Frequently Asked Questions & Maps
Final Environmental Impact Statement
with Preferred Alternative
for Dog Management
Message from the Superintendent

Welcome to Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the most dog-friendly park in the National Park Service.

We are entering the final planning stages in the development of a Dog Management Plan and Final Rule for Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

The release of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is an important step in that process.

The FEIS analyzes alternative approaches to dog management and recommends a Preferred Alternative.

The goals of the Dog Management Plan include balancing recreation and preservation at GGNRA, increasing visitor safety by providing space for all types of recreational users, and protecting park resources for future generations.

We will proudly remain the most dog-friendly park in the National Park Service and the only one to offer off-leash dog recreation.

This document will answer some frequently asked questions about the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Preferred Alternative.

Well-managed dog walking is a healthy and popular way to enjoy our park lands, and we look forward to seeing you at GGNRA soon.

- Jim Milestone
Acting General Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
(and his dog, Hannah)

I encourage you to access the full FEIS and more information at http://www.nps.gov/GOGA.
Frequently Asked Questions

Why is GGNRA implementing a new Dog Management Plan?

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is currently operating under an outdated pet policy developed in 1979.

The Bay Area population has increased over 40% since the 1979 Pet Policy was put in place and is expected to grow another 24% by the year 2040, reaching a population of 9.3 million people. The Dog Management Plan would protect natural and cultural resources, provide safe, healthy, clean, and fun recreational experiences for all visitors, and preserve our national heritage for future generations.

Since 1979, park visitation has grown significantly along with our understanding of park resources. GGNRA now welcomes 17 million visitors each year. Park inventories have documented more than 3,800 species, including 37 federally endangered and threatened species, several of which may be affected by dog walking. The park’s growing popularity sometimes results in conflicts between people, dogs, and park resources. Law enforcement has documented a growing number of conflicts, averaging more than 300 dog-related incidents each year (during an initial study from 2008-2011).

A Dog Management Plan is now needed to ensure a safe, healthy, meaningful, and enriching experience for all of our park visitors while protecting park resources for future generations to come.

Where is GGNRA in the planning process?

The National Park Service is entering the final planning stages in the development of a Dog Management Plan and Final Rule for GGNRA.

As a next step, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) analyzes alternative approaches to dog management and recommends a Preferred Alternative. A Record of Decision (ROD) will follow, signaling federal approval.

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**DOG MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS**

|------|------|------|-----------|------|-----------|

**2016**

**WINTER**

Release and comment on Proposed Rule based on SEIS Preferred Alternative

**SPRING**

Review of public comments on Proposed Rule along with SEIS comments

**SUMMER**

**FALL**

Release of Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) with Preferred Alternative

**2017**

**WINTER**

Record of Decision signed. Final Rule published in the federal register, including an effective date. Implementation will include education & outreach and installation of signage.
of the FEIS Preferred Alternative. The planning process will conclude with the publication of the Final Rule in the Federal Register early next year.

The Final Rule will specify an effective date. Implementation of the Final Rule will include public outreach and education and the installation of signage, fencing, vegetation and other physical barriers that are critical to the successful implementation of this new dog management special regulation.

The FEIS, ROD, and Final Rule represent the final steps in a 14-year process, informed by public comment, to develop a commonsense rule that supports the wide variety of recreational activities found at GGNRA in a safe environment, while protecting natural and cultural resources for future generations.

**What is a “Rule” for dog management?**

Federal agencies such as the National Park Service have rules and regulations that guide policies, programs, and management. In order to update or change these rules, a rulemaking process is necessary.

The Rule for Dog Management at GGNRA will identify places in the park where dogs are welcome – both on-leash and under voice and sight control – as well as areas that are dog-free. It will also describe the responsibilities of dog owners to manage their dogs effectively and requirements for people walking 4-6 dogs at one time.

**Will there be a formal public comment period on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), Record of Decision (ROD), or Final Rule?**


There will not be a formal public comment period for the FEIS, ROD, or Final Rule. The FEIS, ROD, and Final Rule will be available for public review.
How does the Dog Management Plan/FEIS Preferred Alternative reflect public comment?

GGNRA received more than 16,000 public correspondences during the overall dog management planning process. Comments have been categorized and responded to in public planning documents.

Most recently, the FEIS Preferred Alternative incorporates a number of changes as a result of more than 4,100 public comments on a Proposed Rule issued in early 2016. A partial list of recent changes since the Proposed Rule includes:

- Addition of voice and sight control area at Rancho Corral de Tierra (Flat Top)
- Addition of an on-leash loop trail at Muir Beach (Kaashi Way)
- Expansion of both voice-and-sight-control and dog-free areas at Crissy Field
- Realignment and expansion of on-leash area at Baker Beach
- Addition of an accessible on- and off-leash trail at Fort Funston
- Addition of on-leash trail at Mori Point (Mori Headlands Trail)
- Addition of on-leash trail to overlook at Milagra Ridge (Milagra Ridge Road)

How much of the park will be available to dog walking? Does the FEIS Preferred Alternative reduce dog walking to a small fraction of the park?

The FEIS Preferred Alternative identifies 22 locations for dog walking in the GGNRA, including areas in 6 locations that would welcome dogs under voice and sight control (off-leash).

While GGNRA is 80,000 acres, NPS only directly manages 18,500 acres, including steep slopes, cliffs, and land that is inaccessible to all.

Of the 8.8 miles of beaches, about 2.8 miles (31%) will be available for dog walkers, including 2.3 miles for voice and sight control.

Of the 140 miles of trails addressed in our planning process, approximately 47 miles (34%) will be available for dog walking. GGNRA would remain the most dog-friendly of the 413 units of National Park Service and the only national park to provide areas for walking dogs under voice and sight control (off-leash).
What about dog access at two of the most popular locations: Fort Funston and Crissy Field?

The area available for dog use is substantial at these two locations. At Fort Funston, the Preferred Alternative includes more than 18 acres upland for voice and sight control, in addition to the beach. Most of the site’s trails and parking lots would also be available for dogs on-leash.

At Crissy Field, dogs would be permitted in most places. Approximately 40% of the airfield, and 40% of the beachfront mileage would be available for voice and sight control (off-leash) dog use. In addition, much of the airfield (83%), the East Beach picnic area, and nearly all of the trails would be open to dogs on-leash.

Where would I be able to walk my dog at GGNRA under voice and sight control (off-leash) as described in the FEIS Preferred Alternative?

Dogs under voice and sight control (off-leash) would be allowed at areas at six park locations: Rodeo Beach; Fort Mason; Crissy Field; Ocean Beach; Fort Funston; and Rancho Corral de Tierra.

Why are you allowing permitted dog walking for 4-6 dogs?

As part of the dog management planning process, NPS evaluated the impacts of a permit program and concluded that the program would meet the dog management planning objectives.

In 2014, GGNRA successfully introduced an interim permit requirement for walking 4-6 dogs, a separate effort from the dog management planning, due to commercial dog walking regulations being adopted by the City and County of San Francisco and the City of Tiburon.

The Preferred Alternative would require a permit for anyone walking 4-6 dogs in the park. Permittees would have access to walk dogs in 7 park locations in GGNRA, Monday through Friday from 8 AM - 5 PM (see maps bordered by green in the section that follows).

Will the Rule go into effect immediately?

NPS anticipates the Final Rule for Dog Management in GGNRA will be published in the Federal Register in early winter 2017.

The Final Rule will specify an effective date.

Implementation of the Final Rule will include public outreach and education and the installation of signage, fencing, vegetation, and other physical barriers that are critical to the successful implementation of this new dog management special regulation.

How will GGNRA monitor compliance with the Rule? Could there be further changes?

All areas open to dog walking will be subject to a Monitoring Management Program. This program will include regular monitoring and documenting compliance with the Final Rule. If compliance approaches an unacceptable level, for example by the number or types of violations, resource or visitor impacts, management actions will be taken to increase compliance.

Examples of management actions include: additional outreach and education; increased area-specific enforcement; fine increases; special use permit restrictions; training requirements; or additional separation of areas.

If primary management actions do not successfully address the problem, secondary action would be taken, which may include: additional use restrictions, including training certification to use off-leash areas and/or limits to the number of dogs off-leash at one time with one guardian; short- or long-term closures of some areas to dog walking; or increased buffer zones.
Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash. Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted. Trails shown are any official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015. Former trail, road and feature names are in parens. Parking lots, elevators and sandwiched public roads are on the map. For Illustrative Purposes Only

Plan/EIS Boundary
Leash Required (planned trail)
Leash Required
Future Planned Trail
Former trail, road and feature names are in parens.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Map 2-F: Stinson Beach
Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash.

Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

Trails shown are only official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015.

Former trail, road and feature names are in parens.
Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash.

Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

Trails shown are only official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015.

Former trail, road and feature names are in parens.
Walking 4-6 Dogs Allowed with NPS Permit

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash.

Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

Trails shown are only official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015.

Former trail, road and feature names are in parens.

For Illustrative Purposes Only
Muir Beach Community

Redwood Creek

Tidal Lagoon

Creek/lagoon closed to public access.

Pacific Way Parking Lot

Muir Beach Trail (pedestrian bridge)

Kaashi Way (Kaasi Road)

Coastal Trail

Managed by GGNRA

Managed by GGNRA

GGNRA

GGNRA

Pacific Way entrance channel

En trance to public access.

Creek/lagoon closed

Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash.

Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

Trails shown are only official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015.

For Illustrative Purposes Only

Alternative F

(On-leash dog walking allowed only when creek is not connected to ocean.)

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Map 5F: Muir Beach
Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash or Voice and Sight Control.

Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

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Former trail, road and feature names are in parens.
Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash or Voice and Sight Control.

Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

Trails shown are only official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015.

Former trail, road and feature names are in parens.
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For illustrative purposes only.

Alternative F Trail - Leash Required

Voice and Sight Control Area

Former trail, road and feature names are in parentheses. Trails shown are NPS official NPS trails and names are open to alter later. Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash or Voice and Sight Control. Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

Map 7F: Marin Headlands - Rodeo Valley National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Golden Gate Bridge

See Map 6F for Detail

For Illustrative Purposes Only

Alternative F Trail - Leash Required

Voice and Sight Control Area

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Map 8F: Fort Baker
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash.
Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

Former trail, road and feature names are in parentheses.

All official NPS trails and names shown are of 8/2015.

For Illustrative Purposes Only

Alternative F
Leash Required
Trail - Leash Required

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Future Planned Trail

Conzelman Rd (Battery Yates Trail)

For Illustrative Purposes Only

Alternative F
Leash Required
Trail - Leash Required

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Future Planned Trail

Conzelman Rd (Battery Yates Trail)
Dog walking allowed in areas designated for on-leash. Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

Walking 4-6 Dogs Allowed with NPS Permit

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Map 8F: Fort Baker

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for either on-leash or Voice and Sight Control. Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted. No dogs allowed in public buildings, on lawns around office or in the Community Gardens. Trails shown are only official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015. Former trail, road and feature names are in parens. No dogs allowed in public buildings, on lawns around office or in the Community Gardens. Former trail, road and feature names are in parens. No dogs allowed in public buildings, on lawns around office or in the Community Gardens. Former trail, road and feature names are in parens.

For Illustrative Purposes Only

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Map 9F: Fort Mason

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Leash Required
Plan\FEIS Boundary
Voice and Sight Control Area
Trash Required
Trail - Leash Required

Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for either on-leash or Voice and Sight Control. Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted. No dogs allowed in public buildings, on lawns around office or in the Community Gardens.

Trails shown are only official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015. No other trails or oaks in public buildings or parks.

Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted. No dogs allowed in public buildings, on lawns around office or in the Community Gardens. Trails shown are only official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015.

Walking 4-6 Dogs Allowed with NPS Permit
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Former trail, road and feature names are in parentheses.

Alternative Voice and Sight Control Area - Leash Required

Trail - leash required

Plan/FEIS Boundary

01,000 Feet

For Illustrative Purposes Only

Map 10F: Crissy Field

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for either on-leash or Voice and Sight Control. Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted. Trails shown are only official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015. Alternative F - Voice and Sight Control Area - Leash Required - Plan/FEIS Boundary. For Illustrative Purposes Only.

Walking 4-6 Dogs Allowed with NPS Permit.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Walking 4-6 Dogs Allowed with NPS Permit.

Map 10F: Crissy Field
Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for either on-leash or voice and sight control. Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

Dashed line represents future planned trail. Trails shown are only official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015. Former trail, road and feature names are in parens.
Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

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Former trail, road and feature names are in paren.
Walking 4-6 Dogs Allowed with NPS Permit

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Alternative F
- Trail - Leash Required
- Leash Required
- Plant/FEIS Boundary

Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash.

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Former trail, road and feature names are in parens.

Coastal Trail from Lincoln Way to Sloat Blvd may be City and County of San Francisco Jurisdiction. A survey is pending.
Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for either on-leash or Voice and Sight Control.

Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

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For Illustrative Purposes Only
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Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash.

Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

Trails shown are only official NPS trails and names are current as of 8/2015.

Former trail, road and feature names are in parens.

Alternative F

Trail - Leash Required

Plan/FEIS Boundary

Non-NPS land under consideration for transfer to GGNRA.

Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash.

For Illustrative Purposes Only
For Illustrative Purposes Only

Alternative F

- Trail - Leash Required
- Voice and Sight Control Area
- Plan\FEIS Boundary

Dog walking allowed only in areas designated for on-leash.

Parking lots, sidewalks and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless posted.

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Former trail, road and feature names are in parens.