



Golden Gate National Recreation Area • Muir Woods National Monument



Dear Friends,

We are at an exciting stage in creating a new vision and direction for managing Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Muir Woods National Monument (often referred to collectively as “the park”). In this newsletter, the planning team presents preliminary alternatives that describe three different future visions for managing the natural and cultural resources and opportunities for visitor experiences within the park. By developing preliminary alternatives, the planning team is able to explore different ways that the park could be managed. Once fully developed, one of these alternatives could be selected as the National Park Service’s preferred alternative or a new alternative could emerge that combines elements from some or all of the preliminary alternatives.

At this time, we are pausing to share our progress with you and gather your thoughts and ideas before we proceed with work on the general management plan. Your review and comments on the preliminary alternatives will help refine these alternatives and guide the planning team in developing the preferred alternative.

In this newsletter, you will find summaries of the work we have accomplished so far. Following the summaries is a presentation of the management zones and preliminary alternatives for your review. Your comments are very important, as the planning process is at a stage where the alternatives are still evolving. This June, we invite you to join us at open houses in Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties where you will be able to explore, discuss, and comment on the preliminary alternatives. Below is a list of the many ways you can share your comments and some links to more information related to the plan. Thank you for your interest and participation in the development of the general management plan.

Sincerely,

Brian O’Neill
Superintendent

You’re Invited to an Open House!

The park staff will be hosting open houses in Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties. We invite you to explore the preliminary alternatives and discuss your ideas, concerns, and thoughts with the planning team.

Wednesday, June 4, 3:30 to 6:30 PM
Harbor House Conference Center,
in Princeton-by-the-Sea
346 Princeton Avenue
Half Moon Bay, California 94019

Thursday, June 5, 3:30 to 6:30 PM
Sanchez Art Center, Concert Hall
1220 Linda Mar Blvd.
Pacifica, California 94044

Saturday, June 7, 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Fort Mason Center, at Marina Blvd. &
Buchanan St., Bldg. D, Rm 100
San Francisco, California 94123

Tuesday, June 10, 3:30 to 6:30 PM
SF Bay Model Visitor Center, Multi-Purpose
Room, Marinship Way, via Bridgeway St. & West
Harbor Dr., Sausalito, California 94965

Tuesday, June 17, 3:30 to 6:30 PM
Independence Hall, in Woodside Town Hall
2955 Woodside Rd. (Behind the Pioneer Hotel)
Woodside, California 94062

Sign language interpreters are available on request, but please make the request at least one week prior to the event. The park’s TDD phone number is (415) 556-2766.

How to be Involved

Your written comments on this newsletter are welcomed and encouraged! Comments can be submitted electronically or by mail as listed below. Please consider the questions listed on the enclosed comment form in addition to any other thoughts and ideas. Receiving your input before August 1, 2008 will allow us to learn from you before we continue forward with the planning for the general management plan. Thank you.

Mail your comment form or letters to:

National Park Service
General Management Planning Team - GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

In addition to written comments, you can provide your comments on the preliminary alternatives during the upcoming open houses. We encourage you to attend one of these workshops to talk with the planning team firsthand about your ideas, comments and questions! The open house schedule is listed on page 1.

Web Site:

Complete the electronic version of the comment form on the web at:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goga>

Email:

Submit letters and comment via email to:
goga_gmp@nps.gov.

Telephone (message only):

415.561.4965

Sign up for the E-Newsletter

Please sign up for the e-newsletter at:
<http://www.nps.gov/goga/parkmgmt/planninglanding.htm>. We will be sending additional information (including newsletters) via e-mail.

You can also visit the National Park Service’s Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goga> where you will find more information on the general management and other planning efforts currently underway at Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Muir Woods National Monument.

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Summary of management zones for park planning.



General Management Planning

Much of what we enjoy now at Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Muir Woods National Monument is the result of dedicated community members whose visions helped preserve these lands and who contributed to the original 1980 *General Management Plan*. These park areas are a showcase of that community support.

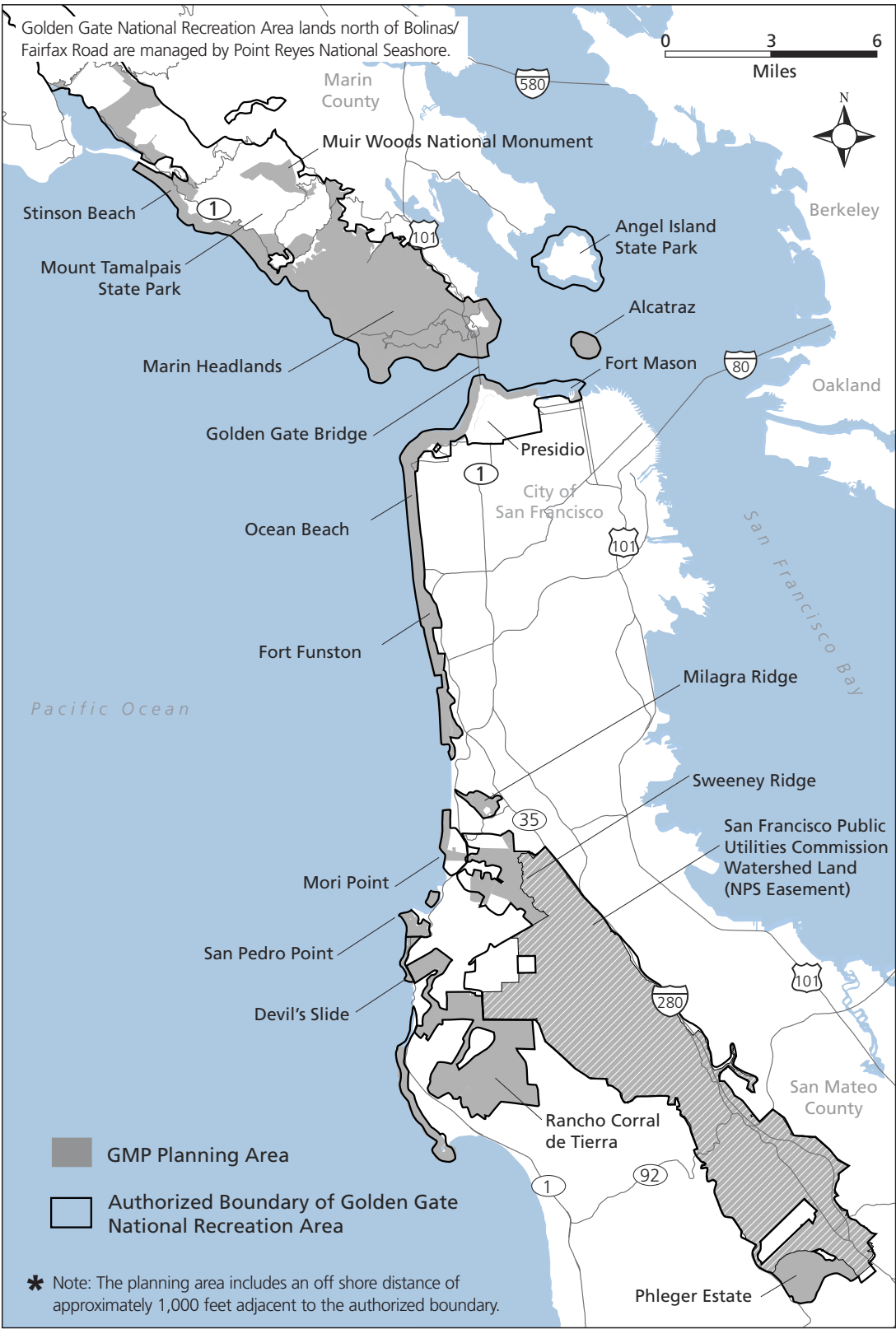
A general management plan serves as a foundation and framework for the management and use of park lands, and articulates the desired future conditions for natural and cultural resources and visitor experiences that will best fulfill a park’s legislated purposes. The plan will look ahead at least 20 years and guide the detailed planning and day-to-day decision making that will follow.

The plan represents an agreement with the American public about how these park lands will be managed in the future. The general management plan considers the park areas as part of a larger ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic system. This comprehensive approach involves coordination with park 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.

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 National Recreation Area was approved. Since then, the park has doubled in size, and the park staff has gained a better understanding of the natural and cultural resources and recreational uses within the park.

Although always valued for its preservation of public open spaces, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is now 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. Numerous and varied landscapes, including military landscapes, ranch sites, and historic districts, have been identified within the park since 1980, expanding our awareness of the park’s historical importance. At the same time, the growing and diverse population of the San Francisco Bay Area now enjoys the park in a variety of ways, creating new and different demands that must be addressed.

The Planning Area Map



Where We Are in the General Management Planning Schedule

Earlier this year, the GMP planning team defined the issues that the new management plan will address, guided by the public comments we received. Using this information, the planning team developed management concepts, each exploring a different possible future for the parks. During the next six months, the planning team will further refine the preliminary alternatives with assistance from the public.

Status	Estimated Time Frame	Planning Activity	Public Involvement Opportunities
Completed	Spring and Summer 2006	Foundation – Identify park purpose, significance, primary interpretive themes and the fundamental resources and values of the parks. Scoping – Identify concerns, expectations, and values related to the parks with the public, NPS staff, partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review Newsletter #1 and send us your ideas and concerns using the response form. Attend one of six public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns.
Completed	Fall 2006 to Winter 2007	Planning Issues – Guided by public input, identify a set of issues that the general management plan will address. Data and Resource Analysis – Collect and analyze data associated with each planning issue and identify opportunities and constraints.	Review Newsletter #2 and send us your comments. Participate in quarterly Golden Gate National Recreation Area open houses regarding current park projects including the GMP.
Completed	Spring to Fall 2007	Management Concepts – Develop a range of management concepts to explore different potential visions for the future of the parks. These management concepts are then built into preliminary alternatives with more detail. Management Zones – Develop a draft set of management zones for use in developing preliminary alternatives. Preliminary Alternatives – Develop a set of preliminary alternatives that detail the proposed vision for the future of the parks.	Review Newsletter #3 and send us your comments. Participate in quarterly Golden Gate National Recreation Area open houses regarding current park projects including the GMP.
In Progress	Winter to Summer 2008	Complete Development of the GMP Alternatives Based on public input from this newsletter and the public workshops in June 2008, revise and complete the range of alternatives that will be analyzed in the General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement; select/create the NPS preferred alternative.	Review Newsletter #4 and send us your comments. Participate in the June 2008 planning open houses and voice your ideas and concerns about the preliminary alternatives. Stay informed about the process by visiting the website and reading periodic postcards and e-newsletters.
	Fall 2008 to Spring 2009	Prepare and Distribute a Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement	Attend public workshops and voice your ideas and concerns. Review the Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement and provide written comments.
	Summer and Fall 2009	Revise Draft Plan and Prepare a Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement	Review the Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement.
	Winter 2010	Begin to Implement the Approved Plan Prepare and issue a “Record of Decision” and implement the plan as funding allows.	Work with the NPS to implement the approved plan.

The Planning Area

The new general management plan will address the NPS-administered lands within the legislative boundaries of Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Muir Woods National Monument. The planning area includes only park sites that are not covered by recent land use management plans. The planning area also includes newly acquired and future land acquisitions as well as lands and waters that are leased to the National Park Service or are under other management arrangements or easements (such as the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed). Golden Gate National Recreation Area lands north of Bolinas-Fairfax Road are being addressed in the *Point Reyes National Seashore General Management Plan Update*.



Some park sites have recently completed new land use management plans, and therefore are not included in the GMP planning area. These include:

- Presidio of San Francisco, including Fort Point National Historic Site and Crissy Field
- Sutro Historic District
- Fort Baker
- Lower Fort Mason

These park areas will not be revisited in this plan.

Ongoing plans include:

- Marin Headlands and Fort Baker Transportation Infrastructure and Management Plan
- Wetland and Creek Restoration at Big Lagoon, Muir Beach
- Marin Equestrian Plan
- Headlands Institute Campus Improvement and Expansion Plan
- The Marine Mammal Center Site and Facilities Improvements
- Extension of San Francisco Municipal Railway’s Historic Streetcar EIS
- EIS/Dog Management Plan for GGNRA.

These plans are being coordinated with the GMP and will be incorporated as appropriate.

Park Purpose and Significance

The following park purpose and significance statements are based upon the enabling legislation and an analysis of park resources. These statements convey the reasons Congress and the president established the park



Rancho Corral de Tierra © 2000 Robert Buelteman. Courtesy of POST

and why each park is distinctive. Park purpose and significance statements form the foundation for developing general management plans. Planning proposals must be consistent with these foundation statements.



National Park Service photo

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Park Purpose

The purpose of Golden Gate National Recreation Area is to offer national park experiences to a large and diverse urban population while preserving and interpreting the park’s 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 environment of exceptional scientific value.
- The remnant undeveloped 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 one of the largest and most complete collections of military installations and fortifications in the country, dating from Spanish settlement in 1776 through the 20th century. These installations served as 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, was the nation's first military prison, later became the most notorious 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.
- Park lands are within the traditional homelands of Coast Miwok and Ohlone people. They contain indigenous archeological sites with native heritage, historic, and scientific values.
- The continuum of park resources at the doorstep of the San Francisco Bay Area provides an abundance of recreational and educational opportunities.
- The coastal headlands of the Golden Gate are internationally recognized for their outstanding scenic quality. They serve as the panoramic backdrop to the metropolitan San Francisco Bay Area and contribute to the quality of life for area residents and visitors.

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

- Muir Woods National Monument preserves the last remnant old-growth forest close to metropolitan San Francisco that retains its primeval character.
- The establishment of the monument is an important manifestation of early 20th century conservation history.



Guiding Principles

Park managers must follow many laws, policies, and directives when managing national parks. In addition, we have identified some fundamental principles that will help guide the management of the park.

Sustainability

We will continue to learn about and use practices that help sustain the resources of our park. Sustainability will be fundamental to the facilities, projects, programs, and operations of the park, using sound environmental management practices. We will demonstrate environmental leadership and seek opportunities to promote sustainability and stewardship to park visitors, neighboring communities, and the stakeholders we serve.

Community Based Stewardship

We are committed to ongoing involvement of individuals and organizations in understanding, caring for, and preserving the park’s natural habitats, historic places, and trails. This community stewardship brings the commitment to preserve our common heritage and public lands—national treasures that can best be sustained with the help of others.

Civic Engagement

We are dedicated to ongoing, dynamic conversations with the communities we serve. We will provide opportunities for meaningful involvement to promote better understanding and communication, discuss concerns, and express values and preferences when park decisions and policies are being developed and implemented.

Partnerships

We will continue to build on the legacy of the many partnerships that have extended our ability to protect resources and serve the public since the park was established. Through mutual collaboration, shared values, and learning, these partnerships have created outcomes beyond any one organization’s individual capacity. Partnerships will continue to be an important way to accomplish the park’s mission and build a community of stewardship.

Regional Collaboration

In working to preserve our park’s resources unimpaired for future generations, park managers will establish and maintain cooperative relationships with managers of adjacent public lands; tribal, state, and local governments; community organizations; and private landowners. We will collaborate with others to ensure that watersheds, ecosystems, viewsheds, and trail and transportation systems that extend beyond park boundaries are considered holistically, in order to best preserve important park resources, provide equitable and sustainable access, and advance the goal of creating a seamless network of parks.

Planning Issues to be Addressed in the General Management Plan

This section summarizes the major issues that the new general management plan will address. The exploration of different ways to address these topics and the issues associated with them was the basis for the

development of the range of management concepts and preliminary alternatives.

Visitor Access: Transportation and Trails

The plan will address visitor access to and within the park in order to improve visitor experiences, improve connections among park sites and the larger community, and protect resources.

Recreation Opportunities and Conflicts

The plan will address recreational opportunities by identifying types of use, desired experiences, and support facilities that are appropriate for different park sites in response to visitor demand and resource sensitivity. The plan will also provide guidance on how to promote, evaluate, and manage appropriate and desired types and levels of use.

Sustainable Natural Resource Preservation and Management

The plan will provide direction for preserving and managing fundamental natural resources in a sustainable manner, and encourage stewardship.

Sustainable Cultural Resource Preservation and Management

The plan will provide direction for preserving and managing historic structures, cultural landscapes, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum collections.



Climate Change

The plan will provide guidance on how to assess, respond to, and interpret the impacts of global climate change on park resources, and will identify objectives for reducing the carbon footprint.

Land and Water Protection

The plan will address future land protection and boundary changes.

Better Communication and Reaching New Audiences

The plan will provide guidance to help the National Park Service better connect with all audiences, including underserved communities and new audiences that emerge as populations change .

Operational Facilities

The plan will identify a strategy for locating operational facilities.

Scenic Beauty and Natural Character

The plan will provide guidance in the preservation and enhancement of scenic resources.

Regional Cooperation

The plan will provide guidance on improving communication, coordination, and participation with public and private stakeholders with a goal of protecting ecosystems, watersheds, viewsheds, and visitor opportunities that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Park Identity

The plan will provide guidance on improving and promoting the recognition of Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Muir Woods National Monument as places where many visitors are first introduced to the concept and values of the national park system.

Partnerships

The plan will provide guidance on partnership development and management that enables the NPS managers to make effective decisions and foster flexible, productive relationships.

American Indian Values

The plan will address incorporating Ohlone and Coast Miwok values into the preservation, management, and interpretation of the resources.

Preliminary Alternatives: Different Ways to Imagine the Future

Each preliminary alternative consists of two main components. First, there is a **management concept** that creates a general theme for the overall management of the park. Second, **management zones** are created that identify desired natural and cultural resource conditions

and visitor opportunities, based on the purpose and significance of the park. These zones are applied to the park in various combinations to reflect the general concepts and to form the preliminary alternatives.

Management Concepts

Management concepts were presented for your consideration in Newsletter #3: Concept 1: “Connecting People with the Parks”; Concept 2: “Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems”; Concept 3: “Focusing on National Treasures”; and Concept 4: “Collaborating Regionally.” These management concepts guided the development of the preliminary

alternatives. During this process, the planning team concluded that the fourth management concept would be a guiding principle integrated into all preliminary alternatives, but would not be carried as a distinct land use alternative.

Concept 1: Connecting People with the Parks

The emphasis of this concept is to reach out and engage the community and other potential visitors in the enjoyment, understanding, and stewardship of the park’s resources and values. Park management would focus on ways to attract and welcome people, connect people with the resources, and promote understanding, enjoyment, preservation, and health—all as ways to reinvigorate the human spirit. Visitor opportunities would be relevant to diverse populations now and in the future.

Rationale

The concept was developed to emphasize the park’s management commitment to the founding idea of “parks to the people,” and its purpose in bringing national park experiences to a large and diverse urban population. Because the park serves such a population, improving connections to people is fundamental to achieving the park’s purpose and to maintaining the public’s continued interest and support.

Goals

Visitor Experience

- Actively seek opportunities to respond to the needs and interests of the diversity of visitors.
- Encourage visitors to engage in a wide range of opportunities and experiences in a diversity of settings.
- Enhance outreach and access to and within the park and make them welcoming.

- Foster the visitor’s deep personal connection to the park and discovery of the values and enjoyment of the natural environment.
- Encourage hands-on stewardship through visitor opportunities that promote personal health and responsibility.

Cultural Resources

- Maximize adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of cultural resources (structures and landscapes) to support visitor enjoyment, understanding, and community connections.
- Work with interested groups and populations to manage cultural resources.
- Manage cultural resources so that visitors can connect with park lands and their stories.

Natural Resources

- Maintain the integrity and diversity of natural resources and systems.
- Enhance the public’s access to natural resources to promote visitor understanding and appreciation.
- Integrate natural resource preservation and concepts with visitor stewardship opportunities to deepen visitor understanding.

Concept 2: Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems

The emphasis of this concept is to preserve, enhance and promote dynamic and interconnected coastal ecosystems in which marine resources are valued and prominently featured. Recreational and educational opportunities would allow visitors to learn about and enjoy the coastal and marine environments, and gain a better understanding of the region’s international significance and history.

Rationale

The concept creates a vision for intentionally connecting resources and systems to form contiguous habitat from the ocean to the coastal hills. The more connected the water and land base, the better the ability for ecosystems to adjust and adapt, thus increasing their resiliency to urban pressures and climate change. The concept also responds to the public’s strong interest in having more natural wild lands in close proximity to the urban communities of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Goals

Visitor Experience

- Connect visitors with resources and the park through expanded and diverse science and stewardship programs that are focused on preservation and restoration of coastal and marine resources and address the implications of climate change.
- Provide greater opportunities for visitors to explore wild areas and immerse themselves in nature.

- Manage low-impact visitor use that enhances the qualities of solitude, quiet, and naturalness in critical natural resource areas, and accommodate active recreational pursuits in other areas.
- Increase visitor understanding, awareness, and support for coastal resources through participation in stories and programs about human interaction with and dependency on natural resources.

Cultural Resources

- Emphasize sites and stories connected to coastal resources, including shipwrecks, archeological sites, agricultural lands and uses, coastal defense, and lighthouses.
- Use cultural resources as a platform to raise awareness of the importance of coastal ecosystem conservation.

Natural Resources

- Reconnect fragmented habitat within and adjacent to the park to strengthen the integrity and resiliency of the coastal ecosystem to respond to climate change and urban pressures.
- Optimize recovery of special status species and survival of wide-ranging wildlife.
- Restore natural processes and/or allow these processes to evolve unimpeded to the greatest degree feasible.
- Promote partnerships to help the park become a center for innovative coastal science, stewardship, and learning.



Concept 3: Focusing on National Treasures

The emphasis of this concept is to focus on the park’s nationally important natural and cultural resources. The fundamental resources of each showcased site would be managed at the highest level of preservation to protect their value in perpetuity and to promote appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment. The National Park Service would prominently support resource preservation and educational goals. Visitors would have the opportunity to explore the wide variety of experiences that are associated with many different types of national parks – all in this park. All other resources would be managed to complement the nationally significant resources and visitor experiences.

Rationale

The concept highlights the park’s variety of nationally significant resources. By distinguishing the nationally significant resources and promoting the National Park Service identity, the objective of bringing exemplary national park experiences to an urban population would be met. The concept would also allow the National Park Service to focus the management of the park’s resources, visitor experiences, and partnerships, giving priority to the most significant sites.

Goals

Visitor Experience

- Provide visitors with opportunities to explore, learn, and enjoy the park’s unique resources and stories.
- Allow the park’s distinctive resources and associated stories to shape recreational opportunities.

- Emphasize active public participation in stewardship programs at the showcased sites.
- Provide visitors with opportunities for understanding and enjoying national park experiences.

Cultural Resources

- Emphasize the fundamental resources that contribute to the significance of each park, including national historic landmarks. Manage all other resources to complement the significant resources and visitor experiences.
- Tie all the associated cultural resources, museum collections, and stories to the showcased sites.
- Manage cultural resources to highlight the interpretive and educational values and provide, wherever possible, direct contact with the resources.

Natural Resources

- Emphasize the preservation of fundamental natural resources that contribute to each park’s significance. Manage all other resources to complement the distinctive resources and experiences.
- Protect or restore the integrity of fundamental natural resources that support each park’s significance.
- Manage distinctive natural resources to ensure their ecological integrity while providing opportunities to engage the visitors in hands-on stewardship and exploration.

Management Zones

Management zones have been developed to identify a set of desired conditions for natural and cultural resources, opportunities for visitor experiences, and general levels of development and visitor services. These desired conditions are different in each management zone and reflect the overall focus of that particular zone. Guided by each management concept, zones were applied to the park in different configurations, forming the basis of the preliminary alternatives.

Seven management zones have been developed. These zones identify the widest range of potential natural and cultural resource conditions, visitor experience, and facilities based on the park purpose, significance and special mandates. The zones are summarized in the management zones table included as an insert in this newsletter.

In developing the three preliminary alternatives, the management zones were applied to the park in different configurations that reflect the management concepts. The preliminary alternative maps reflect the intent of each concept, and show how the zones would be allocated.

The Preliminary Alternatives

This newsletter presents the preliminary alternatives with their zone maps and supporting narratives, as well as a description of current conditions. The description of current conditions represents current management direction and trends that are based on the 1980 *General Management Plan* and its subsequent amendments. The description of the current conditions serves as a basis of comparison with the three preliminary alternatives.

The “best” or “preferred” alternative will eventually be developed following an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of each preliminary alternative, including consideration of public comments. The preferred alternative could be similar to one of the preliminary alternatives or it could be a combination of ideas and zoning selected from the various alternatives. The preferred alternative will be fully detailed and analyzed along with the other alternatives in the *Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*; expected for release in spring 2009.

The preliminary alternatives, including zone maps, are included in this newsletter for your review and comment. Your comments continue to guide the process of developing a new vision for managing Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Muir Woods National Monument. We welcome your comments on the preliminary alternatives. Your comments can be posted on the web or via the comment form in this newsletter. NPS staff will also host local workshops to gather input from the public.

	Preliminary Alternatives for Muir Woods National Monument	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
Overview (see alternative maps on pages 12 & 13)	<p>Muir Woods National Monument is managed to protect the primeval redwood forest in the larger Redwood Creek watershed, and to interpret the Monument’s natural history, as well as the establishment of the Monument, which had a major role in the early American conservation movement.</p> <p>One of the most well-known iconic sites in the park, Muir Woods is an international attraction and ecological treasure. With trees over 1,000 years old, it preserves a small yet towering vestige of the vast forests of <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> that once graced the slopes and valleys surrounding San Francisco Bay. The Monument also supports an incredible diversity of flora and fauna.</p> <p>The park balances preserving the redwood ecosystem with providing access to a large number of visitors. For many, it is their initial experience with the national park system. Key park objectives include fostering a conservation ethic among visitors, preserving and restoring critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, supporting public transportation as a way to reduce congestion, and promoting a watershed perspective in land management that includes state parks, two water districts, and local communities.</p>	<p>In this alternative, the park would offer visitors the opportunity to experience and enjoy the primeval forest ecosystem and understand the Monument’s place in American conservation history through a variety of enhanced programs, facilities, and trails that access the forest and connect local communities to the park and surrounding open space.</p> <p>Although retaining much of the present system of trails through the forest, existing facilities and uses would be modified or relocated to reduce their impacts on the ecosystem and improve the park experience.</p> <p>The Monument would continue to welcome a diversity of visitors and support a range of experiences, better serving as a gateway or stepping stone to understanding the national park system.</p> <p>A shuttle system, with parking and basic visitor services off site, would be an important first point for orientation and key to sustainable access.</p> <p>Collaboration with other public land managers would continue to address watershed restoration and stewardship.</p>
Arrival	<p>Today, most visitors arrive by personal vehicles and commercial tour buses. Since 2005 a pilot shuttle service has been used during the summer to help reduce traffic congestion. Current parking areas are located adjacent to Redwood Creek and very near the main concentration of redwoods.</p> <p>The entrance area is located at the edge of the redwood forest adjacent to Redwood Creek. It includes a parking area, restrooms, and a small visitor information station with a book store and fee collection booth. This area is a hub of activity with a mix of pedestrians, automobiles, and buses. Additional parking areas are further down along Redwood Creek.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone</p> <p>To enhance the visitor experience and address congestion problems, permanent shuttle service to Muir Woods would be provided, supported by new welcome centers at Muir Woods and in the vicinity of Highway 1/Interstate 101. The welcome centers would provide orientation, information, restrooms, snacks, picnicking facilities, and a book store; the centers would connect the shuttle to regional and local transportation systems.</p> <p>Parking would be provided at the off-site welcome center; parking retained at the Monument to serve visitors during non-peak times would be modified to reduce impacts to sensitive resources.</p> <p>The existing entry road and entry area would be redesigned to enhance the arrival experience and improve safety. The existing parking closest to the entrance area (the upper lot) would be removed and the meadow would be restored to create a more natural arrival.</p>



Preliminary Alternatives for Muir Woods National Monument		
Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
<p>Muir Woods National Monument and the Redwood Creek watershed are part of the UNESCO Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve--one of the world’s richest reservoirs of plant and animal life. This alternative would restore the primeval character of the old growth redwood forest. Visitors would be immersed in the forest, and could experience the natural sounds, smells, light, and darkness of the forest.</p> <p>The experience would be more primitive than it is today; the majority of the built environment—buildings, parking lots, paved trails—would be removed. The landscape would be ‘messier’ than it is today, but the forest would function more naturally: Redwood Creek would be allowed to meander across the flood plain, flooding the valley bottom, uprooting trees and opening gaps in the canopy; woody debris would accumulate in the creek and on the forest floor; floodplain processes and riparian habitat would be restored by removing, re-aligning, or re-designing trails, bridges and other impediments to natural processes.</p> <p>Where not in conflict with natural resource goals, historic trails and structures would be adapted for contemporary uses. A light-on-the-land accessible trail would reach into the heart of the forest. Visitors would engage in participatory stewardship, education, and science that further the preservation of the forest and all its parts—the creek, salmon, spotted owls, bats, natural sounds—as part of the continuing history and evolution of the land preservation and conservation movement.</p> <p>Restoration of the Redwood Creek watershed would be accelerated in collaboration with other land managers. Actions would include the removal of unneeded management roads and developments, stabilization of sediment sources, and removal of invasive vegetation.</p>	<p>One of the last old-growth forests in the world, Muir Woods National Monument is a window into the complex world of nature and conservation. This alternative would present Muir Woods as a contemplative outdoor museum where visitors would discover the primeval redwood forest and the Monument’s place in the early US conservation movement.</p> <p>A system of thematic trails would lead visitors into the forest to touch, see, and learn, in different ways, about the essential qualities of the forest. These include its iconic giant trees, the ecology of Redwood Creek, and William Kent’s generous donation of the forest to the American public. Rather than continue to concentrate visitation along a main trail, visitors would be encouraged to take different thematic interpretive trails, some new and some existing, to experience the different parts of the park. Other trails would link the Monument with the surrounding lands managed by other organizations.</p> <p>Visitors would continue to be drawn to the Monument to see the trees, but they would leave with a richer understanding of this precious ecosystem and how these few acres helped spark conservation across the United States. They would be motivated to return and learn more of the story.</p> <p>Collaboration with other public land managers would continue to address watershed restoration and stewardship.</p>	Overview (see alternative maps on pages 12 & 13)
<p>Park Operations Zone (Muir Woods Inn area)</p> <p>Throughout the year, all visitors would come to the park either by shuttle service from a transit center in the vicinity of Highway 1/Interstate 101, or under their own power. Only a small parking area would be available for accessibility. The park entrance would be relocated to the current lower parking lot and designed to accommodate a modest transit stop for the shuttle. It would also provide basic visitor services. The Muir Woods Inn and adjacent area would be used for administration and limited park operations.</p> <p>Sensitive Resources Zone (Along Redwood Creek)</p> <p>The existing main entrance area, including the entire upper parking area, restrooms, and visitor center, as well as a major portion of the lower parking lot, would be removed to restore natural conditions, including seasonal flooding.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1</p>	Arrival



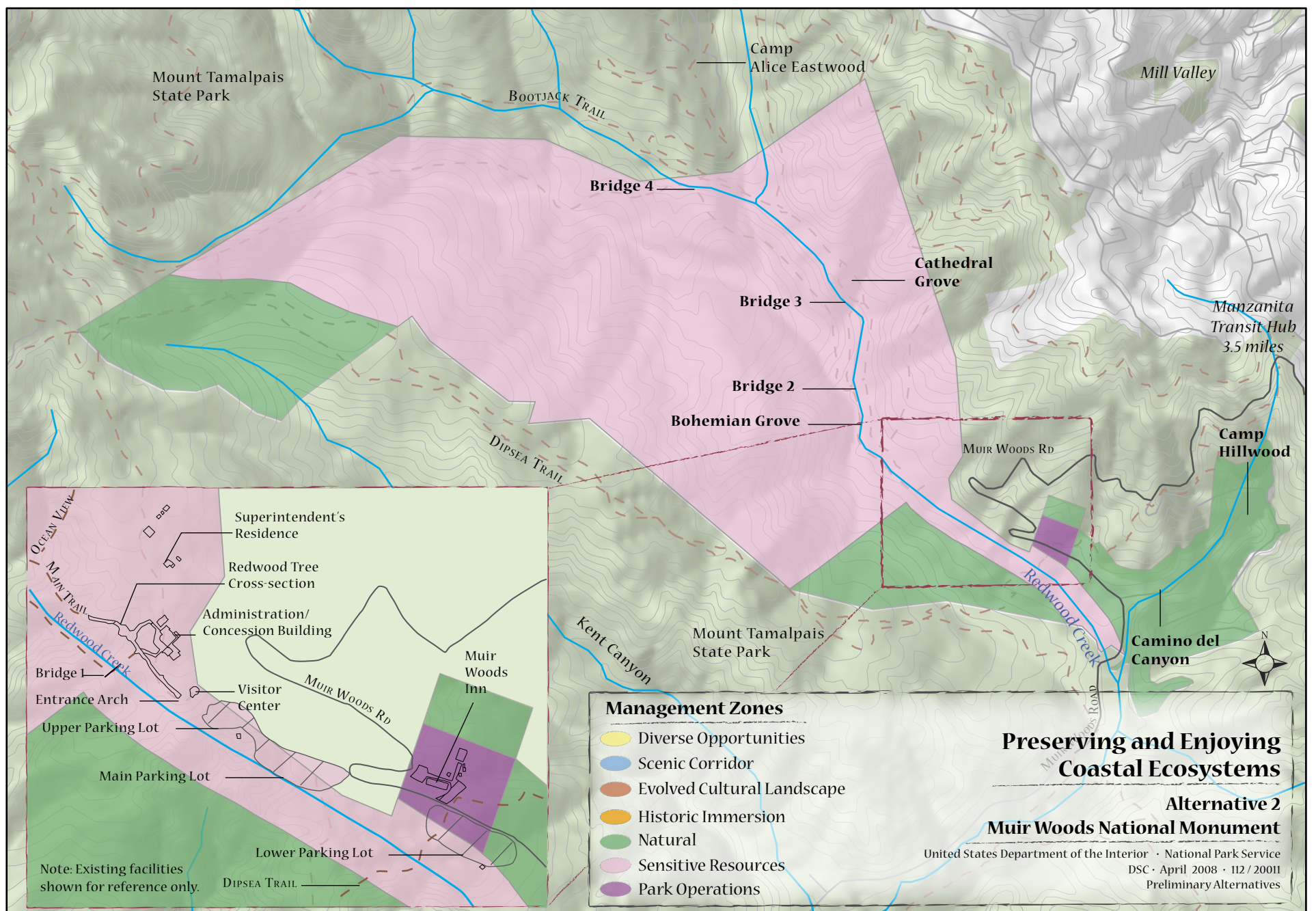
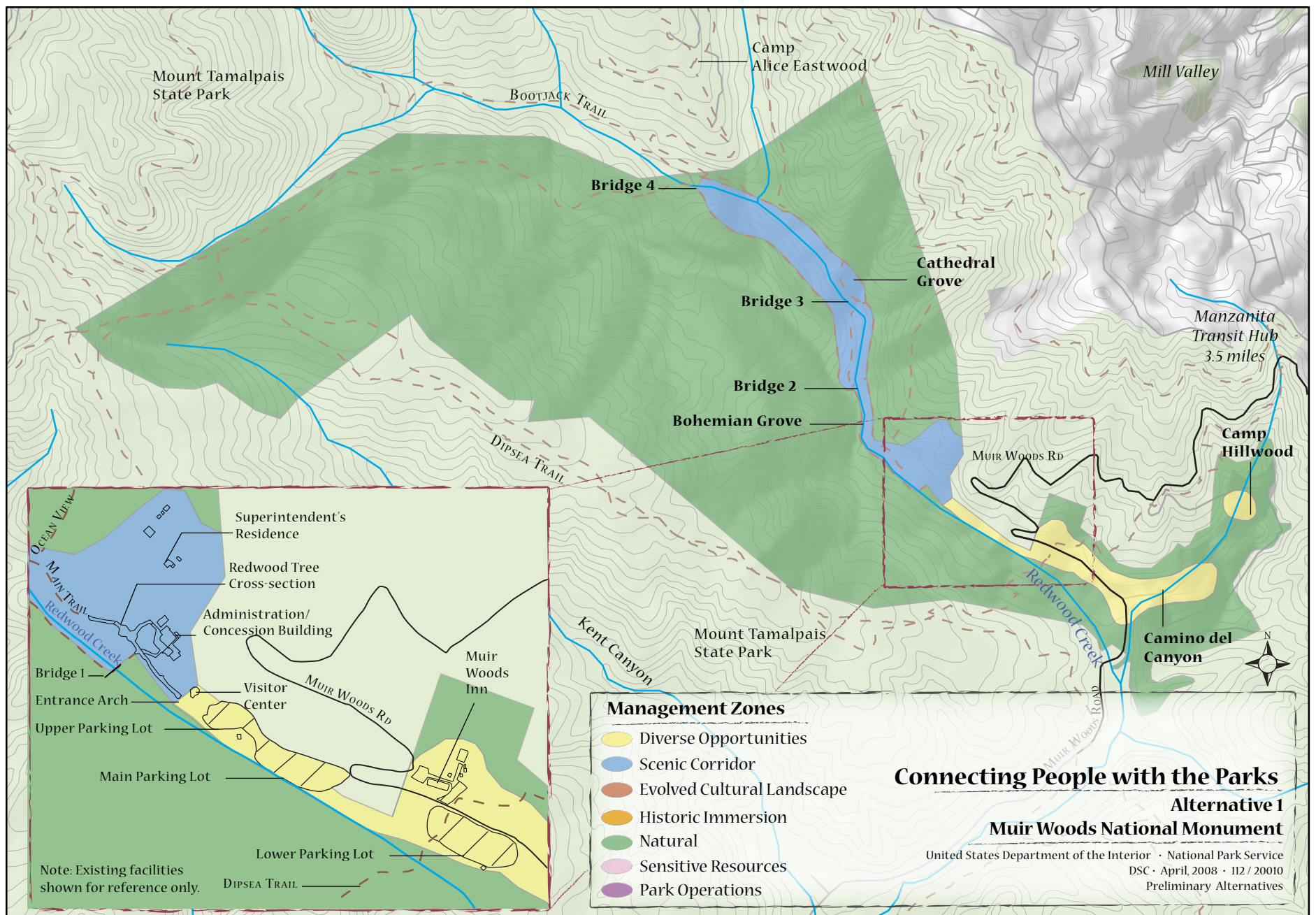
	Preliminary Alternatives for Muir Woods National Monument	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
Redwood Forest and Redwood Creek	<p>The main trail system is a series of loops running along Redwood Creek, crossing the creek four times on footbridges. Visitors have opportunities to stroll among the groves of ancient redwoods. A variety of interpretive waysides and scheduled interpretive programs support the visitor’s discovery of the Monument’s resources. Intersecting with the main trail are other trails that provide visitors with extended hiking opportunities to adjacent public lands. The Administration-Concession Building provides food, retail services, restrooms, and park offices. The nearby historic Superintendent’s Residence and associated structures are used for park operations.</p> <p>Since the Monument was established, the National Park Service has increased its understanding of the health of a redwood forest ecosystem. Past practices of allowing visitors to picnic and camp within the forest introduced nonnative plants and animals. Natural fires have been suppressed throughout most of the 20th century and are now slowly being reintroduced to the area as a tool to enhance the health of the ecosystem. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) lined portions of Redwood Creek with rocks as a means to stabilize and contain the flow of water within the existing channel. These actions protected selected redwood trees near the creek, but eliminated the natural meandering of the stream across a wider floodplain, constraining its role in sustaining a healthy ecosystem.</p>	<p>Scenic Corridor Zone (Redwood Creek corridor including the existing wooden arch, several existing buildings, and the main loop trails)</p> <p>This area would be managed to provide a national park experience within the primeval redwood forest setting. The Administrative-Concession Building would transition to support interpretive, educational, and stewardship activities—providing a flexible classroom and program space in the woods. Experiences would immerse visitors in nature (the sights, sounds, smells of the forest) where quiet would be encouraged. Improved accessibility would ensure that all visitors could have these experiences. New restrooms and drinking water would be provided near Bridge 4 to protect resources and enhance visitor comfort.</p> <p>The historic Superintendent’s Residence and nearby structures would be used for administrative purposes. Other structures needed to support visitor uses or park operations would be rehabilitated. Non-historic or nonessential structures would be removed.</p> <p>Natural Zone (All areas beyond the Redwood Creek corridor)</p> <p>The majority of the Monument would be managed to preserve and restore natural systems and contribute to the primeval forest setting. Visitors within this zone would have opportunities for self-discovery and challenge in a more dispersed and wild park setting.</p> <p>To provide a diverse continuum of experiences, visitors would be introduced to ways of accessing the adjacent landscapes and the recreational opportunities of Mount Tamalpais State Park, Marin Municipal Water District, and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The Ben Johnson, Fern Creek, Redwood Creek, and Dipsea trails would provide access to a variety of day and overnight recreational experiences.</p>
Camino del Cañon (also known as Muir Woods Addition)	<p>Over time, additional tracts of land have been acquired to support the administrative functions and visitor use of the Monument. In addition to the Old Muir Woods Inn property, other properties through an area referred to as Camino del Cañon and Conlon Avenue were acquired by the National Park Service. These properties include the rustic buildings of historic Camp Hillwood and other non-historic structures, roads, and trails. Some structures are used for park operations, housing, and a nursery, while others are under special use permits or reservation of use and occupancy or have been vacated and are planned for removal.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Camp Hillwood)</p> <p>Camp Hillwood and its immediate surroundings would be adaptively used for day use or overnight educational opportunities. The historic values of the camp would be preserved while the facilities would be adapted to contemporary uses.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Other areas in Camino del Cañon)</p> <p>The majority of the area would be managed to preserve the natural setting. The landscape and streams would be restored to a natural setting. All non-historic structures would be removed. All existing operational functions within this zone (maintenance yard and nursery) would be relocated to other park sites closer to Muir Beach or in shared facilities with Mount Tamalpais State Park if feasible.</p>

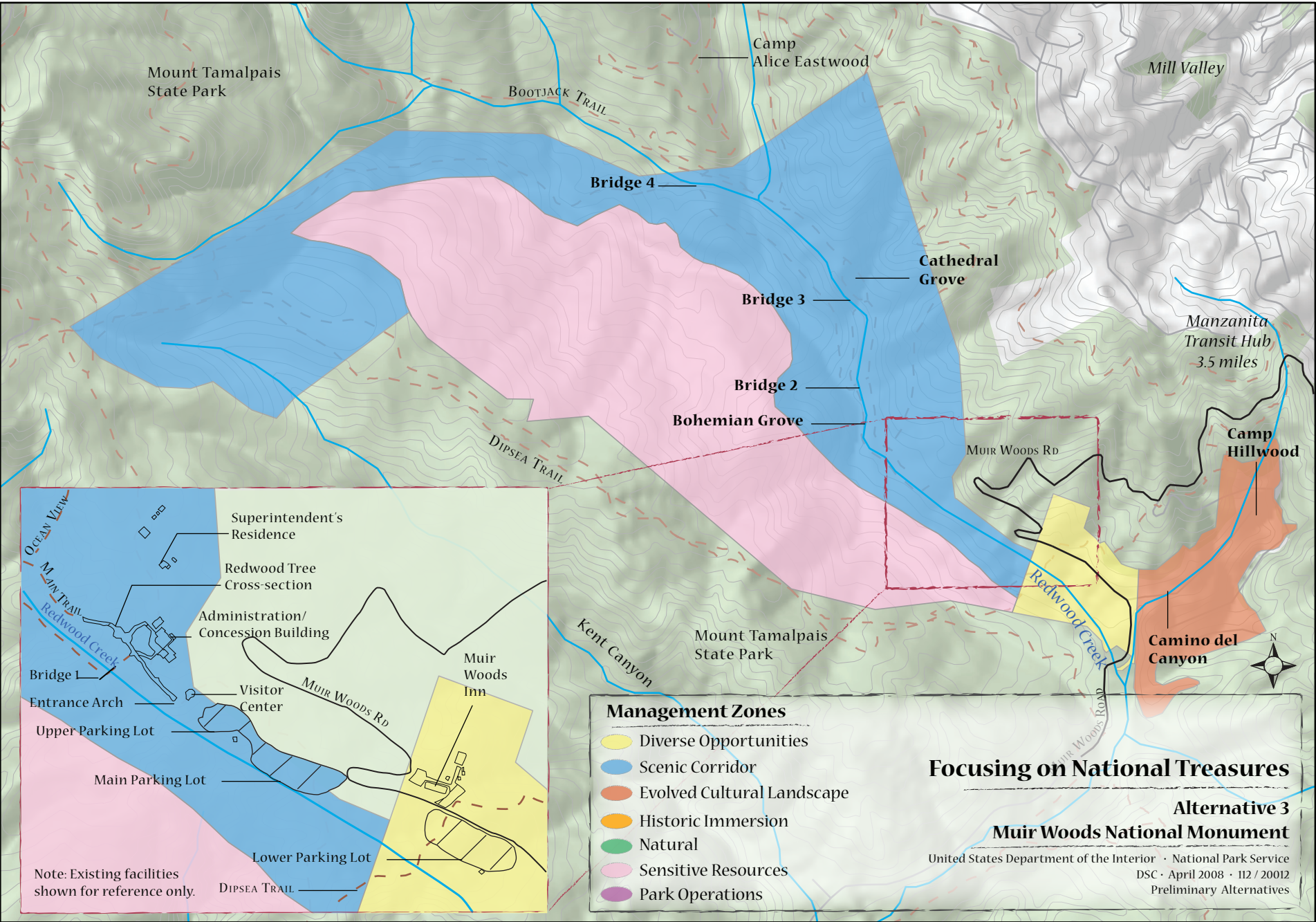
***Note:** A more detailed level of planning was required for both Muir Woods National Monument and Alcatraz Island due to their size, the complexity of their natural and cultural resources; and the national and international reconition they receive.*



Preliminary Alternatives for Muir Woods National Monument		
Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
<p>Sensitive Resources Zone (Majority of the Monument)</p> <p>The old growth redwood forest would be managed to achieve the highest level of natural resource integrity. The visitor experience would promote an intimate relationship with the natural resources of the primeval redwood forest. Visitor access would be highly controlled and limited to designated areas and activities. The visitor would have the opportunity to engage in participatory stewardship, and educational and science activities.</p> <p>The natural conditions of the redwood forest and Redwood Creek would be restored and allowed to continue unimpeded. Floodplain function would be restored along the valley bottom.</p> <p>Visitor services would be relocated to the transit center. In consultation with the state historic preservation office and other stakeholders, the existing buildings and other major infrastructure would be removed and the sites restored to their natural conditions. All buildings, except the Muir Woods Inn, would be removed, including the historic Superintendent’s Residence and the Administration-Concession Building.</p> <p>The trail system would be redesigned to accommodate fewer visitors in a more intimate and appropriate setting. A light-on-the-land accessible trail would reach into a portion of the old growth forest. The existing main trail along the creek would be relocated out of the floodplain, and other trails and bridges may be removed, relocated, or redesigned to allow and promote natural processes. Paved surfaces would be removed.</p> <p>The trail system throughout the Monument would be designed to connect to other trails that would allow it to extend from the redwood forest to the ocean, highlighting the connection between the uplands and the ocean and the role that watershed restoration plays in maintaining healthy ecosystems. A reroute of the Redwood Creek crossing of the Dipsea Trail will be explored to find a more appropriate location with less impact to the natural functions of the creek; the rest of the Dipsea Trail would be maintained along its historic alignment.</p>	<p>Scenic Corridor Zone (Large corridor around Redwood Creek and up the south-facing slopes of the canyon)</p> <p>This area would be managed to create an outdoor museum-like experience where visitors discover and interact with the features and setting of the primeval redwood forest. Each trail within the Monument would unveil a different story and experience. The trails would be rehabilitated or relocated and each would be individually designed and managed to provide visitors with opportunities to learn, explore, and become immersed in the resources that illustrates a particular theme.</p> <p>An ecology-themed trail would use interactive exhibits so visitors could examine the forest canopy high above or the dynamic hydrogeology of the creek. A history-themed trail would highlight how Muir Woods has been shaped by more than a century of park managers and could quietly usher visitors into Cathedral Grove. A self-discovery trail would encourage visitors to see, touch, and smell, and possibly taste parts of the forest, providing a very personal and sensory experience. Some trails would start in a restored meadow where the upper parking lot now exists, and highlight the main redwood groves along the creek. Others would bring visitors down into the woods from higher in the canyon along historic traces.</p> <p>The historic Dipsea Trail and other trails from Mount Tamalpais State Park also would be highlighted, offering opportunities for self-discovery. The experience would be further reinforced through ranger led activities that engage the visitor with the Monument’s natural and cultural resources. The Administration-Concession Building would be rehabilitated as a traditional park visitor center.</p> <p>The structures and features that represent the conservation movement would be preserved and rehabilitated, and used to support visitor programming and services. These include the historic Superintendent’s Residence, Administration-Concession Building, trails, creek stabilization rock work, monuments, and named groves.</p> <p>Sensitive Resources Zone (Northeast facing slopes of the canyon)</p> <p>This large area would be managed to preserve the redwood forest and natural sounds that provide a backdrop to the adjacent scenic corridor. Visitor access to this area would be carefully managed and limited to retain the pristine setting and protect its resources.</p>	<p>Redwood Forest and Redwood Creek</p>
<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>The area would be managed to restore native habitat and natural processes with emphasis on removal of unneeded roads and development, stabilization of sediment sources, re-establishment of natural drainage patterns, restoration of the tributary creek, and removal of invasive vegetation that has escaped from developed areas.</p> <p>All structures, including the native plant nursery, would be removed. Water and sewer systems could be relocated to appropriate sites using best technology practices.</p> <p>All other park operations and stewardship support facilities (including the native plant nursery) would be relocated to more suitable areas within the Redwood Creek watershed outside the Monument boundaries.</p>	<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</p> <p>The area would be managed to provide educational activities and overnight accommodations for small groups. This area also could include some park operational facilities balanced with the preservation needs of the area’s natural resources. The character of development in this area would be rustic.</p>	







Your notes



	Preliminary Alternatives for Marin County	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
<p>Overview (see alternative maps on pages 20-22)</p>	<p>In Marin County, the park forms the southern core of a large network of regional, state, and federal protected lands and waters (many of which are recognized as part of the UNESCO Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve). The park manages this large expanse of preserved natural landscape, with scattered concentrations of developed facilities, to provide visitors with multiple opportunities for recreation: miles of trails, preserved historic military fortifications, and scenic and historic landscapes.</p> <p>The Marin County national park lands feature some of the most varied landscapes in Golden Gate National Recreation Area: lush woodlands, rugged coasts, sandy beaches, meadows, marshes, grasslands, and chaparral. As a result, visitors can experience an array of wildlife throughout the seasons and several different habitats in one brief hike.</p> <p>Much of this area has been managed as part of the GGNRA since it was established in 1972. A diverse set of park partners, many housed in historic structures, provides programs and facilities for visitors’ education and enjoyment. These include a hostel, environmental education and arts programming, equestrian facilities, and a marine mammal rehabilitation center. Park-managed visitor facilities include a visitor center, scenic overlooks, campsites, and beaches ranging from wild and rugged to the developed recreational setting at Stinson Beach.</p> <p>National Park Service maintenance facilities, staff housing, administrative offices, and various partner offices, are also located in the park’s Marin County land.</p>	<p>In this alternative park managers would preserve the natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational qualities that are enjoyed today and would improve access to the park for all visitors. Management would enhance the facilities that support visitors’ experiences in “the wilderness next door.” A stronger national park identity and message would welcome people as they arrive, and improved orientation and information services would inform them of the variety of recreational experiences available in the park.</p> <p>The national park lands in Marin are a hiker’s paradise, with an extensive network of trails for walks through fern-filled canyons, over wind-blown coastal bluffs, along rocky shores, and among redwoods and oaks. Sustainable approaches to rehabilitating facilities that are in place today would improve a number of trailheads and trails, as well as roads, parking lots, camp sites, picnic areas, restrooms, and other structures at popular destinations. Some new facilities would be developed to improve visitor services and support stewardship programs. Important park operational uses would remain and their sites would be improved.</p> <p>Partners would continue to play an important role in preserving resources and offering programs and services to park visitors.</p> <p>Public transportation and multi-modal access to all park sites would be improved.</p>
<p>Stinson Beach to Bolinas - Fairfax Road</p>	<p>The developed area is managed to support intensive use as a scenic recreational beach receiving a high number of visitors. A variety of facilities support activities including picnicking, beach recreation, and water recreation (swimming, surfing, windsurfing, and boogie boarding). Easkoot Creek and the dunes are managed to preserve and enhance natural habitat values.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Beach, dunes and developed area)</p> <p>The setting and facilities would be improved to better support active beach recreation and to enhance the creek and the dunes. Sustainable new facilities would replace deteriorated restrooms, showers, picnic areas, and parking lots. New facilities could include a warming hut combining park information with food service, equipment rental, and interpretive and educational programs. Maintenance and public safety offices with ranger housing would be retained.</p> <p>The park would explore ways to improve visitor access to Stinson Beach, such as introducing seasonal alternative transportation, and would continue to work with the community to address congestion.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Surrounding park land)</p> <p>Other GGNRA lands in the vicinity of Stinson Beach, including the uplands, would be managed to protect and restore the coastal ecosystems, and contribute to the restoration of natural processes that affect Bolinas Lagoon. Partnerships with neighboring land managers would be strengthened to achieve these goals across the broader landscape. The park would improve trails and trailheads to provide access to other nearby park lands.</p>
<p>Highway 1 and Panoramic Highway</p>	<p>Stretches of these roads pass through or run alongside park lands. Though the roads are not federal jurisdiction, as the underlying land manager, the park cooperates with Caltrans and Marin County for management of the road and rights-of-way to protect park resources.</p> <p>Highway 1, a segment of the Pacific Coast Highway, is a designated national scenic byway. In general, the park land in this area is managed to preserve and enhance resources and offer access to park sites and recreational activities. Park managers work with other agencies to assure that needed changes in the roadway preserve the scenic rural character of the setting.</p>	<p>Scenic Corridor Zone</p> <p>These park lands would be managed to enable visitors, traveling by car, bicycle, and transit, to enjoy spectacular views of the Pacific coast, and to provide access to park sites.</p> <p>The park would collaborate with Caltrans, Marin County, and other land managing agencies to improve the roadways for the safety and enjoyment of park visitors. New facilities could include overlooks, pull-offs with restrooms and interpretive exhibits, picnic areas, enhanced trail connections, and a unified wayfinding system. Improvements would fit with the rural character of the area and park managers also would seek to minimize impacts to natural resources caused by road use, maintenance, and drainage.</p>
<p>Slide Ranch</p>	<p>This area is managed by a park partner to operate an environmental and farm education center in a natural landscape with public access to trails and the shoreline. Slide Ranch provides day and overnight experiences for children, provides healthy eating, healthy living, and environmental awareness. The rocky shoreline is managed to protect natural, ecological, and scientific values.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Developed area)</p> <p>This area would be managed to enhance the environmental and farm education center facilities and provide improved facilities for public day use of the site, including a picnic area, trail access, and a scenic overlook. If the center were to relocate to a more desirable site, this area would transition to provide visitor-serving facilities that support the Highway 1 scenic corridor. Possibilities include picnicking, educational programs, and rustic overnight accommodations.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Land surrounding the developed area)</p> <p>The landscape that surrounds the educational programs would be managed to enhance its natural and scenic values, retain flexibility to adapt to coastal geologic processes, and provide for public trail use and access to the coast.</p>

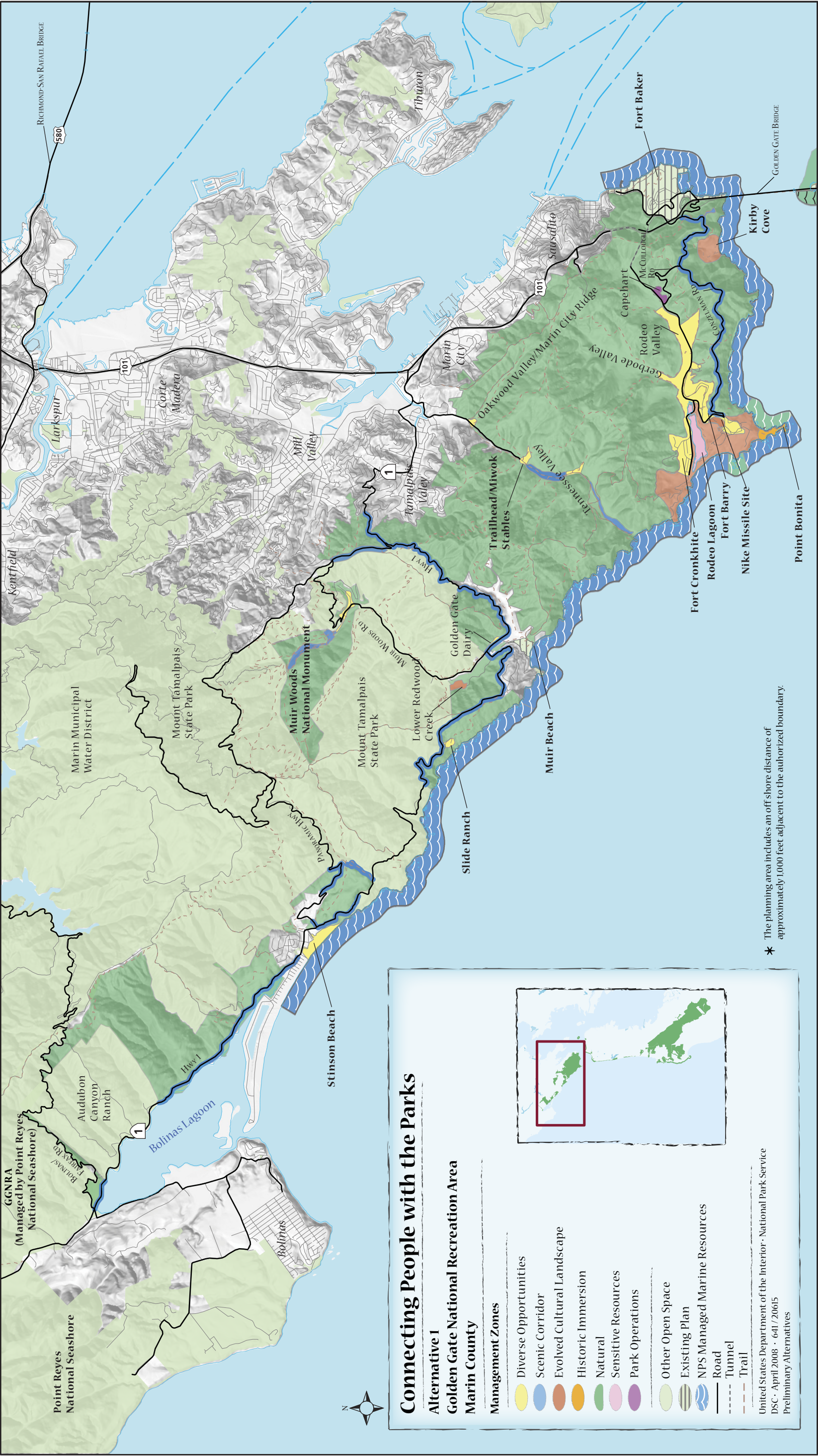
Preliminary Alternatives for Marin County		
Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
<p>In this alternative, management would strive to further preserve and restore the dynamic, interconnected coastal ecosystems at the core of protected lands through collaborative regional partnerships. These lands provide significant swathes of protected habitat for many of the park’s sensitive, rare, threatened, and endangered species. Partners would work on common goals to sustain the area’s native biodiversity, reconnect fragmented habitats and migration corridors, minimize the impact of invasive species, manage for changing fire regimes, protect threatened and endangered species, and restore naturally functioning ecosystems. Proactive management would work to build resiliency to climate change into the natural environment.</p> <p>This alternative would highlight Marin’s park lands and waters as living laboratories, engaging visitors in participatory science, education, and stewardship that nurture personal connections with nature and inspire advocacy.</p> <p>Exploration of trails and beaches would further highlight the park’s coastal natural and cultural resources. Cultural resource sites and stories would emphasize human occupation of the coastal environment, as reflected in lighthouses, coastal defense structures, archeological sites, and agricultural land uses.</p>	<p>This alternative would welcome visitors to a vast network of open space that protects natural and cultural resources and offers many forms of recreation in a setting of national importance. Much of the area’s undeveloped land is a legacy of the U.S. Army, whose coastal defense systems remain anchored in the landscape.</p> <p>The park would highlight several iconic national sites, including Muir Woods, the Golden Gate, the coastal setting of the Highway 1 National Scenic Byway and the Marin Headlands’ historic Army posts.</p> <p>Although this alternative shares many characteristics of alternatives 1 and 2, the management of the Marin Headlands’ historic core would be very different. Sheltering the best preserved collection of seacoast fortifications in the country, the Marin Headlands tell the story of two centuries of evolving weapons technology and the nation’s unwavering efforts to protect the Golden Gate. As a result, this alternative would focus on immersing visitors in its compelling sites and history, using and interpreting preserved structures and landscapes ranging from Battery Spencer to the Nike Missile Launch Site.</p> <p>Other important landmarks, such as the Point Bonita Lighthouse, established in 1855, also would be preserved and interpreted for visitors from around the world.</p>	Overview (see alternative maps on pages 20-22)
<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Beach and developed area)</p> <p>The current level of visitor services such as restrooms, seasonal life-guards, and food service, would continue to support beach recreation; however, park facilities such as the central restroom and its septic system would be relocated farther from the dunes and beach to better protect natural resources. As in Alternative 1, sustainable new facilities would replace deteriorated restrooms, showers, picnic areas, and parking lots. The Easkoot Creek riparian corridor would be further enhanced by re-designing the parking lot.</p> <p>Similar to Alternative 1, the park managers would explore year round alternative transportation options in order to reduce congestion.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Dunes, south parking lot, surrounding park land)</p> <p>The sand dunes would be restored and the south parking lot would be removed to support wetland restoration. The rest of the lands and waters in the vicinity of Stinson Beach, including the uplands, would be managed to protect and restore the coastal ecosystems, and contribute to the restoration of natural processes that affect Bolinas Lagoon. Partnerships with neighboring land managers would be strengthened to achieve these goals across the broader landscape.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Beach, dunes and developed area)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Easkoot Creek corridor and surrounding park lands north to Bolinas-Fairfax Road)</p> <p>The natural ecosystem of Easkoot Creek riparian corridor and the uplands east of Highway 1 would be restored. The coastal defense structures in the vicinity of Highway 1 near Red Rock Beach would be preserved and interpreted.</p> <p>As in Alternative 1, other GGNRA lands and waters in the vicinity of Stinson Beach, including the uplands, would be managed to protect and restore the coastal ecosystems, and contribute to the restoration of natural processes that affect Bolinas Lagoon. Partnerships with neighboring land managers would be strengthened to achieve these goals across the broader landscape.</p>	Stinson Beach to Bolinas - Fairfax Road
<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>As in Alternative 1, these park lands would be managed to enable visitors, traveling by car, bicycle, and transit, to enjoy spectacular views of the Pacific coast, and to provide access to park sites.</p> <p>Under this alternative, greater emphasis would be placed on collaboration with Caltrans and other agencies to further protect and restore the coastal ecosystem. In the event of a catastrophic landslide, park managers would encourage abandonment of Highway 1 between Muir Beach and Stinson Beach in the affected segment. Interpretive exhibits could illustrate the dramatic impacts on coastal ecosystems caused by constructing and maintaining the highway.</p>	<p>Scenic Corridor Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	Highway 1 and Panoramic Highway
<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>The existing environmental education center and farm education program would be relocated to a more sustainable and geologically stable site in a less remote location. The area would be managed to promote restoration of coastal resources and to allow for natural geologic processes to continue unimpeded. A modest trailhead near Highway 1 would be provided to support visitor access to the rugged coast, but all other structures and farm areas would be removed to allow for restoration of natural conditions.</p>	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 2.</p>	Slide Ranch

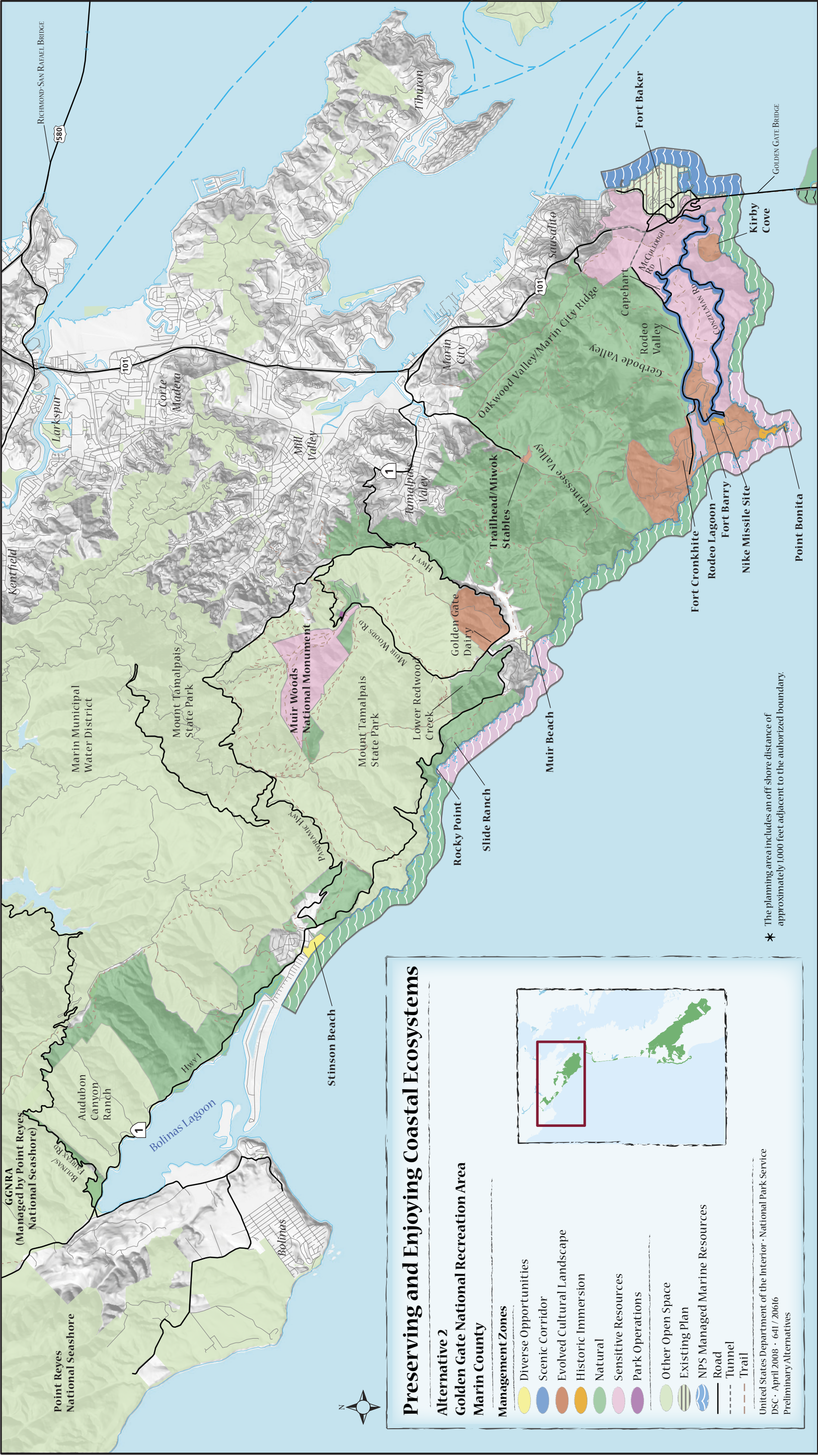
	Preliminary Alternatives for Marin County	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
Lower Redwood Creek (former Banducci flower farm)	<p>This area is managed to preserve and enhance natural processes in the creek, floodplain, and surrounding natural landscape. The National Park Service works with other land managers in restoration and preservation of the watershed and in protection of threatened and endangered species like coho salmon and the red legged frog. Park managers have developed plans and strategies to restore Redwood Creek and wetlands at nearby Big Lagoon. Existing residential structures provide housing for volunteers who contribute to site restoration and stewardship.</p>	<p>Natural Zone (Majority of Lower Redwood Creek)</p> <p>Park managers would continue to restore the natural coastal ecosystem, and the riparian habitat of Redwood Creek while providing improved trail connections to Mt. Tamalpais State Park and other area trails, including the Coastal Trail.</p> <p>Evolved Cultural Landscape (Developed area and adjacent 10 acre site)</p> <p>Park managers would preserve the rural, pastoral character of the landscape. Facilities for visitor activities related to park stewardship, equestrian uses, and a small-scale educational organic farm could be accommodated. A sustainable approach to providing for water and wastewater would be identified and implemented.</p>
Golden Gate Dairy	<p>The developed area along Highway 1 is managed to support a small equestrian facility and the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department that is housed in historic dairy ranch buildings. A small buffer area protects the tributary creek. The surrounding uplands are managed to provide trail connections through a natural coastal landscape.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Developed area only)</p> <p>The historic structures would be managed to provide visitor orientation and continue to support community services such as the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department. Site improvements to accommodate a trailhead and public transit stop, and enhance the creek corridor, would be included. Equestrian uses would be relocated to Lower Redwood Creek. Nonhistoric residences could be removed if they do not contribute to essential community services or park operation needs that are moved out of Muir Woods National Monument.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Uplands)</p> <p>The uplands surrounding the developed ranch site would be managed to preserve and enhance the natural setting and provide trail connections to adjacent Mt. Tamalpais trails.</p>
Tennessee Valley (including Miwok Stables)	<p>This area is managed to accommodate intense and varied visitor uses. A major trailhead, multiple trails, a hike-in campground, and an equestrian center are in the upper end of the valley. A site in the lower valley contains a nursery operation, the park’s small volunteer horse patrol, and an environmental education program. The majority of the valley is managed as a natural landscape with a trail system that provides access to a variety of destinations and landscapes. Remnants of former agricultural uses, including farm ponds, fence lines, and nonnative trees, remain in the landscape. The creek corridor and shoreline are managed to protect sensitive natural resources.</p>	<p>Diverse Visitor Opportunities (Tennessee Valley trailhead and the Miwok Stables area)</p> <p>Trailhead site improvements, including a warming hut (food and visitor information), restrooms, and an improved picnic and parking area, would enhance this “portal” to the park to support continued hiking, biking, and equestrian activities.</p> <p>In collaboration with the community, park managers would work to bring transit and extend a multi-use trail to connect with the Mill Valley Bike Path (Bay Trail).</p> <p>Equestrian facilities would be retained and potentially expanded to the area of lower Marincello Road. Site improvements to the facilities would be made to protect the adjacent riparian area.</p> <p>Scenic Corridor Zone (Main trail corridor to beach and current nursery/stewardship area in lower valley)</p> <p>The existing multi-use trail would be enhanced to support family groups and improve accessibility.</p> <p>Within the footprint of existing development in lower Tennessee Valley, stewardship and environmental education programs, picnicking and rustic camping/primitive overnight accommodations would be provided in improved, sustainable facilities.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Surrounding uplands)</p> <p>The scenic hills that surround the main trail corridor and the developed zones would be managed to preserve and enhance the undeveloped coastal habitat, outstanding natural features, and scenic views of a large contiguous natural area extending to the north and south. An improved, more sustainable trail system would provide access to the variety of settings. Walk in camping would be retained.</p>
Marin Headlands: Oakwood Valley, Marin City Ridge, and Gerbode Valley	<p>This extensive area is managed to preserve natural resources and processes, continue habitat restoration, protect sensitive species and habitats, and allow for continued trail use, trail improvements, and primitive camping.</p> <p>Marin City Ridge was added to the park in 2001 and has not been addressed in planning. The Park Service has managed this area consistent with the adjacent Marin Headlands zone, managing public access on the trails that connect to Marin City and protecting and restoring natural habitats.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Oakwood Valley)</p> <p>Visitor access improvements, including trailhead, picnicking, and restrooms, would be provided in this zone to support access to the trail system with improved community connections.</p> <p>Natural Zone (majority of the Marin Headlands extending south of Tennessee Valley)</p> <p>This area would be managed to preserve the undeveloped “wilderness next door” character of the landscape, preserve natural resources and processes, continue habitat restoration, protect sensitive species and habitats and improve the trail system with more sustainable trails and better connections to adjacent communities. Modest visitor amenities would be provided in this zone, including continued and expanded primitive and accessible camping opportunities. Historic structures and settings within this zone would be preserved and adaptively reused for recreation, education and other park uses.</p>

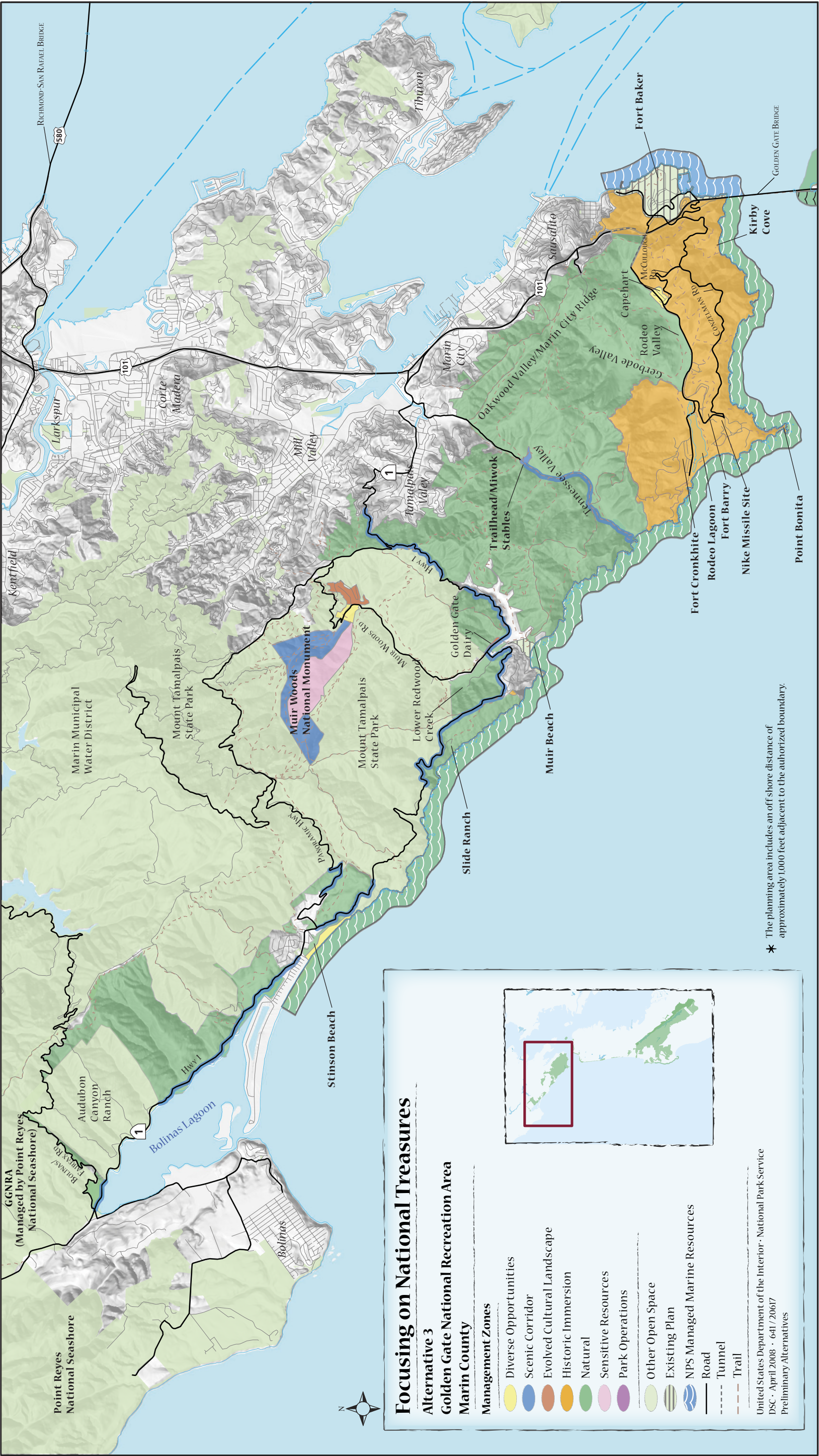
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Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Park managers would continue to restore the native coastal ecosystem, including Redwood Creek and endangered salmon habitat, the riparian corridor and adjacent wetlands, and the uplands that were planted with heather and eucalyptus. Visitors would have opportunities to participate in stewardship activities in the restoration of the natural systems. All facilities and structures would be removed unless needed to support stewardship, restoration activities and trail use. The California Coastal Trail could also connect at this park site.</p> <p>Park managers would work with Marin County and state parks to explore realignment of Franks Valley Road to reduce impacts to Redwood Creek. To further protect the creek’s endangered salmon, park managers could collaborate with the community to increase water storage capacity for use during the dry season.</p>	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 2.</p>	<p>Lower Redwood Creek (former Banducci flower farm)</p>
<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone (Developed area and surrounding uplands)</p> <p>The area would be managed to preserve the historic structures and pastoral landscape and protect the coastal prairie and scrub habitat.</p> <p>The historic structures could be adaptively reused for a science and stewardship center or for local community services that are consistent with park goals. Nearby nonhistoric residences could be removed if they do not contribute to essential community services or park operation needs that are moved out of Muir Woods. The rest of this park site could be restored to its natural condition. Equestrian use would be provided on designated trails in the area.</p>	<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape (Developed area only)</p> <p>The area would be managed to preserve the pastoral landscape and historic structures and stories associated with past dairy ranching.</p> <p>The historic structures could be adapted for use to support equestrian and other recreational uses, park operations, and local community services that are consistent with park goals. The rest of this park site could be restored to its natural coastal conditions.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Surrounding uplands)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Golden Gate Dairy</p>
<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone (Tennessee Valley trailhead and the Miwok Stables area)</p> <p>This area would be managed to retain its traditional equestrian uses and provide for a minimal level of visitor facilities and an improved trailhead to support visitor access to the extensive network of trails. Modest facilities could be located within this zone that support stewardship and restoration activities and the volunteer horse patrol that are currently located in lower Tennessee Valley.</p> <p>Natural Zone (From the trailhead to the ocean and the surrounding uplands)</p> <p>Park managers would preserve and enhance the native coastal ecosystem and allow visitors to experience the wild character of the valley. Roads and nonhistoric facilities and structures would be removed, the main trail would be narrowed to a multi-use trail, and the remaining dams and artificial ponds would be removed. Native wetland and riparian habitat would be restored in these areas. Unnecessary fire roads could be downgraded to trails, or removed if not historic, and natural processes restored.</p>	<p>Scenic Corridor Zone (Tennessee Valley trailhead and the Miwok Stables area)</p> <p>The area would be managed to establish a visitor facility that provides orientation and services to support the recreational and educational opportunities available in this region of large undeveloped open spaces. Equestrian uses would be retained in this zone.</p> <p>The trail and ocean beaches would also be managed to promote hiking, biking, and equestrian touring on a “trail to the sea.” Modest and rustic facilities could be provided that support these recreational activities including overnight accommodations that complement the scenic touring experience.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Surrounding uplands)</p> <p>Outside the trail corridor, the area would be managed to protect undeveloped coastal habitat and outstanding natural features that are backdrops to the scenic corridor experience.</p>	<p>Tennessee Valley (including Miwok Stables)</p>
<p>Natural Zone (Oakwood Valley, Marin City Ridge, and Gerbode Valley)</p> <p>This area would be managed to restore and preserve the undeveloped coastal corridor of contiguous habitat and natural resources, and the outstanding open space and wild character of these lands. The non-historic facilities and infrastructure would be removed and the land restored to a natural condition. Unnecessary management roads, including Marincello Road, could be downgraded to trails, or removed if not historic, and natural processes restored. Opportunities would be explored to provide trail connections from these park lands to local communities.</p>	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1, without the improvements at Oakwood Valley.</p>	<p>Marin Headlands: Oakwood Valley, Marin City Ridge, and Gerbode Valley</p>

	Preliminary Alternatives for Marin County	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
Marin Headlands: Fort Barry and Fort Cronkhite	<p>Within this area , historic structures and their settings are preserved or adaptively reused for recreation, education, and other uses including park operations. Adaptive use of historic structures is the foundation of the robust program of park partners who preserve buildings and offer programs that further the mission of the park.</p> <p>Park operations located in the area include a fire station, roads and trails maintenance facilities, public safety offices, and a large native plant nursery.</p> <p>Recreational experiences supported in the area include beach and water activities such as swimming and surfing, and land based activities including hiking, bicycle riding, and horseback riding.</p> <p>The upland areas are managed to preserve natural resources and processes, continue habitat restoration, protect sensitive species and habitats and allow for continued trail use.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Lower elevations of Rodeo Valley along Bunker Road and Fort Barry and Fort Cronkhite)</p> <p>This zone would be managed to provide visitors with a variety of recreational, educational, and stewardship activities. Visitor amenities could be expanded to include improved trailheads, accessible trails, camping, picnicking, and orientation. These facilities would welcome visitors, and support access to the adjacent natural areas.</p> <p>Rehabilitated structures and limited new construction would continue to be used by the park and its partners to provide visitors with an expanded menu of opportunities such as science exploration, environmental education, guided walks, and special events to support recreation, education, and healthy lifestyle activities. A warming hut, combining information and food service, could be developed in a location near both the beach and a transit stop.</p> <p>This zone would also continue to provide for park operation needs including maintenance, public safety, staff offices, and a stewardship/nursery facility.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Uplands)</p> <p>This area of Marin Headlands would be managed as part of the Natural Zone described above.</p> <p>Historic Immersion Zone (Nike Missile Site)</p> <p>The restored site would be managed to continue to provide visitors with an experience that is evocative of the site’s historic use.</p>
Capehart Housing Area	The National Park Service manages this area of housing (referred to as Capehart after the Senator who sponsored the military housing act), located at the intersection of the two roads that access the Marin Headlands, to provide workforce housing for park and partner staff.	<p>Park Operations Zone</p> <p>The housing units north of Bunker Road, along the creek, would be removed to provide for creek restoration and to create a more scenic entrance to Rodeo Valley. These units could be replaced with sustainable new construction located south of Bunker Road for use by park and partner work force housing.</p>
Conzelman, Bunker, and McCullough Roads	This extensive area is managed to preserve historic and natural resources and scenic views of the Golden Gate. The area protects sensitive species and habitats, and allow for continued trail use and scenic driving.	<p>Scenic Corridor Zone</p> <p>This area would be managed to provide safe pedestrian, bike, and vehicular touring and access to overlooks and to interpretive and recreational opportunities. Park managers would highlight the fundamental coastal resources, military fortifications, and spectacular views of the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco Bay, and the urban skyline of San Francisco from the roads. Visitor amenities would include parking, restrooms, and benches at overlooks.</p>
Kirby Cove	This area is managed to provide access to the beach and a small group camping area. The historic coastal fortifications and forest plantation are preserved.	<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</p> <p>This area would be managed for beach access, and would support additional uses by visitors on the San Francisco Bay Water Trail. Rustic cabin accommodations could be developed. Historic and natural resources would be preserved.</p>
Point Bonita Lighthouse Complex	The lighthouse and several structures, including a small outbuilding, bridge, and access trail, are preserved. Visitors are immersed in an authentic historic setting with interpretation about the site’s maritime and military history. Access is highly managed.	<p>Historic Immersion Zone</p> <p>The park would continue to preserve the historic structures and interpret the site’s maritime and military history. Preservation of the coastal environments in this area would vary only slightly in each alternative.</p>
Offshore Marine Environment	The GGNRA has jurisdiction through a management lease over a 1,000-foot-wide fringe of coastal waters immediately offshore. Park management of these areas accommodates public uses including water recreation (swimming, surfing, and boating) and noncommercial fishing. The area supports research, inventory, monitoring, and consultation and cooperation with other resource managing agencies.	<p>Scenic Corridor Zone (All offshore areas except Point Bonita Cove and Bird Rock)</p> <p>Park managers would work to preserve the integrity of the marine environment, while accommodating public uses including swimming, surfing, boating, and noncommercial fishing. Management actions would protect the marine habitat, rocks, sea caves, and other natural features of the area in coordination with the Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. This zone would support the San Francisco Bay Water Trail where appropriate.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Offshore areas at Point Bonita Cove and Bird Rock Area)</p> <p>The park would preserve the marine environment and accommodate public uses including swimming, surfing, boating, and noncommercial fishing; however, the park would not allow motorized boating.</p>

Preliminary Alternatives for Marin County		
Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
<p>Sensitive Resources Zone (Rodeo Lagoon and most of the Rodeo Valley uplands south of Bunker Road)</p> <p>This area would be managed to preserve and restore coastal habitat for threatened and endangered species. Visitor access would be highly controlled and restricted to designated trails in this zone.</p> <p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone (Rodeo Beach, Fort Cronkhite and Fort Barry)</p> <p>These areas would be managed to maintain the military identity of the area, provide for higher levels of visitor use, and provide educational programs, surfing, fishing, and other outdoor recreation opportunities. The adjacent forts would be managed to protect and interpret the national register historic district while allowing for reuse of the buildings for park programming and operations that could include a new visitor center. Habitat restoration within this zone would be consistent with the preservation of the military landscape.</p> <p>Historic Immersion Zone (Nike Missile Site)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Historic Immersion Zone (Rodeo Valley, Fort Barry and Fort Cronkhite)</p> <p>These areas would be managed to showcase the stories and structures of military history and the transition from Army post to national park. Infrastructure and landscapes within this area would be restored (at varying levels of historic preservation treatment) to be evocative of the military era, while protecting threatened and endangered species habitat. Structures could continue to be used for a diversity of purposes, including use by park partners, but partners would be encouraged to incorporate into their programming an association with military history and conservation of open space.</p> <p>Much of the visitor immersion would be interpretive, incorporating the latest technological and multimedia advances to bring history alive in new and nontraditional ways. Interpretive themes would address the various military periods. Preservation of the historic military resources would be consistent with natural resource protection.</p> <p>Historic Immersion Zone (Nike Missile Site)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Marin Headlands: Fort Barry and Fort Cronkhite</p>
<p>Sensitive Resources Zone</p> <p>All structures in the area would be removed; riparian and upland habitats would be restored, and fragmented habitat would be reconnected where possible.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone</p> <p>The Capehart structures would be replaced with a new visitor center and facilities to serve other park uses and operational needs.</p>	<p>Capehart Housing Area</p>
<p>Scenic Corridor Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1, except that outside of the immediate road corridor, the area would be managed to protect and restore coastal habitat that supports the threatened mission blue butterfly. Visitor access would be highly controlled and restricted to designated trails in this zone.</p>	<p>Historic Immersion Zone</p> <p>The roads and adjacent parklands would be managed to focus visitors on the coastal geology and the military fortifications and to engage them in the exploration of these stories. Deteriorated military sites and features would be restored. New or improved trails throughout the area, including the California Coastal Trail, would help connect the visitor to the geologic and military resources and to follow a historic route while being mindful of protecting areas and habitat for threatened and endangered species.</p>	<p>Conzelman, Bunker, and McCullough Roads</p>
<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</p> <p>The park resources and stories associated with coastal fortifications would be highlighted and camping would promote appreciation of views of the Golden Gate Bridge and the wild-urban interface between the park and city of San Francisco. Facilities would provide visitors with access to the beach and San Francisco Bay Water Trail.</p> <p>Habitat restoration would continue outside of the historic forest with removal of invasive nonnative vegetation and expansion of mission blue butterfly habitat.</p>	<p>Historic Immersion Zone</p> <p>The park resources and stories associated with coastal fortifications would be highlighted and overnight accommodations would promote appreciation of views of the Golden Gate Bridge and the wild-urban interface between the park and city of San Francisco. Facilities would provide visitors with access to the beach and San Francisco Bay Water Trail.</p>	<p>Kirby Cove</p>
<p>Historic Immersion Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Historic Immersion Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Point Bonita Lighthouse Complex</p>
<p>Natural Zone (Offshore areas except Muir Beach, Point Bonita, and Fort Baker)</p> <p>Park managers would work to preserve the marine environment and accommodate public uses including surfing, nonmotorized boating, and noncommercial fishing. Management would protect the marine habitat, rocks, sea caves, and other natural features of the area in coordination with the Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. Management would support the San Francisco Bay Water Trail where appropriate.</p> <p>Scenic Corridor Zone (Offshore area at Fort Baker)</p> <p>The area would be managed to allow for high levels of visitor use and different types of visitor activities, including motorized boating, while protecting the marine environment.</p> <p>Sensitive Resources Zone (Offshore areas around Muir Beach and Point Bonita)</p> <p>The park would preserve sensitive marine resources—intertidal resources, Redwood Creek salmonids, seabirds, and marine mammals—in these two locations. Visitation would be highly restricted to protect resources that are easily disturbed. Park approved research would be the primary activity in this zone, but would be conducted in a manner that is highly protective of sensitive resources.</p>	<p>Natural Zone (All offshore areas except Fort Baker)</p> <p>Park managers would work to preserve the marine environment and accommodate public uses including water recreation (swimming, surfing), nonmotorized boating, and noncommercial fishing.</p> <p>Scenic Corridor Zone (Offshore area at Fort Baker)</p> <p>As in Alternative 2, the area would be managed to allow for high levels of diverse visitor use, including motorized boating, while protecting the marine environment.</p>	<p>Offshore Marine Environment</p>







Your notes



	Preliminary Alternatives for Alcatraz Island	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
Overview (see alternative maps on pages 28 & 29)	<p>Alcatraz is one of the most popular destinations in the park. The only former federal penitentiary open to the public, it attracts more than 1.4 million visitors each year. But the prison era is only part of its long and fascinating history. Alcatraz also was a Civil War era military fort, the home of the West Coast’s first lighthouse, and birthplace of the American Indian “Red Power” movement. There is also a natural side to Alcatraz. Gardens, tidepools, and wildlife are among its attractions, and a walk on the island promises panoramic views of the city skyline, ships, bridges, and bay.</p> <p>The island is managed to preserve the historic and natural resources, and provide public access to a variety of settings and experiences where appropriate and safe. The primary visitor experience is day use, centered on the federal penitentiary; however, other periods of the island history are also interpreted.</p> <p>The harsh island environment, deterioration of buildings and landscapes, and the use of these features as bird habitat, limit visitor access to much of the island. Rehabilitation of key public buildings and landscapes is ongoing, and subject to available funding.</p> <p>The island supports one of the largest concentrations of colonial nesting water birds in San Francisco Bay. Many areas of the island are closed during breeding season to protect the colonies from human disturbance. Western gulls are managed in areas open to the public through the use of bird exclusion measures and other deterrents to protect visitor health and safety. Education and outreach inform visitors about the significance of the island to nesting birds, and what the public can do to help protect the birds.</p>	<p>Many who visit Alcatraz are drawn by the island’s notorious prison reputation. Others want to see the crumbling ruins set against the spectacular scenery of San Francisco, the Bay and Golden Gate. Still others are looking for the island’s human dimension: the American Indian occupation or the gardens tended by guards and their families.</p> <p>In this alternative Alcatraz would be managed to provide an expanded variety of settings and experiences that will pleasantly surprise visitors attracted by the notoriety of the prison, and connect them to the greater breadth of the island’s resources and stories. The park would seek to enrich the scenic, recreational, and educational opportunities in the heart of San Francisco Bay.</p> <p>Visitors would have access to the majority of the island’s historic structures and landscapes to experience all of the layers of island history, natural resources, and settings. The indoor and outdoor spaces currently inaccessible to visitors would be reopened to expand the range of available activities.</p> <p>All historic structures would be preserved; most would be rehabilitated and adaptively reused for visitor activities and park operations. Food service, meeting and program space, and overnight accommodations (possibly including a hotel, hostel, and camping) would be provided.</p> <p>Sensitive wildlife areas, like the shoreline, would be protected. Park managers would provide visitors with opportunities to see wildlife and to participate in resource stewardship activities. Gulls would be managed to reduce conflicts in core visitor use areas.</p>
Arrival area including the entry pier and Building 64 (Historic Barracks)	<p>The arrival area includes a mix of structures and landscapes that support the high volume of visitation. Building 64, the historic barracks, is adaptively used for administrative purposes and some visitor services, including a small gift shop, exhibits, and a theater. Parts of the building, including the upper floors, have not been rehabilitated and are unused.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone</p> <p>This area would be managed to welcome visitors and provide orientation to the expansive opportunities on the island. Building 64 would be a centerpiece, rehabilitated as a multi-purpose facility to host an expanded variety of visitor services, which would include hospitality (food service and overnight accommodations), interpretation and exhibit space, an audiovisual site, and administrative areas.</p>
Main Prison Building and adjacent areas	<p>The Main Prison Building and several adjacent areas, like the Recreation Yard, have been rehabilitated to represent the federal penitentiary era. They are managed as part of the central visitor experience. Visitors have access to most of the building and yard. Several areas, like the Citadel (located below the Main Building) and part of the building’s hospital wing are closed. Visiting the Main Prison Building is primarily a self-guiding experience facilitated by an audio tour. Many adjacent landscape areas are minimally preserved and inhabited by seabirds both seasonally and year-round.</p>	<p>Historic Immersion Zone (Main Prison Building)</p> <p>The park would manage this area to immerse visitors in the federal penitentiary period. A variety of programming and exhibits would bring prison history alive. Rehabilitation or restoration, where appropriate, would enhance resource integrity.</p> <p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Hospital Wing of Main Prison Building, Recreation Yard, Laundry Building, and Parade Ground)</p> <p>These buildings and outdoor spaces would be rehabilitated to provide a range of visitor activities that could include informal gatherings, interpretive programs, and special events. The Laundry Building would be rehabilitated as a multi-purpose facility. It would accommodate large group functions such as special events and conferences, and would include restrooms, a kitchen, and exhibit space. The rubble on the Parade Ground would be removed and bird populations would be managed to accommodate enhanced visitor access.</p>

Note: *A more detailed level of planning was required for both Muir Woods National Monument and Alcatraz Island due to their small size, the complexity of their natural and cultural resources; and the national and international reconition they receive.*

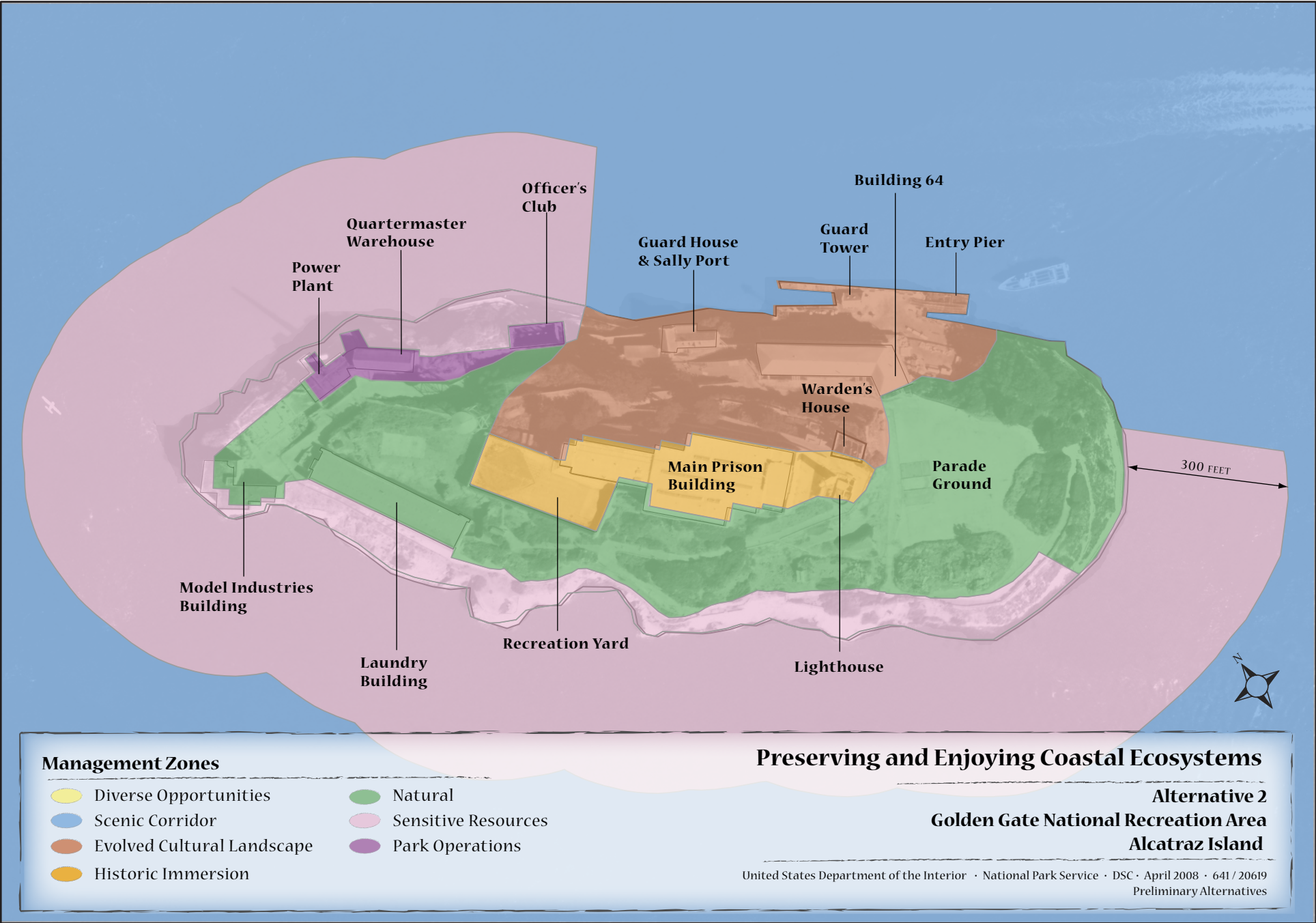
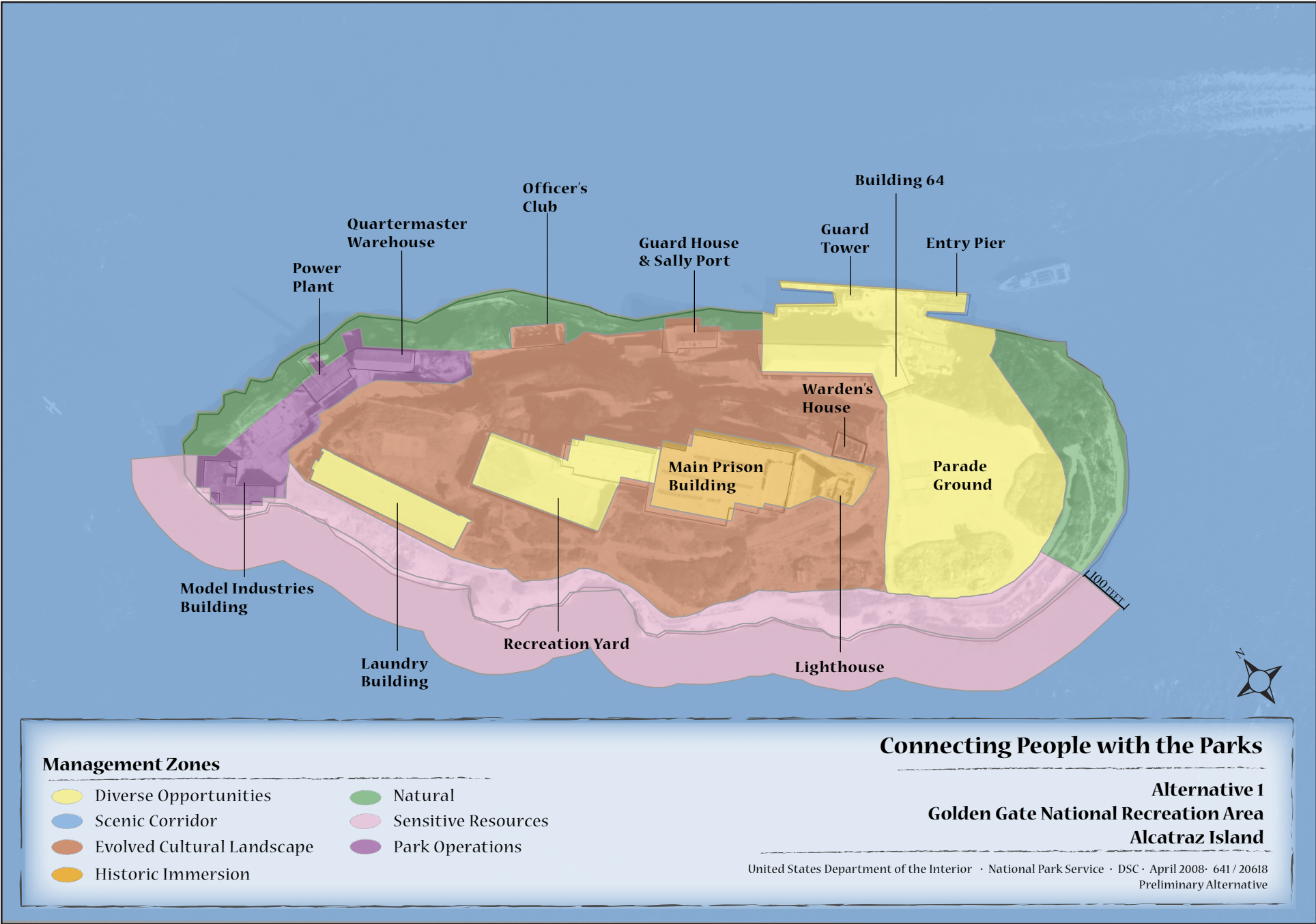
Preliminary Alternatives for Alcatraz Island		
Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
<p>Isolation—whether for soldiers, prisoners, birds, or plants—is a recurrent theme in the story of Alcatraz. This alternative would highlight the island’s inhospitable and isolated—yet strategic—location at the entry to the Golden Gate and San Francisco Bay. The island’s past and present significance to colonial nesting birds and its layers of human history—the Civil War fortress, the lighthouse, the prison and penitentiary—all derive from its position in the bay.</p> <p>The island’s changing natural and built landscape would continue to evolve, further enhancing habitat for nesting birds. Only those buildings and features necessary to maintain the island’s national historic landmark status would be preserved; the natural elements would reclaim other features as part of the wilding of Alcatraz.</p> <p>Visitors would be immersed in opportunities that showcase the island’s isolation, its natural resources, and all the layers of history that can be found at the Main Prison Building. Visitor experiences would include ecotourism, outdoor learning, and natural and cultural resource stewardship programming delivered in partnership with Bay Area nonprofits.</p> <p>While access would be managed to protect sensitive resources, visitors would be able to more freely explore, discover, and experience nature reclaiming Alcatraz, and understand the role the island plays in the broader marine ecosystem (reaching from San Francisco Bay to the Farallon Islands) as a result of its strategic location.</p>	<p>For more than 150 years, Alcatraz has been reworked and altered by human activity. This alternative would immerse visitors extensively in all of Alcatraz’s historic periods, including Civil War military fortification and prison, federal penitentiary, American Indian occupation, and National Park Service historic site. Alcatraz’s history would be interpreted, first and foremost with tangible and accessible historic resources, including archeology, museum collections, ruins, buildings, and cultural landscapes. These cultural resources contribute to the island’s national historic landmark status and its recognition as an international icon.</p> <p>The visitor’s immersion in Alcatraz history would begin at the original Alcatraz dock at Fort Mason. At this park site, visitors could file aboard prison-themed ferries. Passing a network of warning buoys, the experience would continue at the island’s arrival pier, marching up to the Main Prison Building through a landscape of fences and guard towers. While the primary visitor experience would focus on the federal penitentiary, visitors also would be exposed to the other layers of history, literally and programmatically, on “The Rock.”</p> <p>This alternative would require extensive stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources, as well as extensive and creative interpretation programs and visitor services. This high level of cultural resources stewardship would create opportunities for formal on-island education and conservation programs. The large population of gulls would be managed in the primary visitor use areas, but outside those areas, bird habitat would be protected and enhanced.</p>	<p>Overview (see alternative maps on pages 28 & 29)</p>
<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</p> <p>Similar to Alternative 1, this area would welcome visitors while protecting the layers of cultural resources; however, Building 64 would be adaptively reused to support the science, education, and stewardship programs. It would include space for offices, classrooms, minimal food service, and hostel-like overnight facilities for program participants. Co-locating these functions would promote interactive learning and association among the scientists, teachers, and student participants. Administrative functions would also be housed in this building.</p> <p>In this alternative, the park would also manage the structures and landscaped areas (such as the Guardhouse and gardens) between the entry pier and the Main Prison Building to protect and interpret the layers of history.</p>	<p>Historic Immersion Zone</p> <p>The park would manage this area to immerse visitors in the island’s prison landscape, re-creating the atmosphere of confinement where movements are restricted and visitors are under observation. The park would restore Building 64 and other historic features. Portions of Building 64 would provide visitors with a feel and appearance that is evocative of its different layers of history. The rest of the building would be used for visitor services and administrative functions. Possible historic functions in Building 64 would include a post office, general store, and overnight accommodations, possibly in restored guard apartments, that extend the immersive experience.</p> <p>In this alternative the park would also manage most of the adjacent areas, such as the Guardhouse, Warden’s House, and Parade Ground, to reinforce the sense of immersion as visitors move around the island.</p>	<p>Arrival area including the entry pier and Building 64 (Historic Barracks)</p>
<p>Historic Immersion Zone (Main Prison Building, including the Hospital Wing and Recreation Yard)</p> <p>These historic structures would be managed to provide visitors with access to the widest range of resources in historically accurate conditions, from the military period through the Indian occupation. Rehabilitation or restoration of historic resources would enhance their historic integrity.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Laundry Building, Model Industries Building, Parade Ground and western side of island)</p> <p>The park would manage these adjacent areas to enhance bird habitat and protect sensitive resources. Visitor use would be managed and controlled to support natural resource management goals. The Laundry Building and Model Industries Building would not be stabilized or rehabilitated, but would provide expanded habitat for nesting birds. No efforts would be made to avoid the loss of these buildings to coastal erosion. They would eventually be managed as ruins. Visitor access could be provided for wildlife viewing, research, and education but would be highly controlled. The rubble piles on the Parade Ground would be retained to maintain and enhance seabird habitat. The National Park Service also would manage the island’s southern perimeter for its natural values. The existing Agave Trail would protect natural habitat while providing seasonal access for visitors along the shoreline.</p>	<p>Historic Immersion Zone (Main Prison Building and adjacent areas)</p> <p>These historic resources would provide visitors with the opportunity to be immersed in, and explore, the federal penitentiary’s history. Visitors would also have access to the widest range of historic structures and features, in historically accurate conditions, that tell stories about the different layers of island history. Park managers would look for opportunities to expose visitors to the tangible resources (including artifacts in the park’s museum collection) of the federal penitentiary and military eras. Restoration of historic structures would continue with the goal of re-establishing historic uses where appropriate. For example, food could be prepared in the prison kitchen and served to visitors in the adjacent prisoner dining room.</p> <p>The Laundry Building would be preserved as a multi-purpose facility. It would include space for interpretation, special events, and exhibits that are tied to the historic immersion concept. A conservation lab would also be developed that would support artifact preservation and volunteer stewardship. The Parade Ground would be restored to evoke historic periods and support visitor exploration of this area. The rubble piles would be removed. The Officer’s Club would be stabilized as a ruin while providing visitors with opportunities to explore this historic structure. Additional research about the historic uses and functions of the building and its period of significance may suggest additional preservation necessary to appropriately interpret the building.</p>	<p>Main Prison Building and adjacent areas</p>

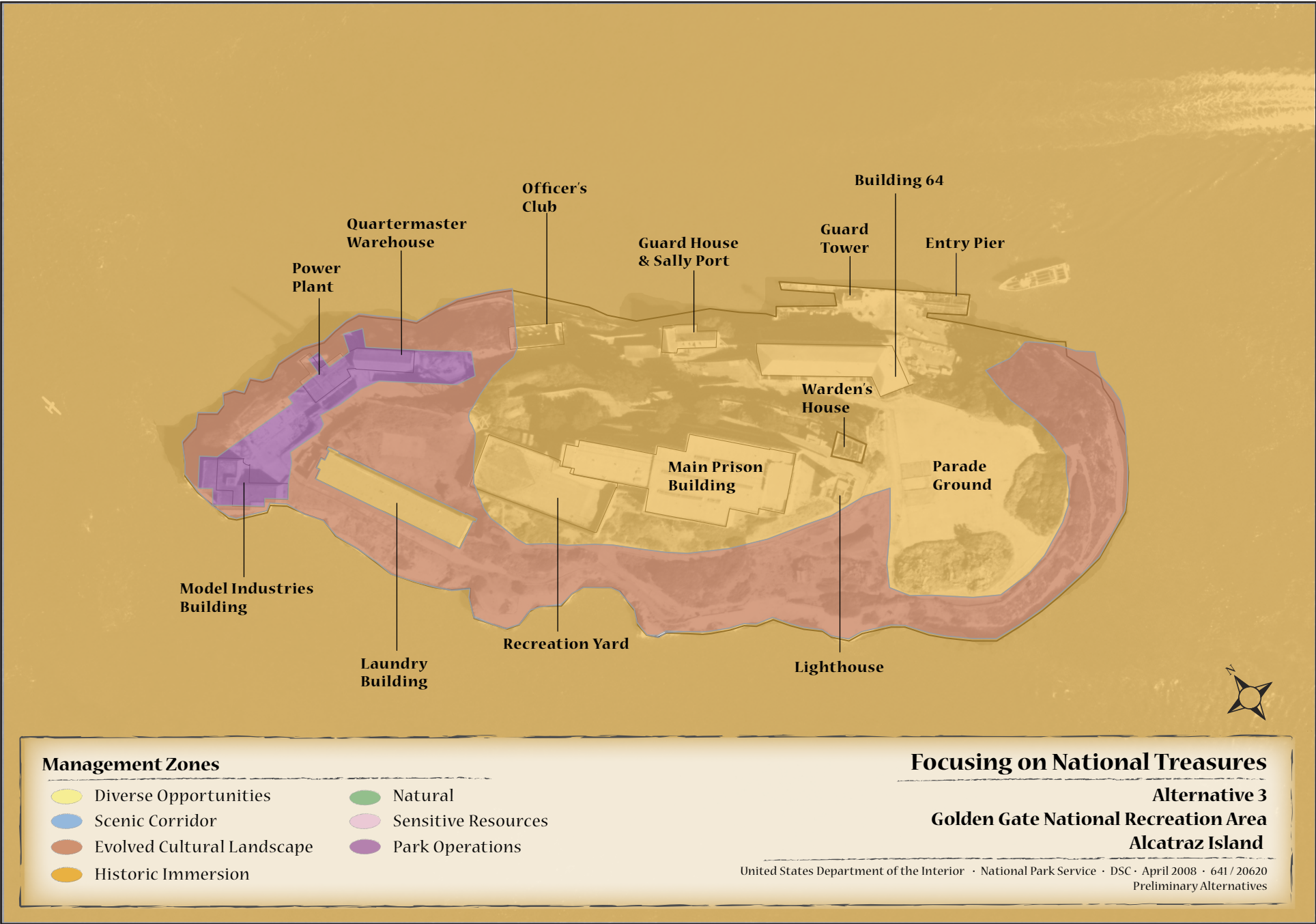
	Preliminary Alternatives for Alcatraz Island	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
Lighthouse	The lighthouse is managed for its historic function as an early aid to navigation in San Francisco Bay. Visitor access is highly controlled.	Historic Immersion Zone The lighthouse and surrounding area would be preserved to give visitors opportunities to learn about the maritime history of Alcatraz and its strategic location in the bay. Access and interpretation would be enhanced.
Power Plant and Quartermaster Warehouse	These buildings and adjacent areas house the generators that power the island. They are presently used by the park staff for park operations and maintenance. The state of preservation is minimal and visitors are not generally permitted in this area.	Park Operations Zone These historic structures, including the nearby Model Industries Building, would be rehabilitated and adaptively reused for maintenance and public safety functions. They could house green, sustainable infrastructure technologies. Where appropriate, visitor access would be provided to showcase the technology and interpret the island’s energy history.
Island Perimeter	The perimeter of the island, including the steep cliffs and immediate shore, is managed to preserve habitat for birds and marine wildlife. Visitor access is on primary trails that are open year-round, and on seasonal trails such as the Agave Trail. Other areas are closed year-round for visitor safety and seabird habitat protection.	Natural Zone (Northeastern and southern perimeter of the island) This area would be managed to protect natural habitat values while providing an opportunity for visitors to walk on trails around more of the island’s perimeter at all times of the year. Sensitive Resources Zone (Western coastal cliffs) Visitor access along the western coastal cliffs and tide pools would be highly managed to protect natural habitat values. Seasonal closures would protect sensitive seabird habitat.
Offshore Marine Environment	The GGNRA has jurisdiction over the marine environment extending approximately 1,000 feet from the island’s shore. This area is not actively managed, although access to the island is only through the park’s ferry concessionaire.	Sensitive Resources Zone (Extending 100 feet from the island’s western shore) This area would be managed to protect marine resources. The park would prohibit boat landing in this area and exclude boat tours from this area. Scenic Corridor Zone (Extending beyond the Sensitive Access Zone and along the island’s eastern shore) The park would manage this area to accommodate ferry service to the island, boat tours around the island, and other forms of nonmotorized water-based recreation. The area adjacent to the entry pier would be managed to expand the capacity and range of uses that may occur. This would enable the island to be part of the San Francisco Bay Water Trail, welcoming nonmotorized boats via permits or reservations.



Preliminary Alternatives for Alcatraz Island		
Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
Historic Immersion Zone Same as Alternative 1.	Historic Immersion Zone Same as Alternative 1.	Lighthouse
Park Operations Zone Similar to Alternative 1, except that the park operations zone would include the Officer’s Club and exclude the Model Industries Building. The Officer’s Club would be stabilized as a ruin to preserve the exterior of the structure. An interior shell could be constructed within the ruin to support park operational functions if needed. Maintenance activities and visitor access outside and nearby these structures would be managed to prevent disruption of nearby sensitive natural resources.	Park Operations Zone Same as Alternative 1.	Power Plant and Quarter-master Warehouse
Sensitive Resources Zone (Majority of the island perimeter) The majority of the perimeter of Alcatraz Island would be preserved to protect natural habitat values. Visitor use and access would be highly managed.	Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone (Majority of the island perimeter) The perimeter of the island, including the coastal cliffs, would be managed to support interpretation of the evolved cultural and natural history, and to provide greater access for visitors. Significant historic resources would be stabilized. A discovery trail would lead visitors around the island to see cultural areas (including the historic gardens) and natural areas. Seasonal closures of the trail would protect sensitive nesting bird habitat.	Island Perimeter
Sensitive Resources Zone (Extending 300 feet from the island’s western shore) Similar to Alternative 1, but extending out 300 feet, this area would be managed as a marine reserve to protect marine resources and seabird colonies. The area would be closed to visitors during seabird breeding season. Scenic Corridor Zone (Extending beyond the Sensitive Access Zone and along the island’s eastern shore) As in Alternative 1, this area would be managed to accommodate ferry access to the island as well as some forms of water-based recreation. Enforcement of resource protection measures and visitor access regulations would be strengthened. For example, tours near the island would be regulated.	Historic Immersion Zone (Extending 1,000 feet from the island’s shore) Park managers would re-institute the historic no trespass zone that was in place during previous periods and would recreate the feeling of exclusion and isolation. The zone would be demarcated by a line of historic buoys circling the island. Only approved vessels, like the visitor ferry, would be allowed to approach and use the island’s dock. Managers would also provide enhanced protection from boating disturbance to seabird colonies.	Offshore Marine Environment







Your notes



	Preliminary Alternatives for San Francisco	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
Overview (see alternative maps on pages 34 - 36)	<p>San Francisco park lands in the GMP planning area include upper Fort Mason, China Beach, Lands End, East and West Fort Miley, Ocean Beach and Fort Funston. Other areas including lower Fort Mason, the Presidio (Crissy Field and Fort Point) and the Sutro Historic District (Cliff House, Sutro Heights Park and the Sutro Baths Area) are not included in this GMP planning because they have recently completed land use plans, and implementation of those plans is completed or underway.</p> <p>These lands ring the northern and western shores of the City, providing a greenbelt right up against dense urban neighborhoods. They are central to the quality of life, offering City dwellers places to recreate, rejuvenate, and learn about the fascinating history of the region. For visitors, the park lands help define what makes San Francisco one of the most beautiful cities in the world.</p> <p>Current management focuses on preserving natural, cultural, and scenic resources and providing for a variety of recreational uses in facilities and destinations in the varied settings along the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Coast.</p>	<p>The national park lands of San Francisco provide opportunities to experience nature, explore our heritage, and enjoy the company of families, friends, and fellow community members. Under this alternative, these areas would be managed to preserve and enhance a variety of settings, and improve and expand the facilities that welcome and support visitors to the “National Park Next Door.”</p> <p>The national park’s identity would be better communicated in settings from military or urban to “wild,” and visitors would be introduced to the GGNRA and the national park system through facilities, information, and programming at popular arrival nodes and destinations.</p> <p>This alternative would also emphasize the importance of education, civic engagement, and healthy outdoor recreation, including offering nature experiences to city children and their families. Existing and new facilities would support visitor enjoyment, learning, and community-based park stewardship. Recreational and stewardship opportunities would promote healthy parks and healthy communities.</p> <p>The park would continue to improve trails and trailheads throughout its San Francisco park lands to make the park accessible to the broadest array of visitors. Sites would be connected to each other and to communities by the trails system and the City’s transit and multi-modal access systems.</p> <p>Reflecting the long tradition of partnerships in the GGNRA, the National Park Service would further collaborate with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, The Presidio Trust, and the City and County of San Francisco. Together these partners would continue to build on the accomplishments of the ongoing Trails Forever program, community outreach, engagement, and education.</p>
	<p>Fort Mason is managed to preserve the historic district and adaptively use the many historic military structures for a variety of park and park partner uses including GGNRA and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy Headquarters, a park grounds maintenance center, and a program center for San Francisco Conservation Corps. A small information center for national parks in the Pacific West Region and a hostel are the primary public uses in historic structures. The National Park Service manages a historic leasing program to preserve historic residences not in park/partner use and provides a source of funds for preservation and maintenance.</p> <p>The “Great Meadow,” created in the 1970s when several nonhistoric structures were removed, provides a flexible space that accommodates a range of informal uses and occasional large special events. The San Francisco Bay Trail through Fort Mason provides an important waterfront multi-use promenade that links to San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and many park destinations along the City and Presidio waterfront. Planning is underway to extend San Francisco’s historic streetcar system through an existing tunnel to lower Fort Mason (the Fort Mason Center) and bring water shuttle access to a pier at lower Fort Mason.</p>	<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone (Majority of the site)</p> <p>The historic district would become a portal to the GGNRA, using historic structures to welcome visitors with orientation, park information, food service, and a bookstore in a setting that would retain its peaceful contrast to the more bustling northern waterfront of Fisherman’s Wharf. With improved visibility, park signs, and additional activities, this site would provide visitors with better access and understanding of the available opportunities.</p> <p>Other historic structures in this zone would provide hostel and other overnight accommodations, an expanded stewardship/volunteer center, park headquarters and park/partner offices, and programs. The historic landscape would be preserved and enhanced, and the community garden would be retained in its current location. Rehabilitation would transform landscapes on the east and northeast slopes that have become overgrown.</p> <p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Great Meadow)</p> <p>The Great Meadow would continue to support the variety of current uses with modest improvements to provide picnicking opportunities and enhance the memorial to Congressman Phillip Burton.</p> <p>Park operations would remain in their current locations. Adjacent structures would continue to house the conservation corps program. If the program relocates, the structure or its site would serve park operation needs.</p> <p>In addition to planned future water shuttle and historic streetcar access to lower Fort Mason, visitor access to Alcatraz from the historic Alcatraz pier (Pier 4) would be considered in this alternative.</p> <p>These proposals anticipate the extension of San Francisco’s historic streetcar system through the Fort Mason tunnel to the Fort Mason Center and would require close collaboration with San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and the City of San Francisco.</p> <p>Sensitive Access Zone (Shoreline at Black Point)</p> <p>This area would be managed to protect the last remaining natural rocky shoreline in San Francisco inside the Golden Gate. An overlook would be developed in the adjacent zone to allow visitors to experience this small site.</p>
China Beach	<p>This area is currently managed to provide a facility for enjoyment of the small secluded beach; the area includes picnicking facilities, restrooms, and showers.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone</p> <p>Park managers would improve visitor facilities and access to support current uses.</p>
Lands End	<p>This area is managed to preserve and enhance the rugged coastal landscape and its natural appearance and to provide trail access.</p>	<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</p> <p>Park managers would continue to enhance the landscape, integrating natural habitat restoration with improvements to the cultural landscape and trail system. This would enhance viewpoints and provide improved connections on the California Coastal Trail and secondary trails that access the shoreline. Trail connections to the community and adjacent park lands would be improved.</p>

Preliminary Alternatives for San Francisco		
Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
<p>San Francisco’s national park lands are a vital natural refuge, rich in biodiversity and native habitat. Like Alternative 1, San Francisco park lands would welcome visitors to the “National Park Next Door”; however, this alternative would focus on engaging visitors, communities, and partners in participatory science, education, and stewardship focused on the coastal environment.</p> <p>The local impacts of global climate change and rising sea level provide a focal point for individual and collective action and advocacy. The park, in collaboration with community partners, would demonstrate leadership in pro-active adaptation and management in face of climate change and sea level rise. These interpretive messages would reach visitors enjoying the coastal environment along the San Francisco Bay Trail and the California Coastal Trail. Cultural resource sites and stories would also highlight the human connection of the coastal environment; sites and stories would include archeological sites, European exploration, maritime history, and coastal defense.</p>	<p>This alternative would focus on the collection of historic sites and the dynamic coastal landscape that defines San Francisco’s edge, from Fort Mason to Fort Funston. Visitors would be welcomed to the “National Park Next Door” as in Alternative 1, with a focus on the nationally important sites that are connected by the San Francisco Bay Trail and California Coastal Trail, thus creating a scenic and historic corridor.</p> <p>GGNRA’s park lands in San Francisco encompass a significant collection of historic sites, ranging from the Civil War-era Black Point at Fort Mason to the military coastal fortifications at Fort Funston. These sites are located amid a windswept coastal environment, featuring rocky bluffs, acres of dunes, sandy beaches, and fragile native habitat.</p> <p>Today, these offerings are an array of popular destinations for park lovers. Under this alternative, the National Park Service would expand interpretive programs and visitor services to enable residents and visitors to further appreciate the significant landmarks and landscapes at the Golden Gate.</p>	Overview (see alternative maps on pages 34 - 36)
<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone(Majority of the site)</p> <p>This zone would be managed similar to Alternative 1, but adaptive use of historic structures would bring new park partners who would engage visitors, communities, and others in participatory science, education, and stewardship focused on the coastal environment. A stewardship “hub” would be based at Fort Mason to transport volunteers arriving by public transit to a volunteer and stewardship activities in other park locations.</p> <p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Great Meadow)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p> <p>Sensitive Resources Zone (Shoreline at Black Point)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Majority of the site)</p> <p>More of the structures at Fort Mason would be dedicated to visitor services, to expand the range of opportunities. Fort Mason would serve as the primary visitor entrance to the GGNRA with an orientation and information center that would introduce visitors to all San Francisco Bay Area national parks as well as to the programs offered by GGNRA’s extensive partners, thus enabling visitors to better plan their national park visit.</p> <p>Park managers would preserve historic structures and landscapes that tell the story of continuous military and civilian use of the fort. Expanded overnight accommodations would provide a base for day-trips to explore other areas of the park. Sustainable facilities would be developed at the Great Meadow to formally support special events.</p> <p>Historic Immersion Zone (Building 201 - Park Headquarters and Pier 4)</p> <p>GGNRA headquarters would share space with a museum that would showcase the military history of Fort Mason and the 20th century port of embarkation that is the centerpiece of the historic district.</p> <p>In this alternative, tours to Alcatraz would leave from historic Pier 4 at the foot of Van Ness Avenue.</p> <p>McDowell Road would facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel through Fort Mason and highlight scenic views of the Golden Gate and San Francisco Bay.</p> <p>As in alternative 1, these proposals anticipate the extension of the historic streetcar through the Fort Mason tunnel to the Fort Mason Center and would require close collaboration with San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and the City of San Francisco.</p> <p>Sensitive Resources Zone (Shoreline at Black Point)</p> <p>Same as in Alternative 1.</p>	Upper Fort Mason
<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	China Beach
<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Native habitat and natural processes would be restored within the coastal corridor extending from Eagle’s Point (Sea Cliff neighborhood) south to the area of recent restoration and trail improvements near the new Lands End parking lot.</p> <p>The trail system would be improved to provide access to the shoreline and vistas, as well as connections to the community and adjacent park areas.</p>	<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	Lands End

	Preliminary Alternatives for San Francisco	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
Fort Miley	<p>Fort Miley is divided into East and West by the active Veterans Administration (VA) hospital. Park managers continue to preserve the historic structures and landscapes, providing for both public and park operation uses. East Fort Miley is managed as a small maintenance center housed in historic structures, with public access to an unimproved landscape setting primarily through the VA Hospital campus.</p> <p>West Fort Miley’s historic forest contains a ropes course and a small picnic area set among historic fortifications with spectacular coastal views. The historic Marine Exchange Lookout Building (Octagon House) is unused.</p>	<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</p> <p>Historic structures and landscapes would be preserved and enhanced. East and West Fort Miley landscape and access improvements would focus on enhancing their appearance and better connecting the sites to their surroundings, including the community, Lands End, and the VA hospital campus. Improved picnicking and group camping facilities would be provided in an appropriate location as would opportunities for outdoor learning and leadership programs.</p> <p>Safe and more direct vehicle and trail access to East Fort Miley would be developed to better support its future use and preservation. Needed maintenance functions would remain at the site, or if relocated to a more suitable site, historic structures could be made available for environmental education or other public uses.</p> <p>West Fort Miley would provide an enhanced setting for outdoor learning and leadership. The Marine Exchange Lookout Station (Octagon House) would be rehabilitated to interpret its history and provide for park or public uses.</p>
Ocean Beach	<p>Ocean Beach is managed to provide a recreational beach that accommodates high use levels, preserve its natural values including shorebird habitat, and provide a coastal trail connection between Fort Funston and Lands End.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone</p> <p>Park managers would continue to provide for high levels of recreational beach use and preserve natural values including shorebird habitat. Trail connections between Lands End and Fort Funston and the interface with City of San Francisco’s lands in the beach corridor, including Golden Gate Park, would be improved.</p> <p>The park managers would collaborate with the City of San Francisco to provide an enhanced oceanfront landscape in the Ocean Beach corridor with improved amenities to support enjoyment of the beach, including the coastal promenade, parking, and restrooms.</p> <p>Through collaboration with the City of San Francisco and the US Army Corps of Engineers park managers would continue to explore and implement appropriate solutions for coastal erosion and protection or relocation of threatened parking and access facilities.</p>
Fort Funston	<p>The park provides trail and beach access for a variety of recreational uses, including dog walking, and preserves natural and cultural resources. Former military structures support hang gliding, park operations, and environmental education programs with group camping. Important habitats are restored.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Majority of the site)</p> <p>Landscape and trail improvements and habitat restoration would provide an enhanced setting to support a high level and variety of current and new uses of the site. New visitor facilities would be provided near the parking lot; these would include restrooms, group picnicking facilities, and a warming hut combining food service with park information and a bookstore. The park would preserve Battery Davis, the historic seacoast fortification.</p> <p>Park Operations Zone (Southeastern corner)</p> <p>Existing buildings would be retained and could be expanded to meet park operation needs, including public safety offices, an expanded nursery/stewardship center, expanded/relocated maintenance facilities, and staff/volunteer housing.</p> <p>The existing environmental education center could remain in this zone, or be relocated to another site better served by public transportation with appropriate facilities and outdoor settings.</p>
Offshore Marine Areas	<p>The GGNRA has jurisdiction through a management lease over a 1,000-foot-wide fringe of coastal waters immediately off shore. Park management of these areas accommodates public uses including water recreation (swimming, surfing, and boating) and noncommercial fishing. The area supports research, inventory, monitoring, and consultation and cooperation with other resource managing agencies.</p>	<p>The park would preserve the marine environment and accommodate public uses including surfing, nonmotorized boating, and noncommercial fishing. Park managers would protect the marine habitat, rocks, and other natural features of the area.</p>

Preliminary Alternatives for San Francisco		
Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1, except that more natural landscape enhancements would be integrated and the Marine Exchange Lookout Building (Octagon House) would be adaptively reused to engage the public in the natural and human history of the marine environment.</p>	<p>Historic Immersion Zone (West Fort Miley, the USS San Francisco Memorial and Marine Exchange Lookout Building (Octagon House))</p> <p>The park would preserve these structures and sites and showcase military and maritime history.</p> <p>Park Operations Zone (East Fort Miley)</p> <p>Park managers would focus on providing park maintenance and public safety operations needed to support the surrounding park lands. Safer and more direct vehicle and access to East Fort Miley would be developed to better support this use.</p>	Fort Miley
<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Northern portion of Ocean Beach)</p> <p>The northern end of Ocean Beach would be managed to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in a variety of beach related recreational activities.</p> <p>As in Alternative 1, the park would collaborate with the City of San Francisco to provide an enhanced oceanfront landscape in the Ocean Beach corridor with improved amenities to support enjoyment of the beach, including the coastal promenade, parking, and restrooms.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Southern portion of Ocean Beach)</p> <p>The area would be managed to protect shorebirds and allow natural coastal and marine processes to occur while providing for a variety of compatible recreational activities that allow visitors to enjoy and view nature. This zone would extend to create approximately 5 miles of beach, dunes, and cliffs from central Ocean Beach south to Mussel Rock. Park managers would protect shorebird habitat, allow natural shoreline processes to continue unimpeded, and provide visitors opportunities for self-discovery while enjoying and viewing nature.</p> <p>The park would continue to work with the City of San Francisco and the US Army Corps of Engineers to address coastal erosion through “managed retreat”: facilities would be actively relocated out of vulnerable locations.</p> <p>In Both Zones Like Alternative 1, this alternative would support the City of San Francisco’s interest in a broad approach to redesigning the Ocean Beach corridor and exploring sustainable approaches to sea level rise.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Northern portion of Ocean Beach)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 2.</p> <p>Natural Zone (Southern portion of Ocean Beach)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 2.</p>	Ocean Beach
<p>Natural Zone (Majority of the site)</p> <p>Fort Funston’s islands of native habitat would be expanded to form a continuous habitat corridor that supports recovery of native dune habitat including endangered San Francisco Lessingia plants.</p> <p>The beach, dunes, and cliffs extending from central Ocean Beach south to Mussel Rock (a stretch of almost 5 miles extending into San Mateo County) would be managed to protect shorebird habitat, allow natural shoreline processes to continue unimpeded, and provide improved or new trails for visitors to enjoy and view nature.</p> <p>Diverse Opportunities (Central core of existing facilities)</p> <p>This area would be managed to provide continued high levels of varied visitor use, including hang gliding and dog walking, near the main parking lot, supported by parking, restrooms, and trails. Park managers would preserve Battery Davis as a structure contributing to the history of seacoast fortifications.</p> <p>Park Operations Zone (Southeastern corner)</p> <p>Park operations, stewardship, and education support facilities would remain.</p>	<p>Natural Zone (Majority of the site)</p> <p>This area would be managed to provide recreational activities in a more natural setting with limited support facilities. Access and parking would be at the edge of the site, allowing restoration of the natural dune ecosystem and providing for trail access. Nonhistoric structures would be removed; existing park operation functions and the environmental education program would be relocated to suitable locations elsewhere in the park.</p> <p>The historic Battery Davis would be preserved within the context of the natural setting. The coastal bluffs would be preserved for their unique geology and to allow natural processes to continue unimpeded.</p> <p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Top of cliffs)</p> <p>This zone would be managed to provide for continued high levels of visitor use and current opportunities such as hang gliding and dog walking.</p>	Fort Funston
<p>Sensitive Resources Zone (Eagle’s Point near China Beach to Seal Rocks)</p> <p>The area would be designated a marine reserve to protect seabirds and marine mammals.</p> <p>Natural Zone (All other offshore areas in SF)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Natural Zone (All offshore areas in SF)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	Offshore Marine Areas







Rancho Corral de Tierra, San Mateo County



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Your notes



	Preliminary Alternatives for San Mateo County	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
<p>Overview (see alternative maps on pages 44 - 46)</p>	<p>At the time the previous general management plan (GMP) was developed, the GGNRA did not manage any land in San Mateo County. Since that time, the park has grown to include almost 30,000 acres within its boundaries in San Mateo County.</p> <p>Stretching along the San Mateo coast to Corral de Tierra and inland to the Phleger Estate, the southern park lands feature a remarkable wealth of natural and historic resources. From rugged coastal bluffs and windswept ridgelines to a redwood forest, wetlands, and streams, these lands support an abundance of plants and wildlife and tell the story of the people who have shaped this peninsula over generations.</p> <p>GGNRA’s park lands in San Mateo County serve a large and diverse local population, offering unsurpassed opportunities for recreation and enjoyment. Whether enjoying the trails, strolling the beaches, or taking in panoramic views up and down the Pacific coast, there are unlimited ways to explore and appreciate these park lands.</p> <p>Currently the National Park Service’s presence in San Mateo is limited, sites are not well identified, and there are few basic facilities to support access. Management of park land in San Mateo County is guided by the park’s authorizing legislation (its purpose) and the management policies common to units of the national park system. Although a general management plan amendment was approved for Sweeney Ridge in 1985, this current general management plan will provide management guidance for the first time to the other GGNRA park sites in San Mateo County.</p> <p>Other small-scale site planning for places like Mori Point have also been completed. The park has consulted with other agencies to achieve fundamental park goals, as regarding the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) watershed, where the park holds scenic and recreational easements.</p>	<p>In all three alternatives, park lands and marine environments in San Mateo County would be managed as part of a vast network of protected lands and waters (some recognized as part of the UNESCO Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve); this network includes SFPUC watershed lands, state parks, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and other county and regional park lands.</p> <p>In the spirit of the “Parks to People” movement that created the Golden Gate National Recreation Area more than three decades ago, this alternative would focus on the importance of improving access and community engagement in GGNRA’s park lands. Given the significant addition of park land in this area in recent years, a series of actions would be needed to enhance visitor access, enjoyment, appreciation, and stewardship.</p> <p>Key efforts would include increasing the visibility of NPS sites and connecting park sites to nearby communities through various information, outreach, and volunteer programs. The addition of new signs, trailhead parking, and trails will help visitors find their way to various park sites and will help them gain an understanding of the park’s diverse natural and cultural resources.</p> <p>Equally important would be providing facilities to welcome visitors to the park. This alternative would promote development of a multi-agency visitor information and orientation facility. Located along Highway 1, the information facility could be shared by the National Park Service/GGNRA, San Mateo County, California State Parks, NOAA/Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and other organizations.</p>
<p>Thornton State Beach to South of Mussel Rock</p>	<p>GGNRA manages approximately 30 acres in 2 parcels in this geologically dynamic coastline: one parcel south of Thornton State beach and one parcel south of Mussel Rock. No improvements have been made by the park for public access and there is no active park presence in this area. In the absence of a general management plan, current management is guided by the park’s authorizing legislation (its purpose) and the management policies common to units of the national park system.</p>	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>In all alternatives park managers would preserve and enhance the natural and scenic values of the area; allow for natural coastal geologic processes to continue; and provide modest visitor access facilities (trails, trailheads) to beaches, scenic overlooks, and along the California Coastal Trail, where feasible.</p> <p>The beach, dunes, and cliffs extending from San Francisco’s Ocean Beach south to Mussel Rock (a stretch of almost 5 miles) would be managed to protect shorebird habitat, allow natural shoreline processes to continue unimpeded, and provide improved or new trails for visitors to enjoy and view nature.</p>
<p>Milagra Ridge</p>	<p>Added to the park in 1987, the area is managed to protect and restore natural habitat, (especially endangered species habitat), to protect historic coastal defense fortifications, and to provide public access through a system of trails so people can enjoy the site and its scenic views. Recent acquisition by the park of a conservation easement on the northeast slope allows potential development of a Bay Area Ridge Trail connection to the coast.</p>	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>The area would be managed to preserve its wild character and protect endangered species habitat. Heavily disturbed areas would be restored. Trail improvements would be limited, but would include the Bay Area Ridge Trail connection to Oceana Boulevard and a trail connection to Skyline Boulevard.</p> <p>Scenic Corridor Zone (center of ridge)</p> <p>Additional visitor amenities to improve accessibility, including trailhead parking, restrooms, and picnic facilities would support visitors and local stewardship volunteers.</p>
<p>Shelldance Nursery Area</p>	<p>Added to the park in 1988 and 1993, the small area is managed for multiple uses: a commercial orchid nursery, a trailhead to Sweeney Ridge, and storage of park maintenance equipment.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone and Park Operations Zone</p> <p>In all alternatives, the site would transition over time from a commercial nursery to an area that provides a variety of visitor services (enhanced trailhead parking serving both Sweeney Ridge and Mori Point, restrooms, park orientation and information, a community stewardship center). Access from Highway 1 would be improved.</p> <p>In all alternatives, a portion of this park site would be dedicated to park operational needs possibly including a satellite facility for maintenance and public safety, native plant nursery, and ranger, workforce or volunteer housing.</p>

Preliminary Alternatives for San Mateo County		
Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
<p>As in the other alternatives, park lands and marine environments in San Mateo County would be managed as part of a vast network of protected lands and waters. In this alternative, however, park managers would place greater emphasis on preservation and restoration of these dynamic, interconnected coastal ecosystems through collaborative partnerships with other land management agencies in the region. Together these groups would work to sustain the area’s native biodiversity, re-connect fragmented habitats and migration corridors, minimize the impact of invasive species, manage for changing fire regimes, and restore naturally functioning ecosystems. Pro-active management would build into the environment greater resiliency to climate change.</p> <p>The GGNRA’s park lands in San Mateo County provide an extensive wildlife corridor that includes habitat for threatened and endangered species. Under this alternative, these lands would serve as living laboratories, engaging visitors in participatory science, education, and stewardship—activities that nurture personal connections with nature and inspire advocacy.</p> <p>Exploration along the vast network of trails would further highlight the park’s diverse ecosystems and rich cultural resources. Cultural resource sites and stories—archeological sites, European exploration, agricultural land uses, coastal defense sites, and the lighthouse—would emphasize human occupation of the coastal environment. Most cultural resources would be stabilized as discovery sites if not in conflict with natural resource restoration.</p> <p>Land protection strategies would seek to reconnect fragmented endangered species habitat and strive to remove features that impede movement or migration of species, or disrupt ecological function.</p>	<p>As in the other alternatives, park lands and marine environments in San Mateo County would be managed as part of a vast network of protected lands and waters. This alternative, however, would highlight how this “quilt” of undeveloped land has been protected by numerous organizations. Over the past 20 years, the National Park Service, local governments, private land trusts, and dedicated individuals have worked hand in hand to acquire and preserve this “Wilderness Next Door.”</p> <p>Today, these lands are a national treasure of recreational, natural, and cultural resources. Several nationally significant historic sites are in San Mateo County, along with habitat for numerous endangered species. Many of these important resources are managed by other agencies on nearby sites. This alternative would focus on protecting resources in the park while developing recreational and thematic connections between sites managed by other land managers.</p> <p>This alternative also looks beyond the immediate park lands to explore the potential to stimulate regional landscape management and enhance heritage tourism. To do so, park managers would work with communities between Pacifica and Santa Cruz to support the National Scenic Byway designation of the Pacific Coast Highway (Hwy 1). The highway is one of the unifying features of the rural coast, and is characterized by forested hills, small-scale agriculture, and seaside communities.</p>	<p>Overview (see alternative maps on pages 44 - 46)</p>
<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Thornton State Beach to South of Mussel Rock</p>
<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>The land would be managed to preserve the wild character of the area and protect endangered species habitat. Heavily disturbed areas would be restored. Trail improvements would be limited, but would include the Bay Area Ridge Trail connection to Oceana Boulevard.</p>	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 2.</p>	<p>Milagra Ridge</p>
<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone and Park Operations Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Diverse Opportunities Zone and Park Operations Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Shelldance Nursery Area</p>

	Preliminary Alternatives for San Mateo County	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
Sweeney Ridge including Cattle Hill and Picardo Ranch	Added to the park in 1984, Sweeney Ridge is managed for natural values (especially endangered species habitat), and to protect significant historical resources that include the Portola Expedition San Francisco Bay Discovery site and 20th century Nike facilities. Cattle Hill is expected to be transferred to the National Park Service by the City of Pacifica in the near term and recent collaboration has provided trail and habitat improvements on this site. Picardo Ranch and the western extension of Cattle Hill are both private land not managed by the GGNRA at this time. Picardo Ranch includes the lower slopes of Cattle Hill and its trails connect to Sweeney Ridge. Currently, an equestrian facility provides horse boarding. Park acquisition of these lands or a conservation easement is possible within the planning horizon of the general management plan.	<p>Natural Zone (Majority of the area)</p> <p>The area would be managed to protect the large contiguous natural landscape extending into the SFPUC watershed. Visitors would experience the area through stewardship activities, trail use, and primitive camping.</p> <p>Scenic Corridor Zone (Sneath Lane and part of Sweeney Ridge)</p> <p>Trail amenities would be developed, and connections would be enhanced to the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the Sawyer Camp Trail in the SFPUC watershed.</p> <p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Developed portion of Picardo Ranch)</p> <p>If acquired, the existing facilities could be adapted or replaced with new facilities to support visitor activities, including continued equestrian use, and park operations. Management would include strong protection for natural and cultural resources.</p>
Mori Point	Added to the park in 2002, this park site is managed to preserve and enhance habitat for threatened and endangered species (San Francisco garter snake, red legged frog) and to restore natural functions to a highly degraded site. A network of hiking trails, including the California Coastal Trail, is under development to provide visitors access to the area’s scenic views.	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>The land would be managed for ongoing preservation and enhancement of natural habitats and for public enjoyment of the site and its exceptional views and landscapes. Trailheads and trails would be enhanced to improve accessibility and connections to local communities and the California Coastal Trail.</p>
Pedro Point, Devil’s Slide, and San Pedro Mountain	These rugged coastal areas are not managed by the GGNRA. However, they will be greatly affected by the opening of the Highway 1 tunnel under construction, and are likely to be added to the park within the planning horizon of the general management plan. The City of Pacifica manages Pedro Point to preserve its natural features and open space. The Devil’s Slide segment is managed by Caltrans to support Highway 1; several agencies have been involved in planning trailheads for the future conversion of the road to a multi-use trail when the Devils Slide tunnel opens in 2011. Lands adjacent to Highway 1 in this area and on San Pedro Mountain are in public and private ownership.	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>These lands, if acquired, would be managed to maintain natural features and scenic views and to continue with the habitat restoration and access improvements initiated by the community. Trailheads and trails would be developed and enhanced to improve accessibility and connections to the California Coastal Trail and adjacent public lands. Collaboration with adjacent land managers would be essential.</p>
Rancho Corral de Tierra	<p>One of the largest areas of open space near San Francisco, the 4,200 acre site is managed by the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and encompasses the majority of an 1839 Mexican Land Grant. The isolated and undisturbed condition of the land provides unique and productive habitat for a diverse array of plant and animal species, including several threatened and endangered species. The headwaters of four major coastal watersheds are contained within this property, providing important riparian habitat and a scenic backdrop that visually distinguished the San Mateo mid-coast region.</p> <p>Limited public access is provided for recreation such as hiking and horseback riding. Four equestrian facilities are operated under leases, supporting a popular way of accessing the large, steep, and rugged site.</p> <p>The acquisition process is underway to transfer this land to the National Park Service. Approximately 300 acres of the Rancho are not included in the park boundary and will remain in agricultural use.</p>	<p>Natural Zone (Majority of the area)</p> <p>In all alternatives, the majority of the area would be managed to preserve the wild, open character of the land and offer trail-based recreation that is light on the land, including hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Natural habitat and processes would be restored, and the ecosystems of the four coastal watersheds would be restored to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p>In this alternative, visitors would enjoy the area through an enhanced and sustainable system of trails, stewardship activities, and primitive camping. Destinations for discovery in the park, such as overlooks, picnic areas, and sites for primitive camping, would be created along trails in more remote settings. An improved trail network would connect the local communities to the park, and link the ridges of Montara Mountain to the Pacific Ocean. Opportunities for a trail connection to Sweeney Ridge through the SFPUC watershed’s northwest corner would be explored with other land managers.</p> <p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Existing developed areas)</p> <p>In this alternative, “portals” would be established in the areas of existing development: these would include facilities to support visitor enjoyment and exploration of this large, diverse park area and the extensive adjacent public lands.</p> <p>In addition to equestrian facilities with strong public programs, facilities could include a visitor center, stewardship/educational center, warming hut, group picnic areas, developed campsites, and rustic overnight accommodations. Detailed planning following the GMP would determine the mix of uses that would share this zone. New or retained facilities would be restricted to appropriate sites and would include environmental protection for natural and cultural resources.</p> <p>Habitat restoration and community stewardship activities would have a strong presence in this zone. The adjacent working agricultural landscapes and Fitzgerald Marine Reserve could be incorporated into the visitor experience through programs and interpretation.</p>

Preliminary Alternatives for San Mateo County		
Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>This area would be managed to protect and restore the large contiguous natural landscape extending into the SFPUC watershed. Visitors would experience the wild character of these lands through stewardship activities, trail use, and primitive camping. Sneath Lane could be downgraded to a trail and connect to the Bay Area Ridge Trail in the SFPUC watershed. Unnecessary fire roads could be downgraded to trails, or removed if not historic, and natural resources restored. If acquired, a trailhead would be located at Picardo Ranch with modest visitor support facilities (restroom, picnic tables, parking).</p>	<p>Natural Zone (Majority of the area)</p> <p>The area would be managed to protect the large contiguous natural landscape extending into the SFPUC watershed. Visitors would experience the area through stewardship activities, trail use, and primitive camping. The area would connect visitors to the Bay Area Ridge Trail.</p> <p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Developed portion of Picardo Ranch)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Sweeney Ridge including Cattle Hill and Picardo Ranch</p>
<p>Sensitive Resources Zone</p> <p>Visitor use would be highly controlled to protect threatened and endangered species that inhabit the site. The public would continue to engage in community stewardship to preserve and restore the native coastal ecosystem.</p>	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Mori Point</p>
<p>Sensitive Resources Zone (Devil’s Slide area)</p> <p>If acquired, the rugged coastal areas west of existing Highway 1 would be managed to protect nesting sea birds. Visitor access would be highly managed or closed during breeding seasons.</p> <p>Natural Zones (Other areas)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Pedro Point, Devil’s Slide, and San Pedro Mountain</p>
<p>Natural Zone (Majority of the area)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1, but with fewer and more primitive visitor amenities. Unnecessary fire roads could be downgraded to trails or removed if not historic, and natural processes restored.</p> <p>Sensitive Resources Zone (Creek corridors)</p> <p>In this alternative, the four equestrian facilities, all located along coastal streams, would be removed or relocated away from creek corridors over time. The park would partner with surrounding land managers to restore the creek corridors, reconnect them to the ocean, and restore anadramous fish passage.</p> <p>Scenic Corridor Zone (Existing equestrian lease area)</p> <p>This area would accommodate an equestrian facility, in a sustainable location and configuration, compatible with natural resource management goals for the surrounding area.</p>	<p>Natural Zone (Majority of the area)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p> <p>Diverse Opportunities Zone (Existing developed areas)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Rancho Corral de Tierra</p>

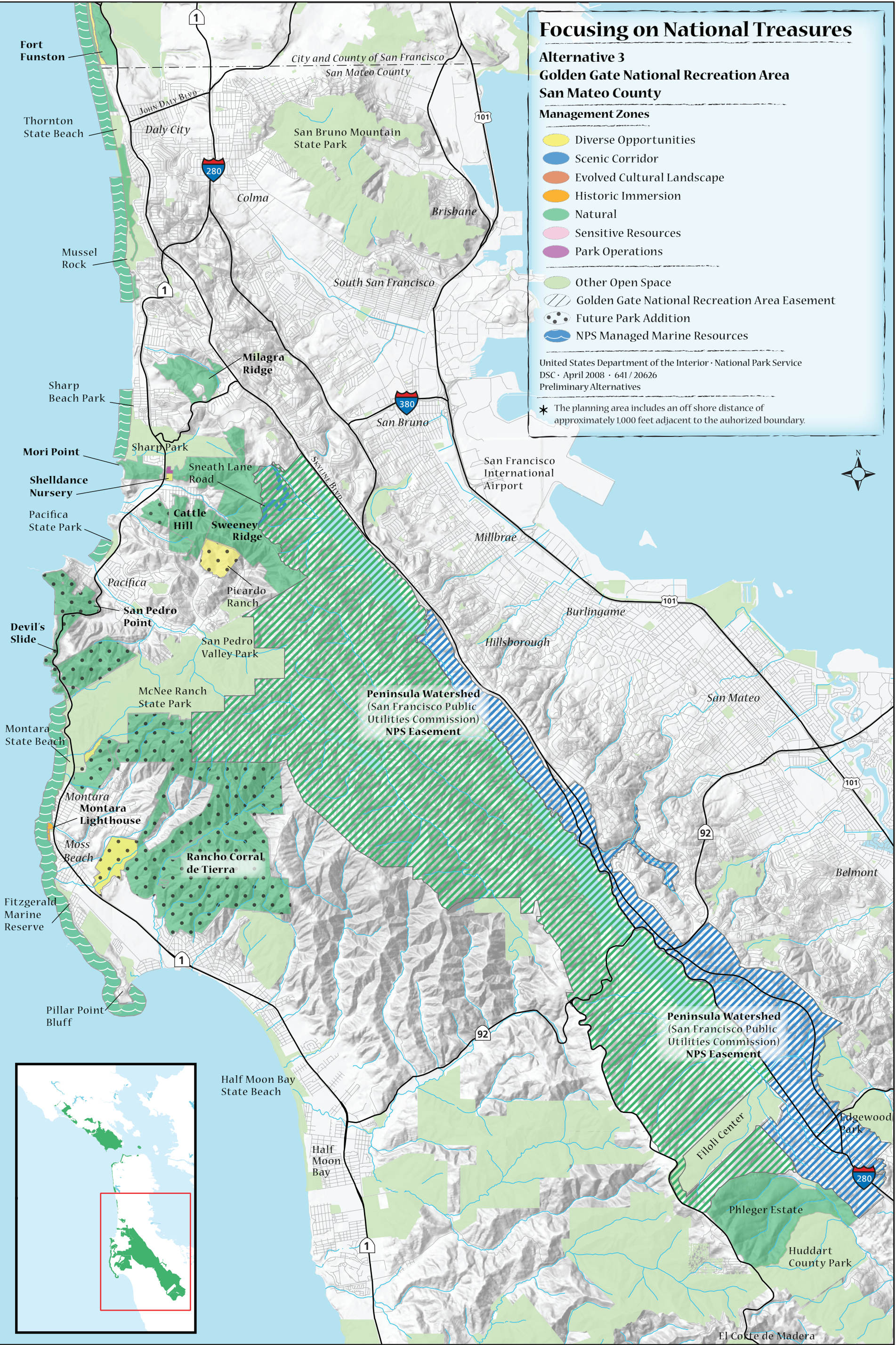
	Preliminary Alternatives for San Mateo County	
	Current Conditions and Management	Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1
Montara Lighthouse	The site is presently managed by the US Coast Guard. Under an agreement with California State Parks, a hostel is operated in several structures related to the lighthouse. Day use of the site is focused on scenic views and lighthouse history. Transfer of this site to the park is anticipated within the planning horizon of the general management plan.	<p><i>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</i></p> <p>In all alternatives, the historic lighthouse structures would be preserved, and access from Highway 1 would be improved.</p> <p>Management would enhance the current hostel and day use programming and would consider additional visitor information and orientation services/facilities. Improved north and south trail connections would better integrate this site as part of the GGNRA. The historic resources would be preserved and adaptively used to tell the stories of this historic site.</p>
Phleger Estate	Added to the park in 1994, the area is managed to preserve the cultural and natural resources of this 1,000-acre second growth redwood forest and to provide access to the regional trail system.	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>In all alternatives, the area would be managed to provide recreation in a natural and contemplative setting that complements the more developed recreational experiences at adjacent Huddart County Park. The redwood forest ecosystem would be restored and managed for trail-based recreation. Trail connections to adjacent lands would be pursued in collaboration with San Mateo County and SFPUC. These connections would include the Bay Area Ridge Trail and potential access from trailheads on Cañada Road and Skyline Boulevard. Community stewardship of the site could contribute to trail and habitat improvements.</p>
SFPUC Watershed Easements	These 23,000 acres are managed by SFPUC to protect the City’s water supply and the ecological and cultural resources of the watershed. Compatible recreational, educational, and scientific uses are highly controlled; primary public access is on trails along the eastern edge of the watershed where the trails are easily accessible from adjacent communities. Access on the 10-mile Cahill Ridge alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail is provided by guided tours. The GGNRA manages two easements over the watershed: a Scenic Easement and a Scenic and Recreation Easement that provide for preservation of natural values and limited recreational use. The SFPUC and GGNRA cooperate to assure that ongoing water operations and other allowable uses are compatible with the preservation and access components of the easements. The SFPUC watershed forms the core of the UNESCO Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve, a rich reservoir of plant and animal life.	<p>Natural Zone (Majority of the area, corresponding with the Scenic Easement)</p> <p>Park managers would continue to cooperate with the SFPUC for the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational features of the watershed. Within this zone, the park would promote a new trail connection between the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the California Coastal Trail on the existing alignment over Whiting Ridge: this would connect Sweeney Ridge with McNee Ranch State Park and Rancho Corral de Tierra.</p> <p>Scenic Corridor Zone (Eastern area closest to Highway 280, corresponding with the Scenic and Recreation Easement)</p> <p>Park managers would promote connecting the existing San Andreas multi-use trail to Sweeney Ridge via Sneath Lane, thus improving trail access to the Phleger Estate from Cañada Road. Park managers also would promote the implementation of other trail improvements proposed in the San Francisco Watershed Management Plan (2002), including completion of the north-south corridor through the watershed in areas of low sensitivity.</p> <p>Preservation of scenic views along the trails, Cañada Road, Skyline Boulevard, Interstate 280, and its vista points would also be promoted in cooperation with SFPUC and Caltrans.</p>
Offshore Marine Environment	The GGNRA has jurisdiction through a management lease over a 1,000-foot-wide fringe of coastal waters immediately off shore. Park management of these areas accommodates public uses that include water recreation (swimming, surfing, and boating) and noncommercial fishing. The area supports research, inventory, monitoring, and consultation and cooperation with other resource managing agencies.	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>In all alternatives, the offshore marine environment would be managed for natural and cultural resource protection, while allowing swimming, surfing, non motorized boating, and fishing where appropriate.</p>



Preliminary Alternatives for San Mateo County		
Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2	Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3	
<p>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</p> <p>Similar to Alternative 1, the historic resources would be preserved and adaptively used, but the site would be dedicated to stewardship and environmental education. The site would become a campus focused on enhancing understanding and stewardship of coastal resources, with hostel and overnight accommodations for program participants and staff.</p>	<p>Historic Immersion Zone</p> <p>As the most intact lighthouse complex in the park, the site offers an opportunity for immersion in the life of lighthouse keepers. This alternative would restore historic structures and landscape features, remove contemporary structures, and develop new visitor programs. Overnight stays would be part of the immersion experience.</p>	<p>Montara Lighthouse</p>
<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternatives 1. Interpretation would explore the estate’s similarities with and differences from Muir Woods National Monument.</p>	
<p>Sensitive Resources Zone (Majority of the area)</p> <p>In this alternative, the park managers would continue to cooperate with the SFPUC for the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational features of the watershed. Park managers would promote natural resource preservation and highly managed public access in most of the watershed to support the values that resulted in designatin this area as the core of the UNESCO Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve.</p> <p>Scenic Corridor Zone (Sawyer Camp/San Andreas Trail corridor)</p> <p>Park managers would promote access and visitor services along the existing multi-use trail and the implementation of trail improvements proposed in the San Francisco Watershed Management Plan (2002), including completion of the north-south corridor through the watershed in areas of low sensitivity.</p>	<p>Natural Zone (Majority of the area, corresponding with the Scenic Easement)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p> <p>Scenic Corridor Zone (Eastern edge, adjacent to I-280)</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1, but with an emphasis on promoting enhanced interpretation to highlight the scope of the water system with its origins in Yosemite National Park.</p>	<p>SFPUC Watershed Easements</p>
<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Natural Zone</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	<p>Offshore Marine Environment</p>







Transportation

Park managers are currently developing a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the park. The LRTP provides a strategy for managing the park's transportation system and operations based on current management plans. The plan includes gathering data to identify transportation conditions and funding needs, identifying strategies, and creating a list of high-priority transportation projects. Once completed, each GMP alternative will be compared with the LRTP to identify any additional transportation infrastructure, projects, or programs that may be needed to support the proposed GMP alternatives. The results of this comparison will be incorporated into the GMP alternatives and presented in the *Draft GMP/EIS*.

Climate Change

Climate change could alter the landscape, natural resources, cultural sites, and facilities of the park. Climate change refers to changes occurring in the earth's atmospheric, hydrologic, and oceanic systems. These changes, including increased global air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level, provide unequivocal evidence that the earth's climate system is warming.

The GMP will provide guidance on how the parks will assess, interpret, and respond to the impacts of climate change. The GMP also will include goals for:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions— to the point that the parks and partners become carbon neutral, and visitor travel emissions are significantly reduced;
- educating NPS staff, its partners, and the public on the topic;
- and proactively planning for and adapting to the effects that may be realized from climate change, including the loss of shoreline, altered terrestrial and marine ecosystems, damage to recreation sites and park facilities, and disruptions in visitor use.

User Capacity

General management plans for national park units are required by law to address the topic of user capacity, also known as carrying capacity. The National Park Service defines user capacity as the types and extent of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the quality of park resources and visitor experiences consistent with the purposes of the park. Managing user capacity in national parks is inherently complex and depends not only on the number of visitors, but also on where they go, what they do and the “footprints” they leave behind. In managing for user capacity, the park staff and partners rely on a variety of management tools and strategies, rather than relying solely on regulating the number of people in a park or simply establishing limits on visitor use. In addition, the ever-changing nature of visitor use in parks requires a deliberate and adaptive to approach to user capacity management.

The foundations for making user capacity decisions in this general management plan are the parks' purpose, significance, special mandates, and management zones. The purpose, significance, and special mandates define why the park was established and identify the most important resources and values, including visitor opportunities, that will be protected and provided. The management zones describe the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, including appropriate recreation activities, for different locations throughout the two parks. These elements direct the National Park Service on how to protect resources while offering a diversity of visitor opportunities.

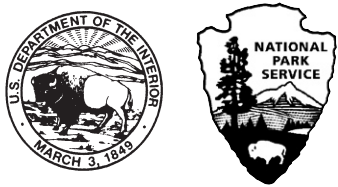
In addition to these important directives, this plan will include indicators and standards, which are measureable variables that will be monitored to track changes in resource conditions and visitor experiences. The indicators and standards help the National Park Service evaluate whether desired conditions are being met. The general management plan will also include a range of actions that would be taken to maintain or restore desired conditions. For example, management actions may include providing information about low impact recreational use and the principles of “Leave No Trace”; directing visitors to designated facilities or areas; adding or altering facilities (trails, picnic tables) for containment of use to designated areas; directing visitors to lesser-used areas or off-peak times; restricting the types of recreation activities permitted; and/or reducing the amount of visitor use in certain areas.



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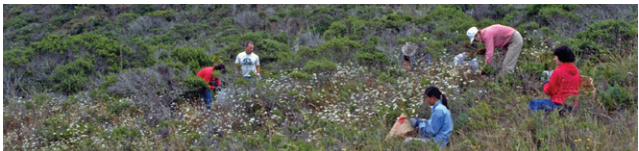
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