



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate National
Recreation Area

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Golden Gate NRA News Release

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For Immediate Release
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GGNRA Restoration Workday and Planning Meeting in Tamalpais Valley, December 7 and 9

Two events in early December will provide an opportunity for the public to be involved in restoring native plant communities at Golden Gate National Recreation Area where the vegetation has been converted to non- native eucalyptus forest.

On Sunday, December 7, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, there will be a volunteer workday at the Tam Fire Site near Eastwood Park in Tamalpais Valley. The Tam Fire burned 12 acres of eucalyptus on the edge of a residential area in May 2004. About 1,500 burned eucalyptus trees were removed from the site during the first year after the fire to protect the public from unstable trees. Volunteers are needed to help restore the site to an oak woodland by removing invasive weeds, and planting native species.

Work at the Tam Fire Site is an ongoing project of the Habitat Restoration Team, which is working to restore approximately 30 sites within the Golden Gate National Parks. Since the Tam Fire in 2004, over 1,000 native plants have been planted by the Habitat Restoration Team in an effort to keep the site from growing back into a eucalyptus forest.

Restoration of the Tam Fire Site will help improve fire protection for surrounding neighborhoods since oak woodland is more fire resistant than eucalyptus. According to interviews with long time residents, eucalyptus trees were planted in Tamalpais Valley in the early 1900's by a real estate company to create a windbreak before the park was established. Since then, it has spread outward to cover 70 acres, reducing habitat for native species, and becoming an increasing fire hazard.

Following the December 7 workday, a Habitat Restoration Planning meeting will take place on the evening of December 9 at the Tamalpais Valley Community Center, 203 Marin Drive in Mill Valley, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This meeting will discuss a project proposal presented by Marin County Fire Department last summer to remove an additional 33 acres

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of eucalyptus trees near the fire site. Removal of eucalyptus and other fire prone trees is a high priority in the Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and is also addressed in the 2005 GGNRA Fire Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement. The December 9 meeting will provide an overview of the GGNRA planning process and summarize the comments received from the community in response to the project concept. Alternative projects will also be presented.

Native species to be planted at the Tam Fire Site and other potential restoration sites in Tamalpais Valley include coyote brush, coffeeberry, California sagebrush, a variety of bunchgrasses, and coast live oak seedlings, which are grown in a nursery from seed collected within or near the site.

WORKDAY LOGISTICS: To participate in the Tam Fire Site workday, meet at 9:30am at Eastwood Park on Sunday December 7. All ages are welcome. Chaperones should be present at drop off for youth under the age of 18. Training, tools and snacks will be provided. Participants should wear clothes that can get dirty, long pants and long sleeves, close-toed shoes, layers for changing weather, and rain gear if necessary. They should also bring water, lunch, and sunscreen.

WORKDAY DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 1 exit from Hwy 101. Head west on Hwy 1, past 7-11 and bear left onto Northern Ave. Continue on Northern Ave, staying left. Turn right on Eastwood Way, past tennis court and park.

WORKDAY CONTACT INFORMATION: Call the Habitat Restoration Team Office at 415-331-0732 or visit volunteer@parksconservancy.org. Site locations and directions for all workdays are available on a recorded hotline at 415-561-4848.

HABITAT RESTORATION PLANNING MEETING INFORMATION:
Call the Fire Education Office at 415-464-5133.

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