



Golden Gate National Recreation Area • Muir Woods National Monument



Dear Friends,

We invite your help in imagining the future of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (Golden Gate). Golden Gate is a resource that contributes to this region's greatness. On any given day, it is possible to stroll through the majestic redwood trees of Muir Woods, find respite from a busy urban area, experience and learn about military history, hike the coastal trail at Mori Point, immerse yourself in history at Alcatraz Island, or spot a red-tailed hawk soaring in the Marin Headlands.

These are your park lands. This is your opportunity to help create the vision for their future.

We need your participation to help create the framework that will guide Golden Gate's management for the next 20 years. It has been more than 25 years since the original general management plan (GMP) for Golden Gate was put in place. Since then, Golden Gate has more than doubled in size and visitation, and the ecological and historical significance of its resources are better understood. Now it is time to look forward again — to see how we can best preserve the natural vitality and unique cultural history of our park lands and continue to make them great places for all of us to visit and enjoy.

That's where you come in.

We are reaching out for your help and input as we develop a new general management plan for Golden Gate for the next 20 years. Starting in April, the National Park Service (NPS) will host five open houses throughout the Bay Area. We hope you will join us at one of these open houses to learn more about the general management plan; meet the planning team; and share your ideas, concerns, and thoughts about these special places. We also ask that you read this newsletter and fill out the enclosed response form to let us know if you would like to be on the GMP mailing list.

If you have comments or questions at any time in the planning process, please don't hesitate to contact us by e-mail at goga_gmp@nps.gov; by phone (message only) at (415) 561-4965; or by sending a letter to National Park Service General Management Planning, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Fort Mason, Bldg. 201, San Francisco, CA 94123.

You may also log onto our website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goga>. Community input, coupled with NPS expertise, is a powerful combination for maximizing the potential of Golden Gate. I look forward to creating our collective vision for these wonderful park lands.

Sincerely,

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

You're Invited to an Open House

To help launch the General Management Plan

- Learn more about the park's resources
- Talk with the planning team
- Discuss your ideas, concerns, and thoughts

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

3:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Fort Mason, Building 201, 1st Floor
San Francisco

Thursday, April 20, 2006

3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Pacifica Community Center
540 Crespi Drive
(across from Linda Mar State Beach)
Pacifica

Saturday, April 22, 2006

11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Fort Mason, Building 201, 1st Floor
San Francisco

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

3:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Bay Model
2100 Bridgeway
Sausalito

Thursday, April 27, 2006

3:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Peninsula Community Foundation
1700 South El Camino Real, Suite 300
San Mateo

General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement
Golden Gate National Recreation Area • Muir Woods National Monument

Address:
National Park Service
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Telephone:
415 561-4965

E-mail:
goga_gmp@nps.gov

Park Website:
<http://nps.gov/goga>

Planning Website:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goga>

What Is a General Management Plan?

In reality, much of what we enjoy now in Golden Gate is the result of dedicated communities whose vision was incorporated into the original 1980 *General Management Plan*. The park is a showcase of the results of that community support.

A general management plan serves as a foundation and framework for the management and use of the park lands and articulates the desired conditions for natural and cultural resources and visitor experiences that will best fulfill the park's purpose. The plan looks ahead 20 years and lays the groundwork for more detailed planning and the day-to-day decision making that follows. Providing long-range guidance

for NPS managers, the plan also represents an agreement with the American public about how the park lands will be managed in the future.

The general management plan considers the park as part of larger ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic systems. This comprehensive approach includes coordination with the park's neighbors, including other open space land managers and neighboring communities, to ensure that the decisions made through this process are widely supported and sustainable over time.

Why Do We Need a New General Management Plan?

The new general management plan will be our blueprint to move into the future. It has been more than 25 years since the original plan for Golden Gate was approved. Since then, the park has doubled in size, and we have gained a better understanding of the natural and cultural resources and recreational uses within the park.

For instance, Golden Gate now is considered to be one of the most biologically diverse areas along the California Coast and is recognized by the United Nations as part of the

Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve. Also, 44 cultural landscapes, including Marin ranch sites such as the Golden Gate Dairy and Miwok Stables sites, have been identified within the park since 1980, expanding our awareness of their historical importance. At the same time, the growing and diverse population of the San Francisco Bay Area now enjoys Golden Gate in a variety of ways, creating new and different demands that must be addressed by the National Park Service.

What Areas Will Be Included in the New General Management Plan?

The new general management plan will address only NPS-administered lands within the boundaries of Golden Gate. The plan will focus on sites that do not have recent land use planning, such as Muir Woods National Monument and the San Mateo County lands that have been added to the park since 1980. The Presidio, Fort Baker, and Fort Mason Center will not be revisited in this new plan because those sites have recently updated land use management plans. Golden Gate

lands north of the Bolinas-Fairfax Road are being addressed in the *Point Reyes National Seashore General Management Plan Update*.



Next Steps and How to Get Involved

The GMP process will take four – five years to complete. During that time, we will be looking for your assistance throughout the process by:

- Sharing your concerns, expectations, values and information *now* – at the beginning of the process
- Reviewing and commenting on the preliminary planning alternatives
- Reviewing and commenting on the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*

Planning Process for the General Management Plan

Estimated Time Frame	Planning Activity	Public Involvement Opportunities
Spring 2006	Scoping — Identify concerns, expectations, and values related to the park with the public, park partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns using the response form. Attend public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns.
Spring 2006 to Spring 2007	Data and Resource Analysis — Identify planning opportunities and constraints.	Attend public workshop.
Fall 2006 to Fall 2007	Develop and Present Preliminary Alternatives — Outline different possible futures for the park and provide opportunities for review and comment by the public, park partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns using the response form. Attend public meetings and comment on the preliminary alternatives.
Fall 2007 to Spring 2009	Prepare and Distribute a <i>Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i> — Review and comment by the public, park partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Attend public meetings, and voice your ideas and concerns. Review the <i>Draft GMP/EIS</i> and provide written comments.
Spring 2009 to Fall 2009	Revise <i>Draft Plan</i> and Prepare a <i>Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i>	Review the <i>Final GMP/EIS</i> .
Winter 2010	Implement the Approved Plan — Prepare and issue a "Record of Decision" and implement plan as funding allows.	Work with the park to implement the plan.

Park Purpose and Park Significance

Park purpose is a clear statement of why Congress and /or the president established the park as a unit of the national park system.

Statements of **park significance** define what is **most important** about the park's resources and values, and are based on the purpose of why the park was created. These statements capture the attributes that make the park's resources and values important enough for Congress and/or the president to establish it as a unit of the national park system. The park significance statements, along with the park purpose, are used to guide all planning and management decisions made about the park.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Park Purpose. The purpose of Golden Gate National Recreation Area is to offer national park experiences to a large urban population while preserving and interpreting its outstanding natural, historic, scenic, and recreational values.

Park Significance. The convergence of the San Andreas Fault, San Francisco Bay at the Golden Gate, and the California coastline creates a dynamic landscape and environment of exceptional scientific value.

The undeveloped remnant coastal corridor of marine, estuarine, and terrestrial ecosystems supports exceptional native biodiversity and provides a refuge for one of the largest concentrations of rare, threatened, and endangered species in the national park system.

The park includes the largest and most complete collection of military installations and fortifications in the country, dating from Spanish settlement in 1776 through the 20th century. These installations served as a command post for the Army in the Western United States and the Pacific. This long period of military presence has yielded one of the most extensive collections of historic architecture in the national park system.

Alcatraz Island, the site of pre-Civil War fortifications, later was the nation's first military prison, became the most infamous maximum security penitentiary in the United States, and subsequently was the site of the occupation that helped ignite the movement for American Indian self-determination.

The natural scenic landscape, vistas, and coastal environment of the Golden Gate area is an internationally recognized panoramic backdrop to the metropolitan San Francisco Bay area that contributes to the quality of life of the residents.

The continuum of land and resources at the doorstep of the San Francisco Bay area provides an abundant range of recreational and educational opportunities.

Muir Woods National Monument

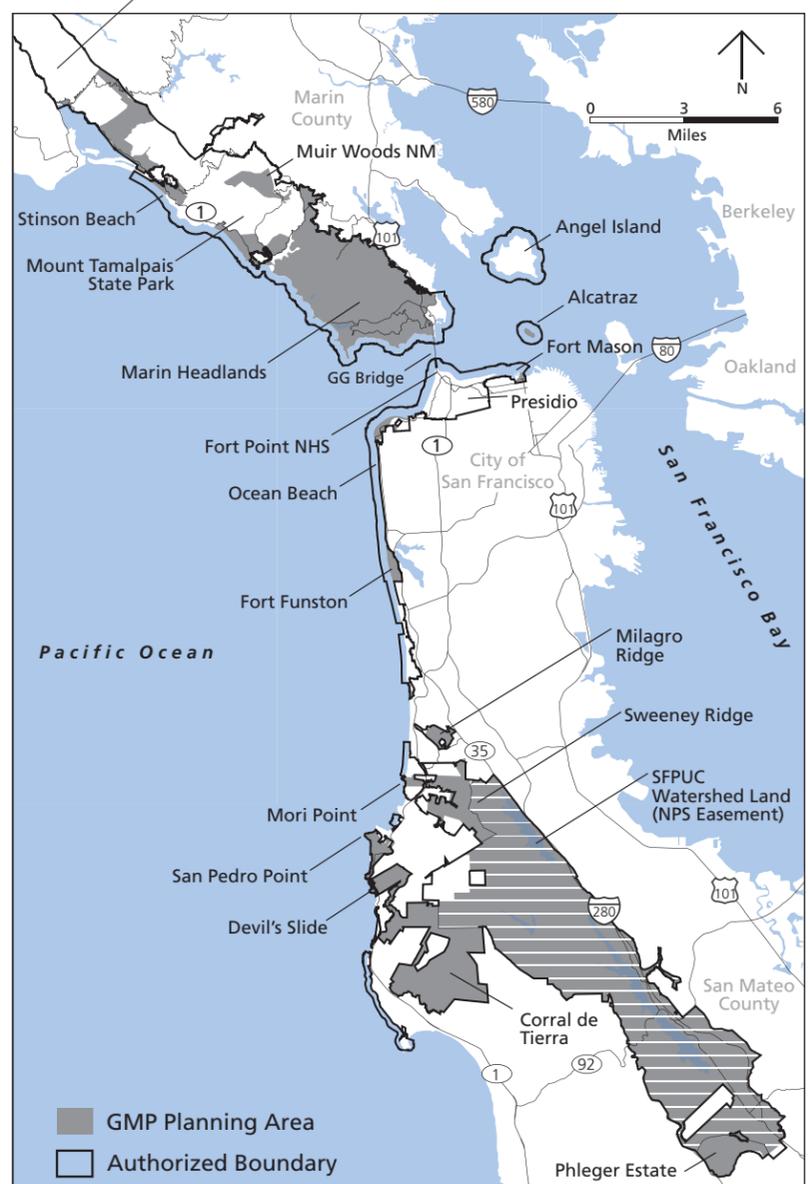
Park Purpose. The purpose of Muir Woods National Monument is to preserve the primeval character and ecological integrity of the old-growth redwood forest for scientific values and inspiration.

Park Significance. This last remnant old-growth forest close to an urban center retains its primeval character and supports a relatively intact ecosystem. Muir Woods is also an important manifestation of early 20th century conservation history.



The Planning Area

Golden Gate National Recreation Area lands north of Bolinas/Fairfax Road are managed by Point Reyes National Seashore.



The planning area includes an offshore distance of approximately 1,000 feet adjacent to the authorized boundary.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area preserves and enhances the natural and cultural resources of the coastal lands north and south of the Golden Gate for the inspiration, education, and recreation of people today, and for future generations. The National Park Service is committed to forging partnerships with the community to strengthen the park's relevance to our metropolitan neighbors and to engage the public in stewardship of the park's history and lands.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

- created in 1972 to bring national park experiences to urban residents
- 79,378 acres (and growing)
- 75 miles of shoreline
- 13 million visitors annually

Natural Resources

- more than 80 sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species
- 1,200 plant species within a diverse range of native plant communities
- a migratory "highway" for more than 15,000 hawks and other raptors annually
- designated part of the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Cultural Resources

- 1,250 historic structures, more than any other unit in the national park system
- almost 5 million items in its museum and archival collections
- world famous landmarks: Alcatraz, Muir Woods, Cliff House, Fort Point, Marin Headlands, and the Presidio of San Francisco

There are many ways to participate:

Send Us Your Comments and Sign Up for the GMP Mailing List

- Return the enclosed response form with your comments and contact information,
- Send an email: goga_gmp@nps.gov, or
- Send a letter: National Park Service General Management Planning, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Fort Mason, Bldg. 201, San Francisco, CA 94123.

Visit Our Website or Call the Information Line

For regular updates on the process, public meeting announcements, copies of newsletters, and planning documents, please visit
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goga>

You may also call our GMP information line (message only):
(415) 561-4965

Attend an Open House

The National Park Service will kick off the planning process with five open houses in April.



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General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

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