautiful setting. If I had to run my dog elsewhere and then try to get some exercise myself - it just wouldn't happen.

When San Francisco transferred this land to GGNRA the continuation of off-leash dog recreation was promised. A promise is a promise. I see this area being utilized in a very appropriate and respectful manner on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Dana D'Andrea

3604-01-5A

GGNRA
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201
San Francisco, CA 94213

I am both a dog owner and an admirer of wildlife. Most of our State Parks recognize that the
presence of dogs and dog scent on trails is disruptive to wildlife.

Our Audubon Chapter of 1700 members in Sonoma County has taken previous positions that
unleashed dogs do not belong in wildlife areas. We have not changed from this position and ask
that very serious restrictions remain in place at GGNRA.

Diane Hichwa, Conservation Chairperson,
Madrone Audubon Society
P.O.Box 1911
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

3605-01-1B

**Sherrie Bolin**
9 Laurel Avenue; San Anselmo, CA 94960
(415) 457-2589 • sherrie@sbolin.com

March 11, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to show my support for continued off-leash dog walking at GGNRA. Walking with my dog is my form of exercise and relaxation just as others ride bikes, hang glide or take their children to GGNRA. As a taxpayer, it is important that my contributions fund areas that protect the environment but also allow me to enjoy the area with my dog off-leash.

In 1979, the Citizen's Advisory Committee passed a Pet Policy that allowed off-leash dog walking. The GGNRA agreed to uphold the traditional recreational uses of the park, including off-leash dog walking, when they received these lands as a gift.

The National Park Service makes exceptions in over 40 national parks for off-leash dog use. The GGNRA should be one of these exceptions considering your original agreement, the need for more off-leash dog space and the rights of the large dog owning population to use the land appropriately.

The reality is that the Bay Area is highly impacted and over development, increased traffic and a growing population all serve to damage the environment and its wildlife and plant inhabitants. One only has to look up when sitting on Muir Beach to see the houses crowding around this area or take a drive in the early morning to see dead wildlife killed by cars.

As a responsible dog owner and an avid nature proponent, I assure that neither my dog nor I negatively impact the environment around us. With proper management for all who use the GGNRA. we can continue to enjoy the natural environment that draws many of us to the Bay Area.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Bolin

Sherrie Bolin

3606-01-LB

March 11, 2002

Greg Gilmore
9 Laurel Avenue
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to encourage continued off-leash dog walking at GGNRA. The Citizen's Advisory Committee's Pet Policy guaranteed off-leash dog walking. The GGNRA agreed to uphold the traditional recreational uses of the park, including off-leash dog walking, when they received this gift. To change the rules at this point, is a breach of agreement.

My taxes and private donations help to protect natural areas responsibly. If there is an environmental impact, then human use as a whole needs be better managed.

The counties in which the GGNRA is located has a very large population of dog owners, most of whom take great care and responsibility with their dogs. The majority respects and even makes donations of time or money to preserve our natural areas. Off-leash dog walking is an activity like biking, hang gliding, picnicking or hang gliding. I am sure that all leave their marks on the environment but people that are well educated and value our natural areas do not abuse the right to use these lands.

Sincerely,

Greg Gilmore

3607-01-1A

**VIA FAX**
**(415) 561-4355**

Alex Redman
3380 Sacramento Street
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 377-6601

March 12, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

**RE: Pet Management in Golden Gate National Recreation Area**

To Whom It May Concern:

As you meet to discuss pet management within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, I urge you to consider the rights of pet owners who currently use parts of the GGNRA for off-leash pet recreation.

As a pet owner and animal lover, I am certainly concerned over the fragile habitats that exist within the GGNRA, and as its protector it is certainly necessary for you to ensure the safety of these areas and the creatures within. This duty, however, should not lead to the notion of removing off-leash pet recreation from the park entirely. There is certainly a compromise to be found, allowing pets and their owners to recreate off leash while protecting the GGNRA and its fragile environments.

The current use of a section of beach at Crissy Field, for instance, seems to work well as a place where dogs can recreate at and in the water, while preserving space nearby as strictly off limits for pets entirely. In addition, there is certainly enough space available in less ecologically fragile areas within the park to create fenced-off, off-leash pet play areas, that will allow the people of the Bay Area to enjoy the park with their pets without causing harm to the natural beauty that is the main draw of the GGNRA.

I believe that in order to create a successful pet management policy, a balance must be struck between the ecological needs of this wonderful treasure and the needs of its users, many of whom are pet owners. Off leash pet areas **must** be provided, they **must** allow access to the bay and ocean, and they **must** be located near the population centers of the Bay Area for them to be useful.

Above all they must not be located or configured in such a way as to cause damage to the sensitive ecosystems around them. Some ways that other cities have used successfully found this balance are with designated off-leash dog areas, designated days for off leash recreation, and off-leash play allowed on wet sand areas of beaches only, to protect plant and animal life and prevent erosion in nearby dunes and cliffs.

There is surely a compromise solution to be found, and I look forward to hearing more from the GGNRA on this issue.

Sincerely,

Alex Redman,
Pet owner and GGNRA user

3608-01-1A

**VIA FAX**
**(415) 561-4355**

Bob Gain
3380 Sacramento Street
San Francisco, CA 94118
415-597-2258

March 12, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

**RE: Pet Management in Golden Gate National Recreation Area**

To Whom It May Concern:

As you meet to discuss pet management within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, I urge you to consider the rights of pet owners who currently use parts of the GGNRA for off-leash pet recreation.

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I believe that in order to create a successful pet management policy, a balance must be struck between the ecological needs of this wonderful treasure and the needs of its users, many of whom are pet owners. Off leash pet areas should be provided, allow access to the bay and ocean, and they should be located near the population centers of the Bay Area for them to be useful.

Protecting the environment is a concern for all of us, but it doesn't have to be at the expense of other recreation or the joy of ourselves and our animals.

There is surely a compromise solution to be found, and I look forward to hearing more from the GGNRA on this issue.

Sincerely,

Bob Gain

8 Poppy Lane
San Carlos, California
94070

March 12, 2002

GGNRA
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason Building 201
San Francisco, Ca
94123

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you today in response to your request for input on the leash or off-leash rules for Fort Funston. I am relatively new to the area and have only been going to Fort Funston for the last year. During that year I visit the park an average of 1-2 times per week. Every time I have been there I brought my companion Nikki, a 2 year old Siberian Husky. We are also often joined by a number of other friends, who are out for the enjoyment of the beach or a day outside. Our visits to Fort Funston have become our favorite place to go, because of the acceptance of the "off-leash dogs". This is one of the few places with that gives a big enough area for Nikki to run and exercise to her capability, the way she needs to do for her optimum health and well-being.

During our trips to Fort Funston, over this past year, we have never once met or observed any aggressive behavior from other dogs at the park. In addition, my observation is that the dog owners are very conscience and thoughtful of the responsibilities of tending to their dogs. Fort Funston has been a place where I see owners focused on their dogs and appears to strengthen the relationship between the people I have met and their dogs (it has been said that these outings increase physical and mental fitness for both the human and the dog).

I understand restricting this park to an off-leash park is being considered due to a few things such as:

- To allow this to be a park where everyone can feel comfortable, not only dog owners
- To protect the wildlife and reduce impact on natural resources
- To reduce the risk of injury or dog attack (to which awareness to this type of thing has been elevated due to the dog mauling in SF)

In response to these issues, I would like to respond with the following:

- I have a large number of friends and acquaintances that don't own a dog and choose to go to Fort Funston specifically because they enjoy watching the dogs play at the beach and around the park. Limiting the park to leash-only may provide another place for people who have a fear of dogs to feel comfortable when they come, but I believe it is prejudice against the people with dogs that require a large area to go to play and exercise. I have never heard of or seen any one in this group hurt or be disrespectful to the park or other people. They value this space that allows them to be at a park that it is ok to have their dog off-leash. I would not travel to this park if the leash law became enforced, and the large number of people I have spoken to who go to watch the dogs play also feel it would take away from their outing and not go to Fort Funston any more. Over 25% of people own a dog. Only 0.5% of the 74,000 acres in this area are used for off-leashed dogs. This is a small percentage for the benefit of such a large percentage of the population. Is this movement a prejudice against the people who have dogs?

1/2

3609-02-IC



- Protecting wildlife and reducing the impact on natural resources is a valuable issue, we struggle with it as a society every day as we build new developments and create parks for our use. Wildlife that is in the area co-exists with the park as it is, just as wildlife has adjusted and moved based on new building developments. The importance of ensuring that the balance between providing recreation areas for different activities (dog walking/exercising) and maintaining wildlife must be managed. The Fort Funston area has found a balance and the wildlife has already made its adjustments over the last 10 years that the off-leash dog was permitted. In addition, this area is well utilized and valued for this purpose. At present no one is trying to expand the area this occurs in, but just trying to sustain the small 0.5% for the people who go there with their dogs for exercise.

- The awareness for the recent dog-mauling has increased sensitivity to aggressive behavior from dogs. Most owners, vets and trainers will tell you that the correct training, socialization and exercise will reduce the number of dog-bites and attacks. Awareness of what has happened is good, but I feel fear of all dogs is a bit of an overreaction. Owners need to be responsible for the actions of their pets and actions like limiting dogs to be leashed only in parks, is only hurting the many owners and dogs for a few careless and irresponsible acts.

Other ways that may help manage the situation, ensure that off-leash can continue and respecting the other park users.

- Limit number of dogs per person. It is important the people have voice control and can closely watch the dogs they bring into the park

- Require dog-walkers to have a license that they have acquired through taking a test, ensuring that they are in control and respectful of their responsibilities (picking up after all dogs, keeping them all in close proximity, ensuring that they do not damage any part of the park, liable for actions of the dogs they are watching, etc.)

- Keep the present areas for off-leash use, but fine people who's dogs go into the off-limits sections, preserving areas for wildlife and environment growth. If it is appropriate change these sections from year to year, to ensure that each section does not get over used.

I hope in some way this is helpful to your review of the situation and I hope that the park will continue to allow off-leash dogs, as it has for the last 10 years.

Sincerely,

Deborah Vogt

Deborah Vogt

2/2

3-12-02; 4:47PM; 3610-02-1A ;5472133 # 1/ 2

facsimile

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URGENT

att ANPR

company

direct fax

direct phone

from GINA SPONZILLI

direct fax

direct phone

date 3/12/02

pages including cover

re ANPR COMMENTS

3610-02-1A

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn. ANPR
Forte Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA
94123
fax (415) 561-4355

Gina Sponzilli
2060 Sutter St., #307
San Francisco, CA 94123
(resident-owner of my unit)

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you regarding the ANPR- and its strong bias against off-leash recreation. I have been a long-time resident of the Bay Area, over 25 years, and a resident-property owner in San Francisco for over 2 ½ years and over this entire time have regularly visited the Golden Gate National Recreation areas throughout San Francisco.

In particular, I go to Crissy Field every weekend with my well-trained, well-behaved dog, Mandy. A major reason why I bought my home, justify the high-cost of real estate, pay taxes on-time and donate money to various San Francisco philanthropies, i.e. the S.F. Zoo, the S.F. Symphony etc. is that I can take advantage of Crissy Field - and fully enjoy the beauty of San Francisco because I am able to take Mandy to Crissy Field off-leash.

It is critical not only for Mandy, but for all dogs, to have a place to run free without leashes- they are able to get their needed exercise, freely interact with other dogs, and socialize with dog-friendly people. Crissy Field is an ideal space for this activity not only because there is ample parking, but it is also a safe place for solo dog owners, like myself- a petite female, to go- it's open and easily accessible from the street, other people are constantly around, and it's a large enough multi-use area for many activities to take place.

There is certainly room and space for all types of people and activities to coexist at Crissy Field, including an off-leash area for dogs and their owners. In addition, generally, dog-owners only let their dogs off-leash if they are behaved & responsive to their owners' commands while off-leash. Dog-owners even tend to be more thoughtful about their surroundings since they need to be aware of where their dogs will be playing and, hence are mindful of the delicate/important natural resources at Crissy Field.

Thank you for your consideration in this regard,
Gina Sponzilli
Proud owner of Mandy the dog

DATE: March 12, 2002
TO: ANPR
Folk Mason

From: Concerned Citizens

Commenting on ANPR
Keep open space available!

Pg's: 5

3611-02-1A

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn. ANPR
Forte Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA
94123
fax (415) 561-4355

Concerned S.F. Resident

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you regarding the ANPR- and its strong bias against off-leash recreation. I have been a long-time resident of the Bay Area and over this entire time have regularly visited the Golden Gate National Recreation areas throughout San Francisco.

In particular, Crissy Field is somewhere I go to interact with friends, open space and friends with dogs. It is a major incentive that I can go to the beach and play with friends' dogs off-leash and in natural surroundings (off-leash).

It is important for all dogs, to have a place to run free without leashes- they are able to get their needed exercise, freely interact with other dogs, and socialize with dog-friendly people. Crissy Field is an ideal space for this activity not only because there is ample parking, but it is also a safe place - it's open and easily accessible from the street, other people are constantly around, and it's a large enough multi-use area for many activities to take place.

There is certainly room and space for all types of people and activities to coexist at Crissy Field, including an off-leash area for dogs and their owners. Whenever I've been at the beach, I have found that generally, dog-owners only let their dogs off-leash if they are behaved & responsive to their owners' commands while off-leash. Dog-owners need to be aware of where their dogs will be playing and, are mindful of the delicate/important natural resources at Crissy Field.

Sincerely,

2/2

3612-01-1A

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn. ANPR
Forte Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA
94123
fax (415) 561-4355

Concerned S.F. Resident

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you regarding the ANPR- and its strong bias against off-leash recreation. I have been a long-time resident of the Bay Area and over this entire time have regularly visited the Golden Gate National Recreation areas throughout San Francisco.

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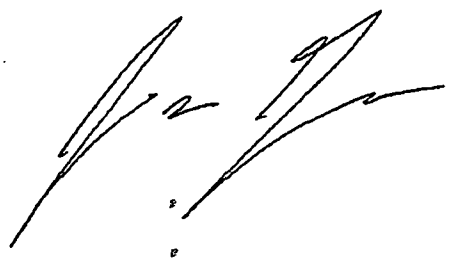
It is important for all dogs, to have a place to run free without leashes- they are able to get their needed exercise, freely interact with other dogs, and socialize with dog-friendly people. Crissy Field is an ideal space for this activity not only because there is ample parking, but it is also a safe place - it's open and easily accessible from the street, other people are constantly around, and it's a large enough multi-use area for many activities to take place.

There is certainly room and space for all types of people and activities to coexist at Crissy Field, including an off-leash area for dogs and their owners. Whenever I've been at the beach, I have found that generally, dog-owners only let their dogs off-leash if they are behaved & responsive to their owners' commands while off-leash. Dog-owners need to be aware of where their dogs will be playing and, are mindful of the delicate/important natural resources at Crissy Field.

Sincerely,



3613-01-1A

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn. ANPR
Forte Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA
94123
fax (415) 561-4355

Concerned S.F. Resident

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you regarding the ANPR- and its strong bias against off-leash recreation. I have been a long-time resident of the Bay Area and over this entire time have regularly visited the Golden Gate National Recreation areas throughout San Francisco.

In particular, Crissy Field is somewhere I go to interact with friends, open space and friends with dogs. It is a major incentive that I can go to the beach and play with friends' dogs off-leash and in natural surroundings (off-leash).

It is important for all dogs, to have a place to run free without leashes- they are able to get their needed exercise, freely interact with other dogs, and socialize with dog-friendly people. Crissy Field is an ideal space for this activity not only because there is ample parking, but it is also a safe place - it's open and easily accessible from the street, other people are constantly around, and it's a large enough multi-use area for many activities to take place.

There is certainly room and space for all types of people and activities to coexist at Crissy Field, including an off-leash area for dogs and their owners. Whenever I've been at the beach, I have found that generally, dog-owners only let their dogs off-leash if they are behaved & responsive to their owners' commands while off-leash. Dog-owners need to be aware of where their dogs will be playing and, are mindful of the delicate/important natural resources at Crissy Field.

Sincerely,

C.O. ARMISTAD

3614-01-1A

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn. ANPR
Forte Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA
94123
fax (415) 561-4355

Concerned S.F. Resident

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you regarding the ANPR- and its strong bias against off-leash recreation. I have been a long-time resident of the Bay Area and over this entire time have regularly visited the Golden Gate National Recreation areas throughout San Francisco.

In particular, Crissy Field is somewhere I go to interact with friends, open space and friends with dogs. It is a major incentive that I can go to the beach and play with friends' dogs off-leash and in natural surroundings (off-leash).

It is important for all dogs, to have a place to run free without leashes- they are able to get their needed exercise, freely interact with other dogs, and socialize with dog-friendly people. Crissy Field is an ideal space for this activity not only because there is ample parking, but it is also a safe place - it's open and easily accessible from the street, other people are constantly around, and it's a large enough multi-use area for many activities to take place.

There is certainly room and space for all types of people and activities to coexist at Crissy Field, including an off-leash area for dogs and their owners. Whenever I've been at the beach, I have found that generally, dog-owners only let their dogs off-leash if they are behaved & responsive to their owners' commands while off-leash. Dog-owners need to be aware of where their dogs will be playing and, are mindful of the delicate/important natural resources at Crissy Field.

Sincerely,

Anne Kappmeyer

3615-01-3B



TO: GGNRA, ANPR
(415)561-4355

Note: laptop broke.

FROM: PAMELA BARNETT
(415) 572-1155

RE: OFF-LEASH

DATE: 3/12/02

First of all, I can't believe that goverment is trying to take away this right that has been given to the residents of San Francisco. Without sounding "corny" dog is really man's best friend. It has been proven that pets help people to live longer by providing joy + companionship in our lives.

To keep our companions healthy, they need to run + exercise daily. When San Francisco gave the beaches + Coastal bluffs to the GGNRA for "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment + planning" they did not intend to restrict our freedoms of usage. Without the GGNRA space for our dogs, we do not have the ample space to provide "workouts" (exercise) for our dogs! This lack of exercise would lead to a decrease in health of San Francisco's dogs. We would have a serious health epidemic on our hands. Dogs relieve stress + aggrevation by exercise. If they do not have enough exercise, we will have a great amount of aggitated dogs on our hands which might lead to more dog bites from mentally + physically unhealthy dogs.

As a dog owner + park user, I have not once seen a bad dog incident. Most owners in San Francisco are very responsible. The fenced in areas or Christy Field protect the bird environments. When walking through the woods the dogs almost always stay on or close to the path.

I would be willing to pay a per use fee if the park felt it necessary to provide more supervision - minimal fee.

#1-#2. Thanks for your attention.

3616-01-18

# FAX TRANSMISSION

**Date:** 3/12/02 **Number of pages including cover sheet:** 1

| **FAX TO:** | | **FAX FROM:** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Name:** | GGNRA | **Name:** | Rita Emami |
| **~~Company~~:** | ANPR | **Department:** | |
| **Location:** | Fort Mason Bldg 201 | **Location:** | |
| **FAX #:** | 415 561 4355 | **FAX #:** | |
| SF, CA 94123 | | | |
| **Phone #:** | | **Phone #:** | 415 491 5214 |
| **Copy To:** | | **Email:** | ToSkipAlong@Yahoo.com |
| | | | 79 Robinhood Drive San Rafael, CA 94901 |

**Subject:** Off-Leash Recreation

Please keep off-leash dog walking!
And off-leash activity.
We can preserve natural resources & off leash recreation in GGNRA.

Thank You.
Rita Emami

3617-01-3B

March 12, 2002

GGNRA
ATTN: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear GGNRA,

I am writing to you because I am very concerned about the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Document. I believe that it is obvious that there is significant "public will" to continue off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. I use many of the area's off-leash parks and no matter what day or time I go, these parks are always being occupied substantially. I do not see why this document was written. I have seen that off-leash activity respects the other park uses. However, if the other park users find it inconvenient, they always have a myriad of alternative choices. If off-leash park users are stripped of this activity, there are no alternatives but to restrict and confine our dogs of simple and natural pleasures such as running free.

I have heard that the ANPR document is strongly biased against off-leash recreation. If this document is being spurred because of the dog mauling case, I am disheartened. It is an extreme case. I own a Pomeranian and already find it hard enough to find places where he can run free and socialize with other dogs. Socialization is very important to raise tame animals. These parks help promote socialization and are actually quite *safe* areas. It is in dogs to become aggressive if their territory is being invaded. However, these off-leash areas unite dogs of all breeds on neutral territory where they can socialize, play, exercise, and just enjoy the nature which was intended for them too; not just humans. Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs the GGNRA.

I urge you to consider continuing off-leash activity.

Thank you,
Shirley Fulqui

3618-02-1A

3/12/02

To: Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn: ANPR
Fax: (415) 561-4355
1 page to follow

1/2

3618-02-1A

March 12, 2002

To Whom It May Concern,

I had an awful and frightening experience on Ocean Beach recently, just a few blocks from my home. I was held against my will by two armed federal police in a large, polluting SUV, who demanded identification and did a background check on me. (Does this sound like America?)

My crime? Walking with three of my best friends, my dogs, at 9:30 AM on a Sunday morning when there was not another soul in sight.

The beach has always been a sanctuary, a place to find a sense of peace and freedom. I chose this location in the Sunset to buy a house because of its proximity to the beach and the park. I need nature around me.

I have three well beloved, well trained dogs, two of whom were rescued from the pound - two very small and shy girls, and one friendly, goofy fellow, a seven year old Labrador Retriever who loves the water but is not interested in chasing other animals. We treat the natural environment with respect and clean up.

These are my closest companions. They give me more unconditional love, attention, and loyalty than any of the people I have met in my life and I return these qualities to them. Walking with them along the ocean is a kind of meditative communion with nature. We get to feel natural, unfettered, a part of it all. And, as animals, all sharing the planet, we need this.

The beach was and should be a sanctuary for *all* of us.

Sadly, my awful and frightening experience with armed guards invading my sanctuary has taken this away from us. The beach is now a fearful place where my companions and I are unable to relax.

Does our peaceful walking disturb the birds more than the loud, smelly SUV's the Feds are driving, defacing the sand with tire tracks?

San Francisco is not the place it used to be when I bought my home. I am seriously considering moving and taking my taxes (and I pay plenty), my business (I employ people), and my family (who spend a lot of my money) some place where we are free to enjoy the natural beauty around us.

What happened to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? It certainly has not "gone to the dogs," it's "for the birds."

Most Sincerely,

Evelyn Robert, OMD
1573 45th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122

2/2

3619-01-1A

Mike McKenna
3131 Rivera St.
San Francisco, CA 94116
415-731-5832
stsmike@gateway.net

March 9, 2002

Dear members of the GGNRA:

We need off leash areas for our dogs. My fiance, our dog and I, love to go to Fort Funston, walk around, play catch and let the dog swim. Though we continue to visit the park, it is much less frequently than before the leash restrictions. It's just not as much fun. Our dog is large and needs to run. She runs much faster than either of us and we can't really give her proper exercise on leash.

Visiting Fort Funston off leash is a wonderful recreation activity for our family. We enjoy going there so much when it is a relaxed and free, off-leash experience.

We need more off leash areas for our city dogs, both for the dogs and for their owners. I hope you'll consider the loss many of us feel in not being able to play catch, swim or enjoy the social play of our dogs without being afraid of "being caught" by a ranger.

Sincerely,

Mike McKenna

3620-01-1A

Renee LaVallee
3131 Rivera St.
San Francisco, CA 94116
415-731-5832
reneelavallee@yahoo.com

March 9, 2002

Dear members of the GGNRA:

I love bringing my dog to Fort Funston. I ride my bike (with Brandy trotting beside me) to the end of Ocean Beach and then walk the path to the paved road (leashed) and then I can let her run and play with the other dogs while I enjoy the beauty of our San Francisco coast. We then make our way down to the ocean for a swim and some fun games of catch and fetch in the water and a leisurely walk back up the beach to the bike.

Visiting Fort Funston off leash is recreation at its finest for both me and my dog. Brandy is a 75lb. Rottweiller who both needs and loves intense exercise. I am a 38 year old therapist who both needs and loves to play freely with my dog. We can't play catch on a leash. We can't share the joy of chasing other dogs or swimming on a leash. We need off leash park space where dogs can socialize and especially for my dog, where they can swim. She is part sea lion and is happiest when playing in the waves of the Pacific. I dislike that she's a criminal for enjoying the ocean.

We need more off leash areas for our city dogs, both for the dogs and for their owners. I hope you'll consider the loss many of us feel in not being able to play catch, swim or enjoy the social play of our dogs.

Sincerely,

Renee LaVallee

3621-01-1A

GGNRA: ATTN: ANPR
FORT MASON BUILDING 201

March 12, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of keeping off-leash areas for San Francisco Bay Area dog owners. I am a responsible owner of a two-year-old Lab-Shepard mix. We lived in Lake Tahoe for the past year and decided that moving to the city would be a bad idea because of the fact that there were not many parks or places that Neo (my dog) could go off leash. After some research I discovered that there were many off leash areas where Neo could run in the San Francisco Bay Area. This was a HUGE factor in my decision to relocate to this area. Please don't take this privilege away from us. There are very few areas already and we love the places we visit currently. Please, please, please reconsider the action of revoking the off-leash areas. Thank you for taking our feelings in this matter into account.

Thank you,

Michelle Dong

Michelle Dong and Neo
mcdisjadelily@hotmail.com
535 Ivy St.
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 515-3212

02/11/1996 23:45 4153886813 MRL PAGE 01

3622-02-1B

295 Miller Avenue
Suite A
Mill Valley, CA 94941
(415) 388-8400
FAX (415) 388-6813

**Candy C. Lee, DDS**

# Fax

**To:** GGNRA **From:** Candy Lee, DDS

**Fax:** (415) 561-4355 **Pages:** 2

**Phone:** **Date:** 3/12/02

**Re:** ANPR **cc:** SF DOG (978) 477-7757

☒ Urgent ☒ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☑ Please Recycle

• **Comments:**

Dear Sir/mdm:

I am distressed and very concerned to learn that you are considering new rules that will further restrict the use of GGNRA to off-leash recreation.

As a dog owner, I find it difficult enough to find safe areas (away from traffic and crowds) to walk/hike with my dogs. Small fenced areas do not take the place of long leisurely walks! I feel that the current rules are restrictive enough. ~~As a tax~~

As a tax paying citizen, I feel that I am already restricted from the many areas that my dogs are not allowed. These rules are restrictive to people as well as dogs!

1/2

3622-02-LB

Candy C. Lee, DDS

295 Miller Avenue, Suite A · Mill Valley, CA 94941 · (415)388-8400 · Fax (415) 388-6813

We need space to play and run freely.

We need large open fields and long trails.

As you know, dogs are much less likely to exhibit destructive behavior when they get enough exercise.

Instead of closing off areas to citizens w/ dogs, you should consider placing stations with waste bags next to trash containers

Don't let the hysteria over recent events ruin things for everyone - including responsible pet owners!

Sincerely,

Candy Lee DDS

2/2

3623-01-1A

**Sharon S. Stork**
**1660 Bay Street, #107**
**San Francisco, CA 94123**
**T: (415) 776-6997**
**Email: Stork@RadOnc17.UCSF.edu**

March 12, 2002
**Via Fax to: (415) 561-4355**

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
**Attn: ANPR**
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

I have attended public meetings, from the proposed wetlands to the present debates over the GGNRA Pet Policy of 1979, since June 1995. I am a dog owner and have been going to Crissy Field two to three times a week since 1978 to exercise my Labrador retrievers.

As I recall, the funding of the Presidio for The Park Service was narrowly restored by Congress, on the premise that the Presidio is *unique* as an urban National Recreation Area. We (dog owning) San Franciscans, who *originally supported* the National Park Service, are now confronted by fences, off-limit areas, restrictions, and other prohibitions of activities that had been customary for over fifty years. Watching the sun rise or set through the Golden Gate from Crissy Field or from the shoreline at Baker Beach are truly marvels of our great City. Now the Park Service purports to expel dog owners and their dogs completely.

The people of San Francisco have been enjoying Crissy Field, Baker Beach, and Fort Funston harmoniously for decades. There are no other comparable parks or open spaces for unrestricted play. We should *all* be allowed to enjoy this wonderful area. Why can't we play together?

Sincerely,

Sharon Stork

Sharon S. Stork
Registered San Francisco Voter, Dog Owner, and Concerned Citizen

c: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U. S. Senator
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Member of Congress
Mayor Willie Brown
Supervisor Gavin Newsom, District 2

3624-01-IC

11 March 2002

To: GGNRA
Attention: ANPR, Fort Mason
Fax: 1.415.561.4355

Re: Comment Letter for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Off Leash Recreation in the GGNRA.

I am both a tax payer and a volunteer financial contributor to our National Parks and Recreation Areas and Open Space areas in the San Francisco Bay region.

I am writing in support of off-leash dog walking as a supported recreational activity in the GGNRA.

I believe that the GGNRA in its charter has the responsibility to provide off-leash dog walking as an intended activity. There are VAST amounts of open space areas in the GGNRA that do not allow any dog activity, even on leashes. As a citizen I enjoy the very small areas alloted to my family and our dog for off-leash use. I also notice that when I am with my dog in the GGNRA off-leash areas that the single women and elders enjoy a safer use of the parks while walking their dogs.

There is room for off-leash dog walking activities and in fact would be supportive of EXPANDING activity areas. The tradition of off-leash areas for dogs is good for Park use and is something that citizens pay for in their taxes and through their civic responsibilities in park use.

Please continue off-leash dog areas in the GGNRA and include in your planning ways to expand these areas.

Sincerely,

Brenda H. Christensen

Brenda H. Christensen
223 Purisima Road
Woodside, CA 94062

3625-01-1C

12 March 2002

To: GGNRA
Attention: ANPR, Fort Mason
Fax: 1.415.561.4355

Re: Comment Letter for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Off Leash Recreation in the GGNRA.

As both a tax payer and a volunteer financial contributor to our National Parks and Recreation Areas and San Francisco Bay Area Open Space Areas **I am writing in support of off-leash dog walking as a supported recreational activity in the GGNRA.**

I believe that the GGNRA in its charter has the responsibility to provide off-leash dog walking as an intended activity. There are VAST amounts of open space areas in the GGNRA that do not allow any dog activity, even on leashes. As a citizen I enjoy the very small areas alloted to my family and our dog for off-leash use. I also notice that when I am with my dog in the GGNRA off-leash areas that the citizens are very responsible to maintain the areas and in their responsibilities to the other dogs and humans enjoying the area.

I believe that there is room for this activity and in fact would be supportive of EXPANDING activity areas. The tradition of off-leash areas for dogs is good for Park use and is something that citizens pay for in their taxes and through their civic responsibilities in park use.

Please continue off-leash dog areas in the GGNRA and include in your planning ways to expand these areas.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Barry

Thomas W. Barry
223 Purisima Road
Woodside, CA 94062

3626-01-3B

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
Fax (415) 561 – 4355

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of my dog, Fletcher, along with all other dogs as they are unable to communicate in writing themselves, about the importance of maintaining off – leash areas in the GGNRA. If you have ever witnessed the difference in behavior between a dog who has regular exercise, and a dog who is rarely, or never exercised, then you must agree that off– leash recreation for dogs is vital to their health and well – being. Dogs who are under – exercised and under – socialized are more likely to have behavior problems.

San Francisco is well – known for it's pro dog policies which allow canines to ride on public transportation, sit with their owners at many outdoor cafes, and visit all neighborhoods in the city. They are allowed to do all of the above on leash. This is better than most cities can brag, however, a life permanently lived on leash does not allow any sized dog a proper amount of exercise.

My husband and I are avid outdoors people, and we hope to visit many National Parks in our lifetimes. Since becoming dog owners, and realizing the strict restrictions on dogs in National Parks, we have not been able to support the National Park system as we would like to, however, we understand and respect the laws which are enforced at all National Parks in pristine wilderness areas as they protect both the wildlife and the dogs. I feel that the GGNRA falls into a separate category as an urban park which has recently been obtained by the National Parks system. Therefore, I feel that the ethical solution is for the GGNRA to adhere to its initial usage policies including off – leash recreation for dogs.

I am in full support of wildlife management and of protecting sensitive natural habitats. There are many solutions which can be explored before choosing an ultimatum and banning off – leash dogs from these wonderful recreation areas where they have been able to romp freely since the city of San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA. I feel that a viable compromise is to offer certain areas as off – leash areas for dogs in the GGNRA so that delicate ecosystems remain untouched, yet dogs are able to continue to receive the amount of exercise necessary for their natural existence.

With strong conviction,

Emily Ellis

3627-02-1A

MOLLIE MARSHALL
101 CALIFORNIA STREET
SUITE 1500
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

March 12, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention ANPR
For Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

FAX 415-561-4355

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you regarding the issue of off-leash dog access at GGNRA and especially Fort Funston. I urge you to continue to allow off-leash dog activities at GGNRA properties and again, especially at Fort Funston.

Fort Funston is essentially the only beach area around that currently permits off-leash dog activities. There are many, many beaches that prohibit dogs altogether. A few areas permit the dogs on leash. For people who do not want dogs around, there are many alternatives to Fort Funston. For people who want to be able to have their dog run off-leash at the beach, there are no alternatives.

We are responsible dog owners and have our dog under voice control at all times. We clean up after him, and after humans as well as we walk in Fort Funston. If we were required to keep our dog on leash, he would not be able to run or romp in the water. We do not have the ability to run with him, nor do we want to freeze our feet in the water. However, he loves it and it's his only opportunity to enjoy the beach, be able to get out and get exercise and allow my husband and I to get exercise while our dog does as well.
This is as opposed to dog parks. Dogs may run around, depending on the facility, but there's no exercise for humans.

San Francisco gave the land to GGNRA with the understanding that these areas would continue to be urban park areas and enjoy the same usage as they always have. This certainly included off-leash dog activities. The park service should not have accepted the land nor should they continue to hold it, if they cannot abide by the original requirements of the gift.

1/2

3627-02-1A

MOLLIE MARSHALL
101 CALIFORNIA STREET
SUITE 1500
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

The park service states that they must abide by the rules of the National Park Service. However, GGNRA land, and especially Fort Funston, is not the same as Yosemite, Yellowstone, etc. It is hard to believe that the park service cannot develop rules which fit with the intended usage of the park area. Dogs are allowed off-leash in other national parks for hunting, for example.

At Fort Funston, the area available for people and dogs has diminished greatly over the past few years. More and more fences block off areas. Leave the rest of the land as originally intended – an urban park that allows off-leash dog activities.

Very truly yours,

Mollie Marshall

Mollie Marshall

2/2

3628-01-1A

Kristin E. Hutchins
874 Page St., #3
San Francisco, CA 94117

March 12, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE – (415) 561-4355 – AND U.S. MAIL

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Re: Public Comment On Off Leash Access to Golden Gate National Recreation Area – **Support For Off-Leash Privileges**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a San Francisco resident writing to express my support of maintaining significant off-leash areas in Fort Funston, Crissy Field, and other GGNRA areas.

**I am *not* a dog owner**, yet I recognize that the vast majority of dog owners are highly responsible people who diligently control their pets and clean up their litter. I get great enjoyment from watching the many dogs and their owners frolicking off leash in these areas, and feel that one of San Francisco's most unique aspects would be lost if dogs were required to remain on leashes. I believe that with proper park management, the GGNRA can accommodate all its users – people and pooches alike – as well as preserving sensitive wildlife habitat. These are, after all, city parks – not pristine wilderness preserves.

Please do not curtail the off-leash privileges for dogs in the GGNRA. If you wish to contact me for a more in-depth discussion of my views on this issue and the reasons behind them, please do not hesitate to call me at (415) 439-6296 during the day.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kristin E. Hutchins

Kristin E. Hutchins

SFRDOCS:30422778.1 999999 1511

3629-01-1A



Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Cheryl Kapchan (printed)

Address: 91 Central #201 SF , CA 94117
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

I walk with my dog, Mattie at Buena Vista Park, Fort Funston, and 8th Ave./Lake Street dog parks (and Corona Heights). Our Professional Dog walker is trained in behavioral management and is conscientous.
I feel safe walking into an off-leash area and I love the community a dog area creates; it allows neighbors and friends to enjoy the park with fun-loving, nurtured animals!

**Here are some ideas for your letter:**

- What parts of the GGNRA do you visit now? Where would you LIKE to visit if off-leash was permitted?
- The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation?
- Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area?
- Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area?** Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Cheryl Kapchan Date 3/12/02 (optional: Age: 34 Sex M F Ethnicity ____)

Version 2.0

3630-01-1B

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: HARRY PODANY (printed)

Address: 47 WOODS STREET (street) SAN RAFAEL (city) CA (state) 94901 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

ONCE A WEEK
TO ENJOY THE BEACH WITH MY DOG.

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

NO

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

I HAVE MET FRIENDS ON THE BEACH THROUGH MY DOG. IT WOULD BE NEGATIVE TO MY LIFE TO NO LONGER PROVIDE OFF LEASE RECREATION IN GGNRA

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

YES – PLEASE CONTINUE W/ OFF-LEASE AREAS

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

NO

Signed: Harry F. Podany Date 2/17/02 (optional: Age: 42 Sex (M) F Ethnicity ____)

Version 1.0

3631-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Sarah Friedman (printed)

Address: 176 Belvedere # 3 SF CA 94117
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

3x a week
Ocean Beach, Chrissy Field, Baker Beach
go running w my dog

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

Both elderly people & children often approach my dog. He is friendly & gentle & this encourages them to do so.

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

~~[illegible]~~ my boyfriend, other friends often join me - taking the dog to the beach is a major activity.

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

It is important for a city like SF to have off-leash areas. Voice control & poop pick-up should be strictly enforced to keep off-leash life pleasant & healthy for all.

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

NO WAY!

Signed: [signature] Date 2/16/02 (optional: Age: 31 Sex M F)
Ethnicity Caucasian

Version 1.0

3632-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: GERARD O'LOUGHLIN (printed)

Address: 193 #1 Belvedere St SF CA 94117
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

4 times a week at Baker Beach

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

No. ?

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

I have a physically active dog (Boxer) Being leashed is not such a good idea..

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

Yes.

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

~~Yes~~ NO

Signed: [signature] Date Feb 13 02 (optional: Age: 37 Sex (M) F
Ethnicity ____)

Version 1.0

3633-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Valerie Hancock, Valerie Hancock (printed)

Address: 36 Alma St. S.F. CA 94117
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.
I go to different beaches 2-3 times/week. I visit Fort Funston, Baker Beach, and sometimes Chrissy Field. The main reason I go is to re-juvenate, get fresh air and, most importantly let my dog run his heart out. I feel the stresses of urban living fade away, I get exercise and my dog

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.
I have personally experienced people with children who do not have dogs who come deliberately over to where our dogs are playing so they can watch them play and pet the dogs.
I do not feel safe where dogs are off leash – it means a lot of activity and

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
Definitely a social outlet. I work out of the home so I do not meet people through work. This is a way I have been able to meet other San Franciscans. Other basenji owners and I make plans to meet at the beach so the dogs can play together. The reason I got a dog was because of the off leash opportunities here. I would be crushed,

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
There are so many dogs in S.F. We need a fair share of the space! We rely on regulations & use! GGNRecreational A, says it all. Please don't shut us out. Go after the irresponsible and bad dog owners, not the rest of us conscientious owners.

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco? no, I think it is very unfair. This is public land and the GGNRA is only to manage it, not take away land use. I am also against the native plant people who are tearing out healthy established plants.

Signed: Valerie Hancock Date 2-15-02 (optional: Age: 37 Sex M F Ethnicity )

Version 1.0

3634-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Derik Dolin (printed)

Address: 274 Parnassus (street) San Francisco (city) Ca (state) 94117 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.
I currently attend HumBoldt State Univ., but am born & raised in S.F. when I lived here, I would take my dog to GGNRA facalities every weekend. Letting my Dog run around off leash & other dog's makes my life easier & lives more enjoyable.

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.
If a dog should not be walked off leash that is the responsibility of the dog owner to not let them do so, it is not the Dogs fault. I do feal safer walking in areas where dogs are off leash & I my self and a racialized minority. Being around a friendly atmosphere brightens my day.

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?
I do find that taking my dog out & letting her socialize w other animals is more beneficial for her & my self. On a number of occasions I have brought my friends to the off leash areas. I also find that the people who frequent these areas tend to be more friendly & outgoing than other individuals that I interact w on a daily basis.

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?
Yes I do feal that what was originaly agreed upon should be be negotiated. Especially if it is in writing

Signed: Derik Dolin Date 2/16/02 (optional: Age:____ Sex (M) F Ethnicity: W

Version 1.0

3635-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Barbara Deuel (printed)

Address: 413 A Frederick St. (street) SF (city) CA (state) 94117 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I visit Ocean Beach appox. 2-3 times a week. I enjoy walking on the beach

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

I've often noticed children playing on the beach with and around dogs. I don't understand the statement that racial + cultural minorities avoid these areas. It is not my experience.

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

I love to watch dogs running on the beach, playing in the water etc. The beach would seem a little less joyful.

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

Yes. My experience in these areas has been that the dogs that are off leash are well behaved - I've never been bothered or noticed any problems w/ dogs in these areas.

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

No

Signed: Barbara Deuel Date 2-16-02 (optional: Age: 42 Sex M (F) Ethnicity )

Version 1.0

3636-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Andrea Maltzer (printed)

Address: 1012A Cole St SF CA 94117
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I visit GGNRA @ 3 times a month. I have a dog and go with her to walk and Run & Play !!

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

OFF leash recreation IS A social outlet for me - I have met many of my current friends while taking my dog out

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

yes OFF leash recreation is a wonderful way for people with dogs to socialize And interact with those who do not have dogs

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

NO

Signed: _____ Date 2-16-02 (optional: Age: ____ Sex M F
Ethnicity ____

Version 1.0

3637-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: DIMITRI DESMONS (printed)

Address: 36 ALMA St. (street) SAN FRANCISCO (city) CA (state) 94117 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What are the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

Baker beach and Fort Funston. I go there to give my dog some exercise - I jog with him on the beach.
Lately, GGNRA park rangers have said it was against the Law.

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

In my experience, many kids enjoy the company of dogs at the beach. Most of them are fascinated by my dog and want to pet him, play with him. I believe that it's a good way for kids to learn how to interact with, and respect nature.

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet up with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no longer off-leash recreation in the GGNRA?

I have met several people who also love dogs. I go there with my wife, sometimes meet up with friends, sometimes join the big "clean-up" parties. No more off leash recreation in the GGNRA would mean that I just wouldn't go any longer, unless I can't find another area to exercise my dog.

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you have suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

GGNRA is a huge land. It shouldn't be too hard to carve out some areas where dogs are welcome off-leash, while others are not. Let people choose which ones they want to frequent.

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Absolutely not. GGNRA land is an urban area. If it becomes treated like the rest of the National Parks, then San Francisco should find someone else to administer the land.

Signed: [signature] Date 2/16/02 (optional: Age: 38 Sex M F Ethnicity W)

Version 1.0

**Mr. and Mrs. Reuben W. Hills III**
2920 Broadway
San Francisco, California 94115

March 12, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason
Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
Attn: ANPR

**Transmitted Via Fax**
**415-561-4355**

Re: Pet Management in GGNRA
Off-leash recreation areas for dogs

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to protest the National Park Service's rules prohibiting off-leash dog walking in the GGNRA.

Some of these rules are obsolete as they were written well before many of the urban park areas were designated as national park land. In fact, an exception for this rule was established to maintain "recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning" (see 16 U.S.C. 460 bb). The Park Service has permitted the off-leash dog walking use since 1979 and the public has embraced this privilege and now expects it. There is ample room in the GGNRA's 75,000 acres for off-leash dog walking where plants and wild life are not in harm's way.

Humane and thoughtful dog ownership involves allowing your pet to express its natural need for exercise and off-leash play to ensure its physical and mental well-being. Responsible dog ownership is the solution to this problem. The people who take their dogs to the GGNRA for exercise, recreation and socialization pick up after their pets and keep them under voice control. Incidents where pets become a nuisance to walkers, joggers, or bicyclists are extremely rare.

While the United States Army occupied the land off-leash dog walking was permitted. Since the Army relinquished this land, the GGNRA has come to be an important and integral recreation area for many San Franciscans -- *including their dogs*. Living in an urban environment is often stressful and we depend on our parks and open spaces to exercise our bodies and refresh our minds and spirits. Our dogs, who play such an important and vital role in our lives, deserve the same.

We strongly urge you to create a hospitable park environment that serves all creatures and critters on two and four legs alike. In the absence of a compatible solution dog owners collectively will pursue legal action.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Hills

3639-01-1A



**Victoria Lee van Ysseldyk**
*The Mill Building / 720 York Street, #109*
*San Francisco, California 94110*
*415-285-5005 / vvan@lycos.com*

March 11, 2002

National Park Service
Via fax:415/ 561-4355

RE: GGNRA Pet Management ANPR

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to urge you in the strongest possible manner to allow off-leash pets in certain areas of the GGNRA.

I support the NPS in its mission to make our public areas enjoyable, safe, diverse and sustainable into the future. I do not believe that there is not room for off-leash pets in and their owners in that mission. The 75,000 acres of the GGNRA must encompass space enough for all types of responsible use and still offer reasonable levels of protection to the plants and animals.

I daily drive 20 minutes or more each way from my Misson/Potrero area home to Chrissy Field or another GGNRA location to exercise myself and my animal in a non-urban, non-traffic intensive area. The benefits to both me and my animal are immeasurable and utterly unattainable in any of the very small and/or very dangerous local green spaces.

I watch the overwhelming majority of pet owners act in a very conscientious manner when with unleashed pets; animals are under voice control and supervision at all times. I have not seen unruly pets menacing people or other animals in the environment. I have never witnessed an owner leaving their pet's refuse on the beach. If only some parents managed their children as well.

Chrissy Field is a perfect example of the kind of mixed use possible in the GGNRA. At the eastern reach of the beach is an area where owners attend closely while their pets play and exercise off leash and the owners interact as well. This should be allowed. Farther up the beach, in areas that are frequented by people with small children or posted as environmentally sensitive, please recognize the need to keep pets on leash. This offers a reasonable mixed use that allows for the pursuits of all, while caring for the area.

San Francisco is blessed with gorgeous green spaces in and around its very concentrated urban center. It is one of the City's great pleasures. Without the ability to exercise our pets off leash in some of these areas, pet owners and our pets are damned to a mindless leash walk that does not provide a pet with sufficient exercise that is so important to well-socialized, loving animals.

Please, provide open spaces for all of us.

Sincerely,

Victoria van Ysseldyk

3640-04-1A

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

**M. BRUCE GROSJEAN**
1065 BRUSSELS STREET
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94134
415-467-5526
mbgsf@worldnet.att.net

Monday, March 11, 2002

Park Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123.

Superintendent O'Neill,

The photograph that illustrates the enclosed San Francisco Chronicle article is all the ANPR comment necessary. Careful examination reveals as many as thirteen (13) dogs, of which at least eight (8) are off leash, three (3) humans and zero (0) birds. This photograph accurately represents my own personal experience.

I have lived in, and loved San Francisco for over 35 years, and although I grew up nearly on a California beach, I no longer go to my own local San Francisco Beaches. The last time I did venture to Ocean Beach, I was so appalled at the outrages stench and chaos created by dogs and their thoughtless owners, I vowed to never burden myself with this experience again.

Why do you think that there are so few people in this photograph? Why do you think that there are no children in this photograph? Why do you think that there are no birds in this photograph? Why do you think that there are no people in this photograph that are not attached to a dog? Again, this photograph accurately represents my own personal experience! San Francisco beaches have been turned into recreation areas for dogs to the exclusion and peril of the general public.

I very much sympathize with the fact that you have to deal with a very abrupt and sometimes belligerent dog advocacy constituency. Their unpolished behavior is the very reason I do not plan to attend any of the public meetings that attempt to deal with this issue. I only hope that you will have the courage to stand up for the core values of the National Park system and not attempt to placate this militant dog lobby at the expense of the parks environment.

Sincerely,

M. Bruce Grosjean

1/4

3640-04-1A

# Public gets another month to give dog-leash opinions

## GGNRA may seek exception to national park rules

By Peter Fimrite
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

The Bay Area's uniquely rancorous debate over the leashing of man's best friend on federal parkland has caught the attention of the ultimate arbiter – the National Park Service.

Public comment is now being gathered on whether unfettered pets should be allowed in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. It is all part of a bureaucratic process known as an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which could eventually lead to designated dog-walking areas, or

*"If we have dogs here, then next thing, people will want to camp in the middle of Ocean Beach."*

ARTHUR FEINSTEIN, *Golden Gate Audubon Society executive director*

### HAVE AN OPINION?

*The Golden Gate National Recreation Area is seeking comment on whether to ask for an exception to the National Park policy that forbids unleashed dogs.*

**Public information meetings:**

- March 13, 7:30 p.m., Showcase Theatre, Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags, in San Rafael.
- March 19, 7 p.m., McKenna Theater, College of Creative Arts, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco.

**Public comment meeting:**

People will have an opportunity to enter three-minute oral comments.

- April 6, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Golden Gate National Recreation Area headquarters, Upper Fort Mason, Building 201, corner of Bay and Franklin streets, San Francisco.

**Comment by mail, fax, or e-mail:**

- Comments may be submitted in writing until April 12. Fax comments to (415) 561-4733; e-mail to goga(underscore)pets (underscore)anpr@nps.gov or send by regular mail to Superintendent, GGNRA, Attention ANPR, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123.

2/4

uphold the rule requiring restraints on Rover in the GGNRA.

The GGNRA announced this week that the comment period would be continued another month, until April 12.

Recreation area officials say the ANPR process – involving public comment, a lengthy review and possibly an eventual rule change – is the only way to persuade the National Park Service to grant them an exception to its nationwide regulation requiring dogs to be on leashes.

Park Superintendent Brian O'Neill initiated the comment period in January in response to lawsuits, protests and threats by San Francisco supervisors to take back the federal parklands donated by the city in retaliation for what they saw as the revocation of dog-walking rights.

"We can continue this rancor, or we can seize the moment and begin to work together towards a solution based on input from all park users," O'Neill said. "We have the opportunity to be a model in handling the issue of dog management in parks."

The issue has become such a hot topic at least in part because of a dramatic increase in the number of people visiting recreation area lands over the past decade.

About 17 million people hike, bike, ride horses and sightsee on the 75,000 acres of parkland in San Mateo, San Francisco and Marin counties. There are currently 75 endangered, threatened or special-status species that live or are dependent on the park for migration, according to the ANPR document outlining the issues.

The document brings up a host of problems caused by dogs, including the trampling of native vegetation, harassment of birds, disturbance of fish and dog attacks. Between 1998 and 2000, 54 dog bites were reported, with another 13 between January and June of 2001. The report also states that numerous dog rescues on the cliffs at Fort Funston have cost time and money.

The physical and emotional benefits from off-leash exercise to dogs and their masters are summarized – but members of the growing San Francisco dog rights movement say the document has an anti-canine bent.

"They are withholding information that is favorable to off-leash recreation, studies they have actually done," said lawyer Ken Ayers, one of the most vocal leaders of the dog lobby. "Clearly the process is slanted against dogs."

Criticism such as this has been heaped on the GGNRA by pet lovers since 1996, when the organization started cracking down on unfettered pooches at traditional dog havens like Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, the Marin Headlands and the Presidio.

The GGNRA argued that the pet policy it adopted in 1979 allowing off-leash recreation could not override the already existing park service ban.

Last year, the recreation area declared the 1979 pet policy null and void, prompting a demonstration by more than 1,000 protesters.

Environmentalists were overjoyed, however, saying the national parks were not designed for the recreational needs of domesticated predators like dogs.

"We anthropomorphise our pets to make them like humans,

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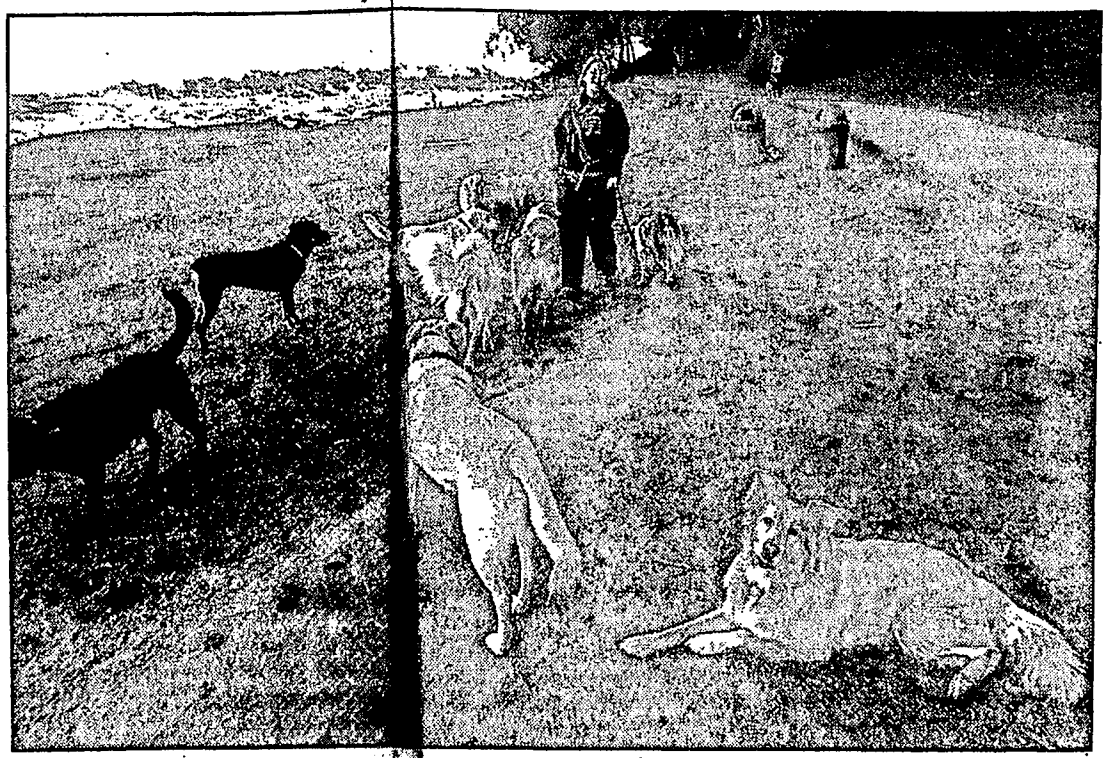
3640-04-1A





CHRIS STEWART / *The Chronicle*

**Fort Funston has attained a special place in the hearts of San Francisco's dogs and people, such as Michelle Jones, who walk them there.**

but they are not," said Arthur Feinstein, executive director of the Golden Gate Audubon Society. "The national parks are not supposed to meet everybody's personal needs. I'm worried about the precedent aspect of this. If we have dogs here, then next thing, people will want to camp in the middle of Ocean Beach."

Ayers said he thought the public should be informed that studies of thousands of dogs on GGNRA property in 1996 and 1998 showed that anywhere from 94 to 98 percent of the pets did not chase birds.

Recreation area officials called such criticisms off-base, especially since the whole process was initiated by the dog owners.

Spokeswoman Chris Powell said the public comment period was designed to give everyone a voice.

"The question on the table right now is, should the federal regulations remain in effect in the GGNRA, or should we look at an alternate regulation for this park?" she said. "We want to hear what the public has to say."

*E-mail Peter Fimrite at* pfimrite@sfchronicle.com.

4/4

3641-01-1A

**Leida Schoggen**
**897 Noe Street**
**San Francisco, CA 94114**
**415.826.7739**



March 11, 2002

Superintendent, GGNRA
Fort Mason
Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

ATTN: ANPR

Dear Superintendent:

My dog recently died after spending 14 years with us exploring the wilds of Golden Gate Park, Fort Funston, Crissy Field Beach and other parks around the area. He was a dog that needed a lot of exercise and walking on a leash was simply not the kind he needed. We were also always conscientious owners. We picked up poop, leashed the dog when people exhibited concern about him, did not let him run loose around young children who were uncomfortable about dogs and tried to be sensitive to the fact that not everyone likes dogs.

I recognize that the way we treat our animals is fraught with many concerns from all sides. There are many dog owners who ignore the concerns of others, who don't pick up their dogs' poop and who generally behave in an irresponsible manner. Those people, I have found, are often ignorant of the impact that their obliviousness has on the environment and the people around them. There is an education function that needs to happen here. Most dog owners and dog walkers that I have observed are very careful and stop other people who are not and try to let them know why their behavior presents a risk to all of us.

Confining dogs and their owners to smaller and smaller areas will make the impact on those areas much greater. I couldn't stand going to the dog run at Golden Gate park because it was muddy, smelly, really small and there were so many dogs there that my dog, who was often pursued by other dogs and would just come and hide behind me, could get no significant exercise. It was highly stressful for me and for him.

It seems to be universally recognized that the presence of animals in our lives makes life better, but we cannot have them responsibly if there is no place for them to have some semblance of a normal exercise experience. I hope that you will help find a reasonable way to meet the needs of all parties – including the animals.

Sincerely,
Leida Schoggen
Leida Schoggen

posies perfect

3114 franklin street
san francisco, ca 94123

phone: 415.305.7247
email: lmaineri@aol.com

specialized floral service

3642-01-1A

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2002
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

March 4, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear GGNRA Hearing Board Members/Directors:

As a native San Franciscan who has enjoyed many years of recreational use at Crissy Field, I implore you to preserve Crissy Field with its original intended use – a recreational park for San Francisco/Bay Area dwellers/visitors ***and*** their off-leash dogs. It is of utmost importance that dogs have a place to run, play and exercise in a safe and open area for their health, enjoyment and well-being (just as humans need an area for exercise, fun and freedom). Under-socialized and under-exercised dogs (i.e, dogs on-leash) can be more of a nuisance and/or potential danger to community than having dogs off-leash in an *already* off-leash recreational park. Imposing on-leash at Crissy Field will be quite detrimental to these dogs' behavior. It is quite unnatural and literally abusive to have our pets constantly bound – they need exercise and socialization. Without off-leash freedom, the balance and stability of our dogs' behavior can be cruelly altered and our dogs will forever suffer.

Dog owners such as myself have always enjoyed going to Crissy and letting our dogs run, socialize and enjoy this great outdoor area (in a responsible manner with care and supervision, as we do with our children). We respect the rights of the variety of park users, including acknowledging and protecting the important natural resources of this area. Off-leash dogs are not the spoilers of this park and its uses; they are a part of this park; **Crissy Field was created for this recreational purpose and it should remain this way.**

Please let our dogs continue to run free of leash at Crissy Field.

Respectfully,

Laura Maineri
San Francisco Native

ALEX FRANKEL

3643-03-1A

Alex Frankel
2443 Fillmore Street No 258
San Francisco, CA 94115



GGNRA
Fort Mason
Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
Attn: ANPR

Re: Pet management in GGNRA.

March 9, 2002

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to suggest that the NPS rules prohibiting off-leash dog walking in national parks be considered a poor guide for the GGNRA.

I agree wholeheartedly with the letter written by Louise Frankel, attached herein.

It is my opinion that this rule should not be applied in the GGNRA and that dogs should be allowed to enjoy the parks leash free.

Sincerely,

Alex Frankel

1/3

3643-03-1A

**LOUISE FRANKEL**
**2710 SCOTT STREET**
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123**
**415/931-2710 (V)**
**415/931-2730 (F)**

-1-

6 March 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason
Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Att'n: ANPR

Re: Pet management in GGNRA: Need for off-leash recreation areas for dogs

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Park Service rules prohibiting off-leash dog walking in national parks are not written in granite. They are intended to apply primarily to wild areas. There are many good reasons for them not to apply to our unique urban park.

1. The legislative policy for such an exception was set forth in 16 U.S.C. 460 bb when the GGNRA was established to maintain "recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning." A plan for Crissy Field some five years ago proposed substantial acreage for dogs off leash, with the lagoon and native plants fenced off. Indeed, since 1979 the Park Service has permitted this use, and thus created a public expectation that dog owners may exercise their dogs off leash in certain areas.

2. Many recreational and park uses should and do exist. Seventy-five thousand acres can surely accommodate them all. The City and the GGNRA are a geographic entity in an urban area; they should be good neighbors and share the privileges and burdens of their beautiful environment. While many residents are concerned about the natural features of the Park, flora and fauna, the Park Service itself has shown they can be readily protected without sacrificing generous off-leash dog walking areas. After all, bicyclists, runners, skaters, other sportspersons, even picnics and parties, harm plants and alarm birds and wild animals too. And many non-dog-owners derive great pleasure from watching dogs frisking and playing on the beach.

3. As a good neighbor, the National Park Service must know that the more restrictive and punitive it is toward the dog-owning community, the more dog owners will have to burden city parks and streets. There is plenty of room for everyone. Indeed, the City's population has decreased in recent decades, whereas the dog population has expanded a lot.

4. The dog owners who use the GGNRA for dog exercise and recreation are responsible people who pick up after their pets (and those few forgetful owners too), and keep them under voice control. While the Park Service has been tracking dog-bite incidents, these

2/3

3648-03-1A -2-

are rare compared with the number of dogs that are exercised. Surely there are many bicycle-caused injuries, runners' collisions, children's accidents, sports injuries, physical disputes causing harm. Should all these activities be forbidden in the Park? NO HUMAN OR ANIMAL ACTIVITY IS 100% SAFE.

5. There is plenty of beach adjacent to Crissy Field for unleashed dog recreation. It is an ideal area for that purpose. Sport dogs can swim in the ocean. The dogs do not interfere with other uses (sports, running,biking,picnicking, etc.) for which there is ample other space unaffected by loose dogs. And there are other beach areas (presently off limits) that are equally ideal for off-leash dog recreation.

6. The National Park Service is often viewed as inflexible and bureaucratic in its dealings with the public (i.e. the taxpayers who support it). While this may be a common attitude toward entrenched officialdom, I am certain the current debate about off-leash dog walking in the GGNRA offers a unique, indeed heaven-sent, opportunity for the Park Service to demonstrate conciliation, good will, and consideration toward all the citizen interests subject to its rule-making. Public lands should open as appropriate to all legitimate varieties of public use, and one of those uses has traditionally included unleashed dog recreation.

I therefore strongly urge you not to prohibit appropriate off-leash recreation for dogs in the GGNRA.

Respectfully,

Louise Frankel

3/3

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA 3644-03-1A

# GALLERY GUIDE



March 8, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason. Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
Attn: ANPR

Re: Off-leash dogs in the G.G.N.R.A.

To Whom It May Concern,

I have enclosed a copy of a letter recently sent to you which I very strongly believe in and feel I must voice agreement with.

Though I am not an animal owner myself, I am a longtime resident and frequent user of the G.G.N.R.A. and Crissy Field. In my 39 years of living in the San Francisco area I have used many of the parks and beaches while growing up here and have always respected the rights and privileges of animal owners and understand their need to share our urban area. I enjoy interacting with dogs and might not so readily have the chance were they always to be leash-bound. I have also found most owners to be responsible in monitoring and cleaning up after their pets.

It is my hope that the National Park Service will reconsider the rules regarding off-leash dogs and keep open spaces available in the Crissy Field G.G.N.R.A. for off-leash dog recreation.

Very Truly,

David Basham

1/3

1369 Fulton Street . San Francisco CA 94117
Ph: 415-921-1600 . Fx: 415-921-1601

3644-03-1A

LOUISE FRANKEL
2710 SCOTT STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123
415/931-2710 (V)
415/931-2730 (F)

-1-

6 March 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason
Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Att'n: ANPR

Re: Pet management in GGNRA: Need for off-leash recreation areas for dogs

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Park Service rules prohibiting off-leash dog walking in national parks are not written in granite. They are intended to apply primarily to wild areas. There are many good reasons for them not to apply to our unique urban park.

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2/3

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I therefore strongly urge you not to prohibit appropriate off-leash recreation for dogs in the GGNRA.

Respectfully,

Louise Frank

3/3

3645-01-1A

407 Laurel Street
San Francisco, CA 94118
March 11, 2002



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention:ANPR
Fort Mason,Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

As members of the GGNPA, my wife and I would like to make the following comments regarding the ANPR concerning off-leash dogwalking at Crissy Field. Historically, the citizens of San Francisco have always enjoyed walking their dogs off-leash on Crissy Field. San Franciscans found in the past, as indeed they now, that off-leash walking of dogs is a totally harmless and wonderful form of exercise for both the dogs and the owners. Doubly important in this urban environment since it takes the pressure off other parts of the Presidio and City Parks.
The GGNRA has made much of the harmful effects of unleashed dogs on bird life, and have declared the beach west of the rocks to be out of bounds to dogs whether leashed or unleashed. Their has been an almost total, if begrudging observance of this ban by dog owners. As a result of this ban, this stretch of beach is now virtually *devoid* of both human and canine life. As an avid bird watcher and almost daily user of Crissy Field, I can say that the only bird life to be seen is on the jetty that projects in to the bay from the beach.
The net effect of this ban therefor, has been to increase the density of both humans and dogs at the eastern end of Crissy Field with no beneficial effects on the bird population.
Common sense must prevail and dogs be allowed unleashed on the length of the beaches at Crissy Field.

Sincerely, Marnell and Peter Trendell.

Marnell Trendell Peter Trendell

3046-03-1B

P.O Box 618
TIBURON
CA 94920
3/10/02.

Golden Gate National Recreation
Area -
Attn ANPR.
Fort Mason, San Francisco.



FRIENDS,

Re Dogs in Nat. Recreation Area

Despite the name "Recreational Area" are not the most donations to Open Space given to help preserve or reintroduce the local flora and fauna? Recreation by humans might come next, with recreation by animals a distant thing! - With dowers, continue to turn these areas if unleased dogs (with owners or commercial "Dog walkers") continue to invade these precious spaces? - I wonder!

Regarding "Voice Control" - Considen Trish King Director of Behavior and Training at the Marin Humane Society, as reported in

3696-03-18

Marin Independent Journal Sept 24, 2001

"The final thing the teacher the ~~owners~~ it's to be ready "WHEN LIFE intervenes". ! The owners have to know what to do when the training fails. "Even ~~the~~ with the best-controlled dog, life happens" King says. "They are still animals". (end of quote)

I understand that "Guide Dogs for the Blind" fully believes that all dogs in public places should be on leash and indeed I have yet to see any unhappy dog Bred by them. (and as you know many of ~~their~~ dogs never become Guide Dogs.)

Please support some dog-walking areas only, "à la" Point Isabelle & Pt Corneto, and insist that dog-owners help to pay for such areas which should be away for the rest of us. Thank you Maureen Merkle

...can be reached at jharrington@angnewspapers.com.

3646-03-LB

# Manners

From page E1

help them enjoy the open space safely and responsibly.

Using a combination of video, lecture and live-dog demonstrations, King will stress four commands:

▸ **Come.** Coming on command in a distracting situation is the most basic tool in dog obedience. If a dog will come when called, owners can take their dogs out of dangerous situations or stop them before they get into danger.

▸ **Wait.** Owners cannot control their dogs if they cannot see their dogs. Teaching a dog to wait for its owner allows the owner to catch up with the dog before it bounds around the next corner.

▸ **Leave it.** Keeping dogs out of horse manure, dead animals and other smelly temptations is a constant challenge on the trail. By teaching dogs the command "leave it," owners can keep their dogs healthy and avoid a smelly drive home.

▸ **Walk with me.** Dogs need to learn to stay close to the owner to be safe.

To teach these commands, King employs basic obedience principles and a "long line," a 20-to 30-foot cord that replaces the leash for training. By allowing the long line to drag, the owner can control the dog's movement without the dog knowing it is being leashed. King teaches owners to stand on the long line instead of using their hands, to make the dog think the owner can stop it without a leash.

She also teaches owners to have a friend create temptations and situations to test the new commands, including riding by on a bike and jogging past the dog on the trail. She calls this "real world obedience," the ability to follow commands even when distracted.

To reach these goals, King stresses "positive reinforcement" while also teaching owners to enforce "consequences." She does not advocate painful punishment, suggesting that "consequences" can be as simple as not standing between the dog and where it wants to go. The dog has to understand that ignoring or disobeying the command holds no benefit.

Not all of her workshop focuses on controlling the dogs. She also teaches a philosophy of tolerance on the trail and helps dog owners understand what other trail users expect and deserve.

The final thing she teaches the owners is to be ready "when life intervenes." The owners have to know what to do when the training fails.

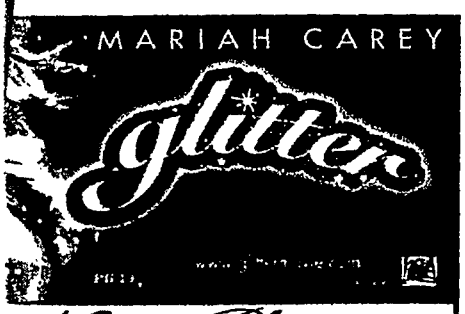
"Even with the best-controlled dog, life happens," King says.

"They still are animals."

*Rick Polito can be reached by e-mail at polito@marinij.com.*





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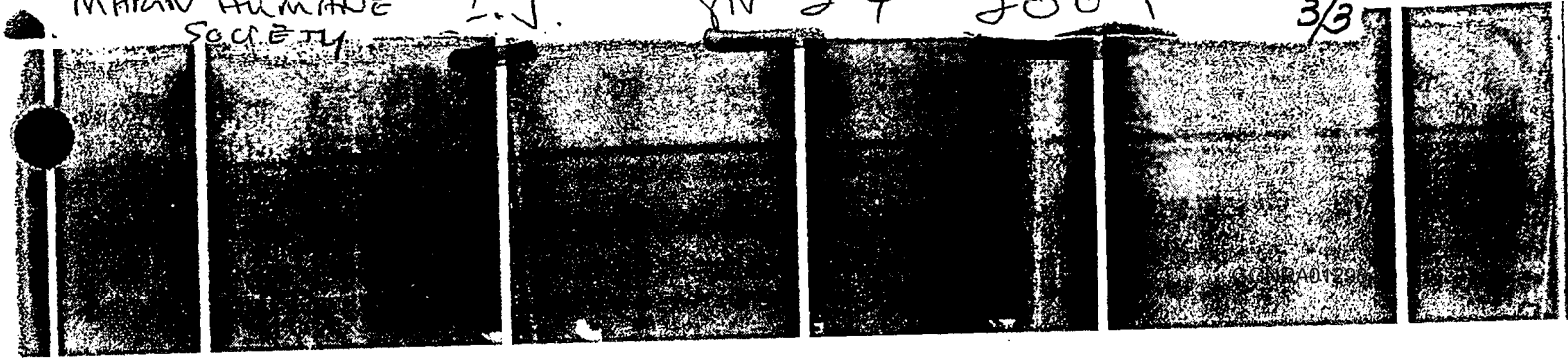

3647-01-1A

1859 9th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
March 7, 2002



GGNRA
Ft. Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

National Park Service:

Do not give in to the hedonistic self-servers using dogs as an excuse so they can do as they please. They seem to think our national lands are theirs to destroy. This tactic is simply a variation on what this same type of group wants to do in Yellowstone with snowmobiles--destruction of habitat and harrassment of animals and other park visitors.

San Francisco Parks and Recreation has bent over backward to work with these people. It has not worked because this narcissistic type only wants their selfish whims honored. They have no intention of being stewards of the land nor of being good citizens. Now, they are working on your agency. Show them you have some backbone and show them the door. Your agency is doing what the people of the United States have asked you to do, i.e. protect our natural resources from predation. These people are predators dressed in dog hair; what a sorry use of our most loyal companion.

What is needed is enforcement of current laws. Any new laws should have to do with increasing the "no dog" areas. A couple of examples from San Francisco how such giving in does not work. In a small badly degraded park, San Francisco Parks Department delineated trails and attempted for the umpteenth time to replant a slope. This is a park allegedly allowing only leashed dogs although one would never know it from 75% of the visitors. A woman used her dog as an excuse to walk wherever she wanted including the just-planted slope. When the replanting and the trails were pointed out, she made the excuse that she had to follow her dog to be responsible. Obviously, the dog was in no way under voice control. At another time in this same park, a man had a large dog romping all over. I simply watched him. His dog urinated on a plant. The human, knowing he was being watched, must have thought the watching was for dog waste. He took out a bag and scooped up all the wet soil exposing the roots of the plant! And, this ignorant behavior was in an area at the top of the hill where sand was being carried away by wind (and shoes and paws) because the plants had almost all been killed and the area was open to erosion.

Again, more not fewer laws protecting the natural areas.

Elaine Lowry

17

3648-02-1A

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2002

Dear GGNRA,

I am a 40 year old critical care RN who has lived in S.F. for 19 years. I have frequented Fort Funston with each dog I have owned about 3-4 times per week. My current dog is a 14 year old 20lb terrier. She loves Fort Funston and so do I. We abide by all the signage and pick up ours and others litter.

I support and value measures that preserve our natural resources (bird + foliage etc. Yesterday I voted YES on PROP 40.

I encourage other dog-walkers and people with children to respect the boundardies made by our great rangers to protect the nesting areas and native vegetation. Weekends are the most challenging times to do this, however.

I would suggest requiring business licensure for the "professional" dog walkers who are providing a valuable service.

I am afraid that the already congested Crissy Field areas are impossible to park at. We need some place on this side of town.

1/2

3648-02-1A

Lastly, I have witnessed more agressive encounters with dogs on leash because they get tangled-up in each others leashes and cannot avoid each other freely.

I hope we can find a solution that is amenable to all parties.

Sincerely,

Carol-Ann D'Amico
5150 Diamond Hts Blvd B-206
San Francisco, CA 94131
415 550 16663

3649-01-IC

25 Southridge Way
Daly City, CA 94014
March 12, 2002

Mr. Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention ANPR
Fort Mason
Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123



Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I am writing to request that you allow dogs to continue to walk off-leash in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. I understand that dog walking is normally not allowed in national parks, but I believe San Franciscans and other Bay Area dog owners have been responsibly doing so for decades--long before the GGNRA became in charge of the land.

I have been walking my one-year old Golden Retriever, Casey, at Fort Funston for the past year, and I always pick up his litter and I do not allow him into the fenced areas. I have observed that the vast majority of other dog walkers clean up after their dogs, and groups of dog walkers clean the litter of others on clean-up days. Most dog owners love other animals as well, and do not allow their dogs to chase birds or other animals, but I understand that this must be a concern of yours. The fenced-in areas at Fort Funston which are used to protect native plants and wildlife are respected by the vast majority of dog owners. I know that if I were to ever see someone's dog going into the fenced area I would speak to the owner and ask him to get his dog out.

We dog owners love the parks and hope that you will make every effort to allow us to continue to walk our dogs off-leash. There are fewer problems between the dogs when they can socialize off-leash, than when they are tightly tethered.

Thank you for your consideration and for your extension of the comment period. I really appreciate your effort to be fair.

Sincerely yours,

Heather von Manowski

Heather von Manowski

3650-01-1A

3025 Castro St.
San Francisco, CA
94131



GGNRA
Attention ANPR
Fort Mason
Building 201
SF, CA 94123

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing because I am appalled with the new proposed dog policy for San Francisco. I am a dog-owning tax payer and I am furious about the manner in which the Park Service is attempting to close Fort Funston to off-leash dogs.

Dogs need a larger area to run and play than will exist in San Francisco if you close Fort Funston to off-leash dog walking. Please do not take this away from us!

Please keep Fort Funston open to off-leash dog walking.

Thanks for your time,

Shari Gardner

3651-01-IC

382 Dorado Way
South San Francisco, California 94080



March 4, 2002

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sirs:

I have been walking my dogs at Fort Funston for the last 16 years. Recently it has been getting more crowded due to many areas being closed to off leash dogs, creating a funnel effect. However as 99% of the dog walkers are very responsible the area has stayed clean. Indeed a number of people go down to the beach regularly to pick up debris that has washed up from passing fishing boats.

The attitude of the National Park Service during the last couple of years towards off leash dogs is rather disturbing. I believe they are taking the wrong approach for a number of reasons:

1. As far as native plants are concerned, this was, before the building of the fort, an area of sand dunes, according to old photographs of the area. To bring in "native plants" and claim that the National Park Service is restoring the area is nonsense.

2. I understand the Audabon Society has become very involved so that the bank swallow habitat will be preserved. There are miles of coast and I doubt that the bank swallow will miss what is less than one mile of coastline. And have you ever been to Fort Funston and seen the numbers of people enjoying the area? I would be prepared to bet that members of the Audabon Society who are writing in seldom, if ever, go there. Also, it is my understanding that since the National Park Service took out large quantities of the ice plant the bank swallows have largely stopped nesting there.

3. It is important to remember that this is not a wilderness area such as Yellowstone or Yosemite Park. It is a well used park in an urban area and therefore should be judged by other criteria.

I will not go into the fact that this land was given to the GGNRA on the condition that it should be used for the purposes it had been used for historically. My knowledge of the background is sketchy and limited. But I do think that as a park in an urban area consideration should be given to the taxpayers who get the most use out of it.

I do hope that common sense will prevail.

Very truly yours,

Amil Samayoa

Dear Superintendent O'Neill: 3652-01-1A

I support the continuance of off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue.

Name: Melissa Sheehan (printed)

Address: 63 Eureka St. (street) SF (city) CA (state) 94114 (zip)

1. Please describe how often and where you visit the GGNRA? What are your main activities or reasons for visiting? What a the benefits to you of your visit(s)? If this has changed over the years, describe why.

I take my dog to Fort Funston at least four times a week. We go to the beach because we love the sand and salt water – it is good for our soul. And of course, we need exercise and recreation, and this particular beach is ideal for that.

2. The Park Service has stated that children, the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for their recreation? Do you feel safer when walking in an off-leash area? If so, please explain why.

Two mornings ago, I was walking Brooklyn (my dog) and there was an elderly woman who stopped in her tracks as she spotted us. I quickly called Brooklyn, thinking the woman was afraid, and the dog ran right to me. The woman eventually held her hand up to me and cached me to her. She asked if she could pet my dog – she had a nervous condition that doesn't allow her to have a pet, so she comes to →

3. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet u with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? What would be the impact on your life if there were no long off-leash recreation in the GGNRA? I will probably move out of the city if we can no longer go to the beach. It would be ironic in an unfortunate way if I am forced to leave a city I love – a city I moved to because of its liberal reputation – because of restrictions on my freedom. How very un-American, and un-San Francisco.

4. Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary usage of some areas now within the GGNRA. Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this recreation area? Do you hav suggestions as to how the GGNRA can make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

I absolutely believe that this off-leash option MUST be retained. So long as the areas are marked as dog-friendly areas I can't imagine anyone having a problem. Most dog owners are conscientious, and that's why they take their dog to these areas for exercise and recreation. I also think most owners can, and would be willing to, demonstrate voice control over their pet. There are plenty of no-dog zones in GGNRA – I really can't see the harm in providing/retaining the few there are now.

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco? No!! I've said it before, I'll say it again – how very un-American, how very un-San Francisco.

Signed: Melissa M. Sheehan Date March 11, 2002 (optional: Age: 26 Sex M (F) Ethnicity white)

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Version 1.0

3653-01-313

March 11, 2002



GGNRA
Building 201
Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent

I am writing to support continuation and expansion of off leash dog walking in the GGNRA park system.

Sincerely

Cindy Long

3654-02-IC

March 10, 2002



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn: ANPR
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco CA 94123

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Following are my comments on this activity as well as information about me that may be relevant to this issue:

Some while back we tried visiting Ft. Funston to view the hang glider activity (requested by out-of-state visitors). The area was filled with trash, obvious signs of human habitation (including makeshift campsites and feces) plus unsavory looking persons asking for handouts. Needless to say , we did not tarry long.

During the over 50 years I have proudly shared the wonders of my adopted city to any and all visitors, this was the only experience that disappointed and left a terrible impression of what is now the beautiful scene it always should have been. If my long ago friends could only revisit now!

Do I credit the dogs for this? In large part, I do. The unsavory persons and their debris have been replaced with friendly owners and walkers of a delightful array of equally friendly four-footed walkers (and runners). The owners keep the space cleared of trash and animal waste while the four-footed runners (off-leash) keep the area flushed clean of unwanted vagrants.

A conversation overheard between a visiting stewardess and a dog owner – the stewardess had been introduced to Ft. Funston by a friend. She could not verbally convince her out-of-state relatives, etc. of the actual physical beauty of this place, let alone the interaction of the dogs with one another, the adults and the children. She was resorting to video tape as firm evidence.

Do I feel safe here? Indeed, I do. This is such a great place for seniors to meet and visit casually with nice people, charming children and a varied assortment of interesting dogs. It gets us out into fresh air and, having met a number of seniors who have lost their animals or cannot have pets in their apartments, this place is a source of healing and human interaction with other people who can share and sympathize with their loss. It brings joy to have a furry face come bounding up, ready for that brisk rub on the chest or to sit quietly for a moment regaining their breath before rejoining play with pals.

What an opportunity children are being given to understand how to approach and not approach strange animals. These children are under the supervision of

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3654-02-1C

parents or other responsible persons, often with pets of their own running free. Children, parents and dogs learn to establish the boundaries and pleasures of friendship.

Proponents of forcing all dogs to be leashed claim it is because they chase birds. I have never heard this said about cats, who not only roam unleashed, but when abandoned, are fed on public lands by animal lovers.

My own experience, as past home sharer with cats and dogs, is that both do chase birds.

My current experience with an intelligent dog, staying with us occasionally, from the vantage point of my own backyard shows that she loves to bark at birds and invite them to play. They seldom pay any attention to her, but, while hopeful they may someday accept her invitation, she quickly finds other activities.

My current experience with intelligent cats who stray, unleashed and uninvited from the homes of neighbors who claim ownership, into my front and backyards show that they love to chase birds. They love to lay in wait for birds to enjoy a choice worm or a tasty seed. They love to dismember birds, raid their nests of babies and kill hummingbirds. They leave the body remains and feathers in my yards along with feces.

Responsible owner's of cats keep them indoors for the animals health and safety. This not only saves the birds, but provides a cleaner outdoor environment for all.

If birds are a valid concern to keep dogs on leash, that's "barking up the wrong tree". If so, let's talk about leashing cats and holding their owners to the same standards required by law of dog owners.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area has been doing an excellent job of maintaining the beaches and parks under their jurisdiction. Off-leash recreation has always been a part of usage for these lands and at the time San Francisco transferred beaches and parks to you, it was with the understanding that it would be continued. Please do not renege on this agreement.

Thank you.

Helen Ostoya

Helen Ostoya
2005 Shoreview Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94401-3413

cc: SFDOG, P O Box 31071, San Francisco, CA 94131-0071

Dear Manager -

3655-01-2

I work here in a state park and we have alot of trouble with people taking their dogs on the trails, they are not allowed on them.

We get alot of foreigners coming into the park and we have had numerous complaints about people having their dogs off leash and about dogs chasing the wildlife and some have even chased after the people.

The end result is people not cleaning up after their dogs and they dont keep them on leash.



Sincerly

Linda Kahler

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3.6.02-1C

March 6, 2002



I am writing in support of the continuation of allowing unleashed dogs at Fort Funston. Over the years, during visits to the park with my corgi Lucy, I saw no problems with this arrangement. Rather, I saw joyful canines, romping together and friendly owners, who enjoyed an outing in such a spectacular setting. I never encountered an aggressive dog nor witnessed a dog fight. All involved were happy and up-beat. There were waste disposal bags available. I was impressed to learn that a group was organized to do monthly cleanups, as well.

Many large-breed dogs, such as my Nyala, need the kind of exercise which allows running. There are woefully few →

V2

Duane Miles
P.O. Box 13
Montara
CA 94037

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3657-01-1B

March 10, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I support dogs being leashed in the GGNRA.

Sincerely,
Nancy Munton