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March 14, 2002

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

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**MAR 15 2002**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

RE: Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Superintendent O'Neill,

I support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The following are my comments about continuing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA and other information that is relevant to the issue.

I visit the GGNRA about 3-4 times per week. Most of those visits are to Fort Funston but I also visit the Marin Headlands or Crissy Field about once a week. I enjoy hiking and walking at the Marin Headlands and off-leash dog walking at Fort Funston and Crissy Field. These visits allow me to unwind after a long day at work and get necessary exercise. In addition, it allows me to exercise my dogs while at the same time socializing them with other dogs and their owners. These activities are consistent with being a responsible dog owner who takes his responsibility seriously. A well socialized dog is one who is less likely to be a nuisance to its neighbors and the rest of the GGNRA visitors.

There are other aspects to these visits. The most important is the social interaction that takes place with the many responsible dog owners who visit the GGNRA. This social outlet is extremely important in an urban setting where a sense of community is much harder to achieve. On several occasions I have taken visiting out-of-town friends and family members to the GGNRA to see the beauty of the area and to see the off-leash community in action. On every occasion they have commented on the physical beauty of the GGNRA and how it is remarkable to see dogs accommodated there. While we are spoiled to have such a policy here in the Bay Area, it is even more remarkable that other areas of the state and nation do not follow our lead. Once again it speaks to our progressive nature where we do not exclude groups of people from the process. This exclusion is indicative of the arbitrary and unilateral tact recently taken by your office with respect to the 1979 off-leash policy.

Off-leash dog walking is an appropriate activity for portions of the GGNRA, specifically Fort Funston, Crissy Field and portions of the Marin Headlands. The perception that the off-leash community is not receptive to environmental concern is unfounded. No responsible dog owner would let their dog chase nesting birds or other wildlife. To punitively lump responsible dog owners with irresponsible ones is ridiculous. Some of the ways that the Park Service can accommodate off-leash dog walking while preserving them for future generations include:

- Stricter enforcement and higher penalties for dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs
- Sound research into preservation of certain habitats
- Allocation of funds for trail rehabilitation
- Fencing off cliff access areas where the chances of falling are proportionately greater

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- Cooperation with established stakeholders in a decision-making capacity
- Increasing the number of trash receptacles along dog walking trails
- Creation of a Master Plan that incorporates restoration as well as conservation
- Upgrade the accessibility for the disabled to enjoy these open spaces

The removal of off-leash dog walking from the GGNRA would have significantly negative impacts on my life and that of my family. The sense of community we have with fellow dog walkers would be wiped away. The opportunities for my children to interact with our dogs while at the same time respecting nature would be severely limited. In addition, the opportunity to bond with my dogs, also members of my family, in a setting that invites relaxation and rejuvenation. In addition, the removal of off-leash dog walkers increases the chances for criminal activity to take place. The greatest impact, however, would be that the label of "lawbreaker" would be imposed on me by GGNRA decision-makers who know nothing about me. While this may seem like a trivial concern, it irks me that an activity I have enjoyed since my childhood is now classified as wrong. The 1979 off-leash dog policy is a good one that while not perfect, does not deserve scrapping based on bad science and arbitrary criteria. As a taxpayer I am outraged this has taken place under your watch.

While I respect those who say they feel threatened by off-leash dogs, I do not share their concerns. I have never been bitten by an off-leash dog nor feel threatened by their presence. This scare tactic is part of the misinformation that is being perpetuated by groups and individuals that do not wish to enter into constructive dialogue. In addition, the multitude of off-leash dog walkers keeps the GGNRA, especially Fort Funston and Crissy Field, populated with others who look out for each other. That is a large part of the reason why that crime in the GGNRA is virtually non-existent. Any law enforcement official will tell you that the more people are around, the less likely criminal activity will take place. As stated earlier, to remove off-leash dog walkers from Fort Funston and Crissy Field will not help reduce the possibility for criminal activity.

Lastly, the idea that children, the elderly, the disabled and ethnic minorities would avoid off-leash areas in the GGNRA is laughable at best. All one needs to do is to take a walk in Fort Funston and Crissy Field to see this supposition is unfounded. Many families take their dogs for a walk, as do many elderly. In fact, many elderly individuals have pets that allow them to live a fuller and more meaningful life.

In closing, the 1979 off-leash policy was part of the arrangement made between the city and county of San Francisco and the GGNRA. The understanding that off-leash recreation would continue is an integral part of that agreement. To renege now only invites San Francisco officials to explore the possibility to sever that agreement and retake control of this open space. Please do not be the reason that happens.

Respectfully,

  
Douglas Moran

1601 Ocean Avenue #210  
San Francisco, CA 94112

3947-01-1B

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Elizabeth Salmon  
265 Rose Ave  
Mill Valley CA 94941-5033

MAR 15 2002

(printed)

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

(street)

(city)

(state)

(zip)

My family of 3 kids would not be the same if we couldn't walk our beloved Boomer off Leash at GGNRA parks. We go to Muir beach & many areas of the park system. He loves to run free & is very well behaved. As a Chesapeake Bay retriever, access to the water is part of his life & ours. Thanks

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

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Version 2.0

Elizabeth Salmon Date 3/13/02  
+ minor (age 11) Brian (age 9) Tim (age 5)

(optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex M

Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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March 14, 2002

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

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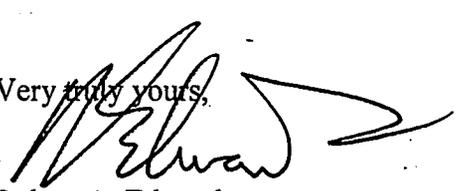
MAR 15 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

RE: Pet Management in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area,  
San Francisco California  
Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Please accept the attached comments regarding the captioned rulemaking process. I would be happy to answer any questions posed by those comments. I would be more than happy to assist the Service in any way I can to fashion a workable off-leash Dog policy for GGNRA that would continue to recognize and support off-leash Dog exercise as a legitimate, environmentally compatible and wholesome recreational activity in the GGNRA for all responsible Dog owners and caretakers.

Very truly yours,



Robert A. Edwards  
3615 Buchanan Street, #206  
San Francisco CA 94123

cc: SFDog  
P. O. Box 31071  
San Francisco CA 94131-0071

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ATTN: ANPR  
Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco CA 94123  
(fax 415-561-4355)

cc: SFDog  
P.O. Box 31071  
San Francisco CA 94131-0071

### Off-Leash Dogs in the GGNRA

#### Introduction

These comments accept, for purposes of argument only, the position of the National Park Service (hereinafter, the Service") as to the current leash policy for Dogs in the GGNRA as set forth in the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published on January 11, 2002.<sup>1</sup> Namely, that beginning on January 23, 2001, the "erroneous" off-leash policy of the last 22 years has been repealed, and that the proposed rulemaking review process now concerns only whether and to what extent if any the current leash-only policy should be revised to permit off-leash Dog walking in GGNRA.<sup>2</sup>

Accordingly, this commentary defers to another forum any consideration as to whether the Service acted unlawfully in its recent crackdown on off-leash Dogs in the GGNRA. It addresses the central inquiry of the ANPR itself, that is, whether there is otherwise sound park management reasons and justifications, legal and/or otherwise, for the Service to officially permit off-leash Dog walking in any areas of the GGNRA.<sup>3</sup>

In large part, the argument and rationale that follow are based on information provided by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior in the above-noted ANPR Federal Register materials dated January 3, 2002 and issued at the beginning of the public comment period on January 11, 2002.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, "Pet Management in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California," Federal Register/Vol. 67, No.8/Friday, January 11, 2002/Proposed Rules.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 1425.

<sup>3</sup> It is appropriate and important to note that this ANPR contemplates no rulemaking to change or otherwise limit *on-leash* Dog walking in far larger swaths of the GGNRA's 116 square miles, where such on-leash recreation is now permitted and widely enjoyed.

<sup>4</sup> Referred to herein for convenience as "ANPR materials."

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**I. The standards of review regarding off-leash Dog policy for the GGNRA.**

It is clear from the ANPR materials that the current position of the Service is that while it has the *authority* under existing laws to permit such recreational activity, those same laws, including provisions generally banning off-leash Dogs in national parks, require that if any off-leash Dog walking recreation is to continue in the GGNRA, it must be formally considered and expressly adopted for the GGNRA.<sup>5</sup>

After stating that “the laws do give the Service management discretion to allow impacts to park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park, so long as the impact does not constitute impairment of affected resources and values,”<sup>6</sup> the ANPR materials set forth a number of decision-making standards or guidelines at pp. 1426-1427.

Whether or not they are appropriate, it is important to recap those guidelines here, so that any policy fashioned in this area can be judged for correctness by the Service and by the interested and impacted public. The ANPR materials reflect the following guiding considerations, numbered here only for reference:

- 1) “...The authorization of activities ...shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established except as may have been...provided by Congress.”
- 2) “...(t)he Service will not knowingly authorize park uses that would cause negative or adverse impacts unless it has been fully evaluated, appropriate public involvement has been obtained, and a compelling management need is present.”
- 3) “...Congress, recognizing that the enjoyment of future generations of the national parks can only be ensured if the superb quality of park resources and values is left unimpaired, has provided that when there is a conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant.” (Citing 2001 the NPS Management Policies, Section 1.4.3, and partial excerpts from court decisions stressing ‘resource protection,’ resource conservation,’ and ‘conservation mandate.’)
- 4) “...the ‘enjoyment’ that is contemplated by the statute is broad; it is the enjoyment of all the people of the United States.. it also includes deriving benefit ...and inspiration from the parks, as well as other forms of enjoyment.”
- 5) “...the National Park Service will encourage visitor activities that are appropriate to the purpose for which the park was established...are healthful and otherwise appropriate to the park environment...will promote...a direct association with,

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 1426.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 1426.

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interaction with or relation to park resources and can be sustained without causing unacceptable impacts to park resources and values.”

- 6) “...the Service will not allow visitors to conduct activities that ...impair park resources...create an unsafe or unhealthful environment for other visitors or employees...are contrary to the purposes for which the park was established or unreasonably interfere with the peace and tranquility of the park soundscape maintained in the wilderness and natural, historic or commemorative locations within the park”
- 7) “...the saving of all human life will take precedent over all other management actions as the Park Service strives to protect human life and provide for injury-free visits...In taking such steps the Service’s preferred actions will be those that have the least impact on park resources and values.”<sup>7</sup>

## II. The relevant resources, purposes, uses and values to be protected in the GGNRA.

It is impossible under the above guidelines to make rules regarding activities in a given recreational area under the Service’s jurisdiction without understanding the unique character of the area in question. As the ANPR materials note, Congress recognized that each NPS park or recreational area is “distinct in character.” (16 U.S.C. sec.1-a). Further, Congress provided that the “authorization of activities ...shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established.” The above standard number Six makes clear that in exercising discretion to permit activities in the GGNRA “the purposes for which the park was established” cannot be ignored.

There is then no dispute that activities appropriate in one park or recreational area may be wholly inappropriate in another. For example, in various parks under its jurisdiction, the Service permits oil and mineral exploration and extraction, the operation of snowmobiles and other off-road vehicles, and the hunting of wildlife with high-powered rifles and other weapons (in some cases with the assistance of Dogs to hunt down the targeted prey).<sup>8</sup> Given its location in immediate proximity to one of the world’s largest metropolitan and commercial areas, and the purposes for which it was established, no one would suggest that such activities are fitting for the GGNRA.

This is so, even though that for most of its history as a part of the United States, and previously Mexico, much of the area now comprising the GGNRA was occupied and heavily used by the military, an institution not known for its light environmental

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p.1427. By inference, the position of the Service is that this recognized historical recreational practice of off-leash Dog walking in certain areas conditionally deeded to the GGNRA by the City of San Francisco is not, *per se*, sufficient justification to continue it if such continuation is determined not to satisfy these guidelines.

<sup>8</sup> Whether those permitted activities in other parks are in keeping with the Service’s duties under the Congressional mandate is a question for another time and forum.

footprint. High-explosives detonations and heavy weapons fire were once routine activities in much of what is now the GGNRA. Indeed, the massive concrete gun emplacements, tunnel, missile-launching sites, roads and other buildings, facilities and infrastructure are part of the GGNRA's resource preservation plan. No attempt is afoot to return those areas or structures to a pristine natural state. The Service has announced no plan to turn the GGNRA into a Yellowstone or Yosemite, or to re-introduce the rattlesnake, the wolf or the grizzly bear to Crissy Field or Fort Funston.

Under the aforementioned decision making standards set forth in the ANPR materials, it is obviously anticipated that rulemaking must consider the unique resources, purposes and values that the Service is charged with protecting – resources, purposes and values not of Yellowstone, Yosemite, Bryce Canyon, the Grand Canyon or any other national park, but of the GGNRA, the nation's only urban national recreational area.

A. Dogs have always been exercised off-leash in certain areas now part of the GGNRA.

With respect to the activity of off-leash Dog walking, what is included in the resources, purposes, uses and values of the GGNRA that the Service must conserve, protect and preserve? This is an important and relevant point, not as a precedent, *per se*, for continuing this recreational activity, but as a determinant of the unique "resources, purposes and values" of the GGNRA, which the Service is charged with protecting and conserving.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> While not the primary thrust of these comments, it should be noted that the assertion that the current policy baseline is "no off-leash dog walking," is disingenuous at best and patently false at worst. The proper rule-making question to be considered is really whether to change off-leash to leash, not vice versa. The current baseline, as acknowledged at p. 1426 of the ANPR materials, is that off-leash has been permitted *since at least 1979 by conscious and deliberate decision of the GGNRA*, though the Service now claims that the adoption of that policy, as proposed by the Citizens Advisory Commission, was an "error." In this regard, while the ANPR materials note that the CAC's recommendations are only advisory in nature, they also admit that "the park, in error, *implemented the policy.*" (p.1425, emphasis supplied). If the policy was implemented it was *not*, as the ANPR material asserts, "unofficial." When Service officials act, their acts are (indeed) official, even if "erroneous" or illegal. It is the very "officialness" of their acts that can subject the government to accountability.

Thus, the claim of "error" is incredible. There can be no question that the existing policy is that off-leash Dog walking is permitted in certain areas of GGNRA; as recommended by the CAC in 1979, it was implemented by the Service. Through unilateral enforcement (citations) undertaken before beginning the ANPR process and before formally changing that policy, the GGNRA has sought to create a contrary impression by *fait accompli*. GGNRA administration is posturing as though it did not implement the 1979 policy, and as though it has already completed the lawfully required rule-making process to change it. Its transparent purpose is to shift the burden for preserving off-leash Dog walking recreation to those with Dogs, rather than retain for itself the burden to justify stopping that activity. Under the laws cited in the ANPR materials, the Service does have a heavy burden indeed if, by stopping off-leash Dog walking, that action negatively impacts a "purpose, value or resource" of the GGNRA.

Finally, it is insignificant (if not silly) that the ANPR materials note that the CAC announced in January, 2001 that the 1979 policy was "null and void." As the ANPR materials also note, the CAC is *powerless* to announce or implement a GGNRA policy change. A prior federal court has ruled that even

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No one would deny the duty of the Service to preserve bear habitat in Yellowstone, or hiking or rock climbing in the Grand Teton or in Yosemite. This same rationale leads directly to the insistence that resources for the recreational activity of off-leash Dog walking, a longstanding "purpose(s) for which the park was established," be protected and encouraged in those areas of the GGNRA where they existed at the time the GGNRA became responsible for preserving, protecting and conserving (as the courts have noted) the "values," "resources" and "purposes" of the GGNRA. This activity falls just as clearly within the Service's responsibility as do the above examples.

As any Ranger would likely admit, many if not most people who visit Fort Funston and Crissy Field, for example, do so in the company of their Dogs. It is one of the primary "purposes" for which those resource areas of the GGNRA are and have been valued and used. It is a significant purpose, value and resource which by law the Service must seek to preserve, protect and conserve. As noted in the ANPR materials, 16 U.S.C. sec. 1-a mandates that the Service's authorization of activities "*shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established.*"

No reasonable person would argue that the entire GGNRA must be open to off-leash Dog walking, any more than one would argue that the entire GGNRA be open to mountain biking<sup>10</sup> or that off-road vehicles or hunting be allowed in all areas of a national park because they have been allowed in some. But as noted below, because of the prior use history of certain areas of the GGNRA, constituting less than one-half of one percent of the GGNRA's 74,000 acres, they have a different character. Under the above-noted guidelines it is both appropriate and mandatory that the Service recognize, protect and preserve this significant difference.

B. In those areas of the GGNRA transferred to the GGNRA by the City of San Francisco, off-leash Dog walking was part of the recreational purposes for which those areas were used, and the transfer was conditioned on maintenance of those uses and purposes.

There is no doubt that the areas transferred to the GGNRA by the City of San Francisco (hereinafter, "transferred areas") were transferred with the condition and understanding that they would continue to be available for City residents to use for those same recreational uses and purposes enjoyed prior to the transfer.<sup>11</sup> Off-leash Dog walking was and is one of the most popular of such uses and purposes of those lands. The point here is not to argue the legal significance or conditions of those transfers vis a vis the current off-leash policy baseline, but to underscore the fact that when considering

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the Service cannot change the policy without going through the rule-making process, a process only now started with the ANPR but proceeding from the wrong policy baseline.

<sup>10</sup> An activity *not* pre-dating the GGNRA but which is permitted in certain areas, without any ANPR process I can recall.

<sup>11</sup> Attachment A notes a number of documents illustrating the special status of the transferred areas in the GGNRA and containing numerous restrictions on the GGNRA's unilateral action with respect to those areas.

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the Service's duty to protect and conserve the values and resources of the transferred areas, off-leash Dog walking is unquestionably among the uses, values and resources to be protected and conserved. *This is so because the conditions of transfer made that activity one of the "purposes for which the park was established."*<sup>12</sup>

As noted in the ANPR materials, the GGNRA was established in 1972 for the purpose of "preserving...for public use and enjoyment certain areas (described)" and for providing "for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to urban environment and planning." (ANPR materials, p.1426)

Whether or not the City may seek to revoke the transfer if such conditions are not met is beside the point. The point goes to determining the purposes and values which were intended to be preserved in those transfers and which, by incorporating those lands into the GGNRA, the Service adopted as a purpose, use, value and resource for the GGNRA.

Because off-leash Dog walking always has been a use, value, purpose and resource of the transferred areas of the GGNRA, the Service is bound by congressional mandate to protect and preserve it. In deciding which activities to authorize in the GGNRA, the Service cannot exercise that authority "in derogation of the values and purposes for which (GGNRA) has been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress." It is beyond dispute that Congress has not directly and specifically banned off-leash Dog walking in those areas where it has long been a resource, value and purpose in the GGNRA.

It is also indisputable that off-leash Dog walking is as much a use, value, resource and purpose of GGNRA as:

- Wind-surfing, an activity that often overwhelms Crissy Field when scores of wind-surfers inundate the beaches and parking lots and grassy areas with their boards and equipment and which poses a clear hazard to marine mammals that also feed off the beaches there. On windy days (a fundamental of the sport), its practitioners endanger others on the beach as they attempt to control and maneuver large sails and boards across the parking areas and beach to the water.
- Mountain biking, an exhilarating sport that often terrorizes the unwary walkers and hikers sharing the same Marin Headlands trails and which carves long erosion-inducing ruts in the sensitive environment.

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<sup>12</sup> Thus, if a policy permitting off-leash Dog exercising would present a "negative impact" on the GGNRA (which it would not, as will be noted), then a legally binding condition of the land transfer to GGNRA would certainly present an inescapable "compelling management need" that the law recognizes would justify such a policy.

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- Hiking on the delicate cliffs and through the tentative vegetation of the Marin Headlands by thousands of tourists who scatter beer cans, paper wrappers and broken plant-life as they go, disturbing bird-nesting habitat and wildlife.
- Native plant restoration, an activity undertaken largely by private organizations and persons that has uprooted acres of beautiful existing grasses, trees and other plants in the GGNRA and replaced them with so-called native species whose ability to survive in the natural environment of an urban recreational area is so questionable that un-native and un-natural (and expensive) fencing and law enforcement resources are required to protect them. As far as I can recall this Service-sanctioned policy which has had such a widespread impact on the environment of the GGNRA, was undertaken without any ANPR.
- Horse-back riding, an activity whose wonderful but very large animals do not come with pooper scoopers and who do more damage to the landscape in a single pass than a pack of free Dogs would do in a month. It would be understatement to say that those large animals, often easily spooked, can cause serious injury to riders and by-standers alike.
- Hang-gliding that puts pressure on the endangered bank swallows (which gets blamed on the Dogs who go nowhere near the cliff edges) and who occasionally have to be rescued by GGNRA personnel.
- Family picnics at the ocean, where little children run gleefully up and down the beaches, chasing seagulls and protected shorebirds and tormenting the occasionally beached and stranded sea lion pup – all of course in joyful innocence.
- Surf fishing, whose practitioners drop their little hooks and monofilament in the sand for wildlife and humans to find, usually in painful fashion.

The list of such examples is long. But none of these long-enjoyed recreational uses of the GGNRA should be banned. The important point is that GGNRA embodies many "values, resources and purposes" for its visitors. Included very prominently among them is off-leash Dog walking. Like off-leash Dog exercising, many if not all of these other recreational activities would be absolutely banned in the more pristine, remote and wildly beautiful of our wonderful national parks. And rightfully so, because they would be foreign and harmful to those parks, and not values, resources or purposes for which those parks had ever been intended or widely used.

For better or worse, GGNRA is inescapably an urban recreational area, and has long been so used and recognized. It is a back yard to a major City and metropolitan area woefully short of back yards. In fashioning a rule regarding off-leash Dog walking, the Service cannot ignore or escape this unique and dominating fact of life in the GGNRA. It must recognize that while the natural beauty and resources of the GGNRA are certainly to be preserved and protected, its mission is *not* to return the GGNRA to some pristine,

remote, pre-historic diorama devoid of humans, their activities and their treasured animal companions.

As noted previously in discussing the guidelines to be used in this particular rulemaking, "the laws do give the Service management discretion to allow impacts to park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park, so long as the impact does not constitute impairment of affected resources and values." And Congress has decreed that "the enjoyment of future generations of the national parks can only be ensured if the superb quality of park resources and values is left *unimpaired*." (emphasis added).

Continuing off-leash Dog walking in the areas where it has occurred since time immemorial has not and would not negatively "impact" park resources and values; it would preserve them unimpaired. To curtail that activity in those places would clearly defy the Congressional decree by destroying a GGNRA use, resource and value which thousands of visitors enjoy virtually every week.

**III. Off-leash Dog walking does not demonstrably harm the natural beauty, wildlife or environment of GGNRA in those areas where it has traditionally been allowed.**

Proof that off-leash Dogs in the care of responsible owners have not harmed the GGNRA's environment exists in the actual experience in areas where it has been allowed for decades. Exaggerated claims in the ANPR materials notwithstanding, Dogs running off-leash in the areas preserved in 1979 by the policy implemented by the Service do not and have not had any significant negative impact on the flora, fauna or features of the GGNRA. At best, the alleged experts and studies to the contrary cited in the materials are flawed to the point that they are nothing more than junk science. At worst, they are a transparent fiction.

It is unquestionably true that there is, as the materials note, a wide variety of wildlife and vegetation in GGNRA, some of which are endangered or threatened. Neither is there disagreement that these treasures of GGNRA must be protected, for that is perhaps the key reason that all visitors, including those with off-leash Dogs, come to the GGNRA for recreation.

That said, *there is no reliable evidence that in the many decades in which off-leash Dogs have been permitted in the areas set aside by the Service's 1979 policy that Dogs have harmed any of them.*

To be sure, there is concern and speculation in the ANPR materials that such harm *might* occur. But there is no probative *evidence* that any of these imagined fears or possibilities have actually happened. Notwithstanding the Service's view that the 1979

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policy permitting off-leash Dogs was an error,<sup>13</sup> nothing has been presented that would warrant depriving the public of the already limited GGNRA access to off-leash Dog walking historically permitted by that policy.

When considering the alleged and potential negative impacts of off-leash Dog walking it is important to firmly grasp the very limited possible scope of any such impact on the GGNRA: *The areas set aside for off-leash Dog walking in the 1979 policy and which Dog lovers seek to preserve constitutes less than one-half of one percent of the GGNRA's 74000 acres.* Even if the off-leash activity *totally decimated* the flora and fauna in that small space, which it has not and would not, impact on the natural resources of the GGNRA would be infinitesimal by any reasonable person's standard of harm. To contend otherwise would be the dermatological equivalent of saying that a laceration to one's little finger was tantamount to total bodily disfigurement.

The ANPR material reflects both the tentativeness and thinness of the evidence of alleged harm caused by off-leash Dogs, evidence that would be ridiculed if introduced in any court of law. Rather than citing hard specifics and statistics of harm, the ANPR materials are riddled with vague and anecdotal claims, such as:

- "During the last ten years there have been increasing impacts to natural resources related to unrestrained dogs," (citing a few (sparse) anecdotal incidents)

What, exactly, is the precise nature and extent of the alleged "increasing impacts?" Does it mean that whole populations of bank swallows or children have been eaten by Dogs? Or does it mean that there are simply more paw prints on the beach at low tide? In the obvious absence of a historical report/incident database for the GGNRA, what is the basis for this claim?

- Claims that there is "potential" for other harm and "(S)ome problems" with off-leash Dogs disturbing fish populations at Muir beach.

There is also "potential" for a tsunami, earthquake, terrorist invasions and oil tanker spills at Muir Beach, but the real questions include: What harm has actually occurred? What does "some problems" mean? The answers: none, and nothing.

- Claims that "Off leash dogs *can* be a threat to sick and injured birds and marine mammals." (emphasis supplied).

<sup>13</sup> It is unclear from the ANPR materials why the Service regards the policy as "error." We are unsure if the Service means the policy was error because (a) it was sound but nonetheless implemented without going through the required ANPR process, or (b) the CAC but not the Service announced it, or (c) flawed as a political misstep, or (d) flawed on substantive environmental, scientific or other service management grounds. Hopefully, in its final policy pronouncement the Service will elaborate on this claim of error.

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Again, what Dogs can do and what they have done is a material difference indeed. There is not a single shred of evidence that off-leash Dogs have seriously or irretrievably harmed any fish, mammal, bird or its habitat.

- Claims that “fencing has been erected in areas of Ft: Funston, Crissy field and other GGNRA locations, an effort limited to keep off leash dogs out of these most sensitive habitat areas.”

This is certainly not evidence that Dogs have harmed those projects. The fences were not erected in an “effort limited to keep off leash dogs” out of these areas. *They were erected to keep everyone and everything, especially humans – with or without Dogs -- out of the native plant areas.* If that is not so, then (if as the GGNRA now asserts, off-leash Dogs are now prohibited in these locations) why not take down the fences (which the ANPR material asserts cause “negative visual impacts”) so humans, with their Dogs *on leash*, can visit their native plant friends, up close and personal? Clearly, to assert that only off-leash Dogs forced the GGNRA to erect fencing to protect native plants is nonsense.

- Claims that park biologists and rangers report that off-leash Dogs “chase birds.”

No statistics are provided to show where or how often this has actually occurred; or if humans and their unleashed children do more chasing than Dogs; or if any actual *harm* (i.e., negative impact) to the bird population is caused by that activity if it does happen. Certainly no claims are made that any Dog ever *caught* a bird it was allegedly chasing!

Frankly, if the Service intends to rely on such assertions to ban off-leash Dogs, it will look extremely foolish indeed. I submit that in this case of rulemaking, it is simply not enough to speculate that various harms *might* occur. It is necessary to both clearly establish that: (1) such harm has occurred or is occurring, (2) that off-leash Dogs are the main culprits, and (3) it is occurring in a manner, extent or rate that reasonable persons would conclude that it actually constitutes “impairment of the affected resources and values.”

As regards the paucity of hard evidence of harm caused by off-leash Dogs, I note that with the exception of a (very) few true stray Dogs, *Dogs do not go to the GGNRA – on or off-leash – except in the company of humans.* Therefore, in analyzing the evidence of harm caused by off-leash Dogs (vs. on-leash Dogs vs. humans without Dogs), it is critical to discern and separate out the degree and extent of harm (negative impact) caused by each.

For if the negative impact of off-leash Dogs is the focus of the ANPR, then the nature and cause of any “negative impact” must be clearly and scientifically documented before steps can reasonably be taken to address it (even the GGNRA’s own biologists would agree with this essential scientific approach.) If identification and assessment of

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harm and the assignment of cause are the tasks it has set itself, then the Service must be able to articulate and support with credible evidence the measure of increase in actual harm caused by off-leash Dogs. I submit that not only has this not been done but that it cannot be done.

In contemplating the impact of off-leash Dogs on the very limited areas where they have been long permitted, it is also critical to keep in mind the undisputed fact that literally any and every *human* contact with the GGNRA will have a far greater and more environmentally destructive "negative or adverse impact." A barefoot child (not to mention adults) walking on a beach leaves footprints, disturbs micro-organisms and tiny sea-life in the wet sand, as well as flea eggs and fleas (part of the GGNRA food chain). Hiking up the trails – perhaps with a few dozen or so classmates and a few teachers -- or tossing a rock in the Rodeo Beach lagoon, he frightens fish and wildlife in the brush and shorebirds, gulls and other birds flee from his advance in frightened flocks. He picks the wildflowers, breaks through the sage and chaparral and damages plant life. He digs holes in the sand with bucket and shovel, makes sand-castles with his parents, and leaves trash and food wrappers at the beach. Sometimes, the family feeds the bird life with potato chips and other "human" food that can lead to dependency feeding.<sup>14</sup>

Finally, if humans and not Dogs cause the bulk of the impacts claimed (frightened wildlife; disturbed fish, etc), then serious rethinking of all the GGNRA recreational use policies is required. That is not as ridiculous as it may sound: Already humans are fenced out of great swaths of Crissy Field beaches and lagoon and Ft. Funston to protect newly installed native plant species; are relegated to trails in Muir Woods and other "sensitive" habitats; and are repeatedly warned by a forest of signs and notices to refrain from open fires or camping, littering, etc. As evidenced by these and other measures, including the roving presence of armed park police and rangers, the Service already knows full well that humans, not Dogs, are the greatest threat to the GGNRA environment and its enjoyment.

**IV. Off-leash Dog walking poses no realistic or extraordinary safety hazard to humans nor does it interfere with the enjoyment of GGNRA by other visitors or the people of the United States.**

The ANPR materials cite statistics to the effect that from January 1, 1998 to June 16, 2001, there were a total of 67 reported dog bites in the GGNRA.<sup>15</sup> If true, that

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<sup>14</sup> One need not visit the GGNRA more than once to note that the mountain bikers have taken over the trails. Their activities cause erosion and frighten birds and other wildlife. Nothing a Dog can do will ever equal that environmental degradation. A beach full of humans playing various ball-games most certainly frightens off the shorebirds and wildlife. And as a former volunteer with the Marine Mammal Center, I submit that the biggest risk to a beached or stranded marine mammal is not a Dog but humans, who are likely to abuse, terrorize or kill it or, by ignorance harm themselves instead.

<sup>15</sup> Without any basis whatever for the claim, the materials also assert that in addition to reported bites, rangers say "these numbers reflect a small fraction of the total occurrences." That rangers would know what the alleged "total occurrences" are when they had not been reported could indicate amazing psychic

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translates into a rough average of only 2.27 dog-bites per month. Given the large numbers of Dogs – possibly in the thousands -- who visit the transferred off-leash areas each week, I submit that these statistics are in fact proof that of all the hazards to humans in the GGNRA, Dog bites are virtually a non-existent hazard to the millions of visitors, who are at a statistically greater risk of harm in their own homes than from Dog bites at the GGNRA.

Additionally, the small number does not reveal whether these were bites suffered by humans, or by other Dogs in the course of a fight or play. They do not tell us how many were multiple bites by the same Dog or by the same Dog on a single occasion. They do not tell us how many bites were inflicted by Dogs protecting their caregivers from attack by humans, or by Dogs who were tormented or abused by the humans they bit. They do not even tell us how many Dogs bit their own owners.

More to the point of off-leash Dog walking – the issue under review in the ANPR -- they do not tell us how many bites were inflicted by off-leash Dogs, compared to Dogs that were on-leash. Equally important, they do not tell us whether the number of bites in the 29.5 month period noted actually represented a sharp decrease over prior years.

In short, the statistics are worthless as a basis to set policy.<sup>16</sup> They might become even more so if the public could also compare them with the number of drug dealing and use incidents, moving traffic violations, littering, public disturbance, assaults, drunk and disorderly and other accidents and violations involving humans in the GGNRA for the same period. They do not tell us how many humans fell off their bicycles or roller blades, drowned, or were bitten by insects, children or bats, got sunburned, or hit by the booms of their windsurf boards.

To those who say statistics on other hazards to humans are a red herring and irrelevant to the issue of off-leash Dogs, I beg to differ. The questions here is the impact of off-leash Dogs on public safety. One of the standards for policy guidance (number Seven on page 3 above) states that in taking steps to save human life and provide for injury free visits "...the Service's preferred actions will be those that have *the least* impact on park resources and values."(emphasis supplied).

To that end, Dog-bite statistics must be placed in context with the many other hazards faced by GGNRA visitors, so one can see if they are truly a material safety factor so as to warrant a ban on off-leash Dogs. They are only one small and isolated aspect of public safety. In order to determine whether off-leash Dogs are having a greater or lesser impact on public safety in the GGNRA than other uses and activities, it is necessary to consider the entire spectrum of danger to humans to determine (a) where Dog bites stand on the hierarchy of safety risks; (b) whether they represent an adverse impact on public

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power in the GGNRA's rangers. However, it may also suggest that the Service employs Arthur Andersen to audit its dog-bite statistics.

<sup>16</sup> If anything, this sorry statistical pratfall evidences a serious shortcoming in GGNRA management, which apparently lacks any semblance of an event/report/incident computer database to use for intelligent planning and operations.

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safety; and if so, (c) what percentage of impact is attributable to off-leash Dogs, and (d) whether the increase, if any, in negative public safety impacts is due to off-leash Dogs or to humans.

Because the activity of off-leash Dog exercising is one of the most prevalent in the GGNRA, its elimination or severe curtailment would most certainly not have "the least" impact on GGNRA values. At a minimum, one would think that the Service would want to expend its scarce enforcement dollars where it would have the greatest benefit for public safety.<sup>17</sup>

V. **If pet management in other jurisdictions is a factor, such management favors the continued preservation of the use, resource and value of the transferred off-leash areas.**

ANPR materials note that the GGNRA was established in 1972 for the purpose of "preserving...for public use and enjoyment certain areas (described)" and for providing "for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to urban environment and planning." (ANPR materials, p.1426).

The materials also note that various surrounding political jurisdictions restrict off-leash Dog walking to various extents, sometimes limiting that recreational activity to certain areas. (ANPR materials, pp. 1425, 1426). And that is precisely what the current "erroneous" policy in GGNRA has done since at least 1979 and, in truth since prior to 1972 when the GGNRA accepted lands from the City of San Francisco.<sup>18</sup>

Off-leash Dogs are not permitted in 99.5% of the GGNRA. Since at least 1979, and continuing to the present, off-leash Dog walking in the GGNRA is unquestionably *restricted and limited to certain areas*. Those off-leash areas are listed at p. 1425 of the ANPR materials, and were recognized, established and implemented by the GGNRA management on the recommendation of the CAC in 1979. They have been in effect without modification via the legally required rule-making process for over twenty years.

To my knowledge, no person or advocacy group is seeking or has sought to expand the off-leash areas in GGNRA beyond those areas where it was enjoyed prior to the creation of the GGNRA.

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<sup>17</sup> Cliff-rescue statistics in the ANPR materials aimed at proving that off-leash Dogs cause problems are similarly shot full of holes. The ANPR materials provide no breakdown whatever to establish the relationship of cliff rescues to off-leash Dog activity. Indeed, if people falling off cliffs is the problem, then the answer is not to ban off-leash Dogs but to fence off the cliffs! In that regard, I note that the Service has permitted the complete deterioration of the long fence line erected years ago to keep humans away from the sliding cliffs along the coastal trail north of Rodeo Beach. No off-leash Dogs are allowed in that area, but the gaping holes in the fencing suggests that the Service is not overly concerned with people falling off cliffs.

<sup>18</sup> But for the fact that much of the GGNRA was a military base for many years prior to 1972 and not widely open to the public, off-leash Dog walking would likely have been a universal practice in all those areas.

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Therefore, if the ANPR reference to the policies of surrounding jurisdictions is intended to suggest that off-leash Dog walking is permitted in very limited public space (not altogether true) then that situation currently exists in the GGNRA.<sup>19</sup> *Those areas set aside for off-leash activity in 1979 constitute less than one-half of one percent of the GGNRA's 116 square miles.*<sup>20</sup>

Furthermore, the extent to which surrounding jurisdictions may reduce opportunities for off-leash Dog walking only heightens the need for the GGNRA to maintain, protect and preserve this important value, resource and use enjoyed for so long by area residents and by all the citizens of the United States who visit GGNRA with their Dogs.

The experience of San Francisco is of interest in this regard. By far the largest (by population density and economic activity) and most influential jurisdiction cited by the ANPR materials (p. 1426), San Francisco's Department of Recreation and Parks issued a draft "Dog" policy in 2001. Viewing that draft policy in context, it should be noted that leash laws on the City's books for decades already largely prohibit off-leash Dogs in city parks.<sup>21</sup> The purpose of the draft policy was *not* to further *restrict* off-leash Dog walking in its parks but in fact to actually fashion regulations to *set aside designated areas of such parks for off-leash walking*, as a trade-off for stricter enforcement of existing off-leash laws; it should be noted that a relatively few citizens had complained about lack of enforcement.<sup>22</sup>

That policy has created a monumental furor and resistance from San Francisco Dog owners -- some 120,000 of them -- who have enjoyed a deliberate city policy of non-enforcement of leash laws in *all* the City parks and who thus view the extremely narrow restrictions suggested by the draft policy as a virtual elimination of Dogs from the city's parks.

However, it is important to note that the stiff resistance to the draft policy stems not from an unreasonable, irrational, blanket opposition to limiting the off-leash Dog

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<sup>19</sup> I submit, however, that such comparisons are not necessarily a wise or relevant criterion for determining GGNRA policy. For example, following the "public policy" of adjacent jurisdictions such as San Francisco would suggest that the GGNRA open its vast lands and facilities to homeless encampments, public urination and alcohol consumption. To my knowledge, unlike San Francisco, the GGNRA does not now tolerate such activities or uses anywhere in its jurisdiction.

<sup>20</sup> In the remaining 99.5% of those 116 square miles, the solitude of those who do not wish to encounter off-leash Dogs in the GGNRA has thus been generously protected.

<sup>21</sup> Apparently, the chief and most expansive exceptions were the huge tracts of land transferred by the city to the GGNRA in 1972, on the condition that the recreational purposes (which included off-leash Dog walking) be preserved.

<sup>22</sup> Contrary to popular belief, and suggestion in the ANPR materials, that draft policy was not prompted by the later tragic death of a San Francisco woman as a result of the negligent (possibly criminal) mishandling of two Dogs by their attorney-keepers. Those Dogs had been treated in such a manner as to make them unquestionably vicious. Prior to that incident, to my knowledge no such vicious Dogs were ever documented as having been off-leash or even *in* any City park. I believe park records will show that such is also the case at GGNRA, where there are no records of any such vicious or murderous Dog attacks upon any person in the GGNRA by an off-leash Dog.

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walking in city parks. Rather it springs from the extent and manner of the proposed limitations, and the irrational, undocumented and unscientific reasons given for those limitations.<sup>23</sup> Because of the serious flaws in the policy and its justification by the Department, as pointed out in public hearings before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the city's Department of Recreation and Parks was forced to re-draft the policy and submit it for comment by the public. That formal re-draft has just been presented to the public at this writing. Because it represents little change, members of the Board of Supervisors have indicated it will likely be overridden and scrapped.

As regards the furor provoked by an unthinking, anti-Dog bureaucracy, the parallels to the situation in the GGNRA in the instant debate are striking, except in one very pertinent aspect: By precedent of historical use and conscious Service policy (erroneously implemented or not), off-leash Dogs have been allowed in the GGNRA. Not totally, of course, but only in *less than one-half of one percent of the GGNRA*.

While the ANPR materials note that a few local jurisdictions are contemplating further restrictions on off-leash activity, ignored is the fact that those efforts are all under challenge, resistance and attack by a tremendous number of people who have Dogs and enjoy off-leash recreation for themselves and the health of their pets. If the reference to Pet Management policies in neighboring jurisdictions is intended to suggest that such policies are "the will of the people" and not the misguided efforts of a few unthinking bureaucrats in public office, then the ANPR materials are misleading.

There is, of course, a suggestion in those references that GGNRA might yet formally recognize, protect and preserve the existing value and resource of accessible, convenient, suitable, safe and sufficient space for off-leash Dog walking in the transferred areas of the GGNRA. If so, the Service would certainly address the concerns of hundreds of thousands of Dog lovers locally and millions nationwide. They would be more than willing to work with the GGNRA to clearly recognize such areas, and to support rigorous enforcement against uncontrolled and irresponsible off-leash Dog owner behavior. Possibilities in that regard are discussed below.

**VI. The possibilities to satisfy all legitimate concerns regarding off-leash Dog exercising in the GGNRA are numerous.**

As noted in the foregoing, Dog lovers do not seek unlimited access to the GGNRA to exercise their Dogs off-leash, and never have. Like all responsible persons, they are more than sensitive to the need to protect the beautiful environment that is the GGNRA. When it comes to that, they do not take a back seat to anyone or to any self-style environment or wildlife protection organization, including the Audubon Society or

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<sup>23</sup> The websites of [www.SFDog.org](http://www.SFDog.org) contains detailed discussions of the policy and its shortcomings. Dog advocacy groups and individuals had actually voluntarily participated in the drafting of the draft policy, and were led to believe that their suggestions and input to address the problem were being taken seriously. When the draft was issued, however, virtually none of their recommendations had been included. The impact of the draft was nothing more than a proposal to confine over a hundred thousand off-leash Dogs in small dangerous, unhealthy fenced pens in a few city parks.

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California Native Plant fanciers, whose radical and unscientific views increasingly have ejected humans from increasing portions of the GGNRA with the Service's blessing and support but without noticeable environmental benefit.

The ANPR materials suggest two broad possible options or outcomes of the ANPR process: Option A, which is essentially a ban on off-leash Dogs in all areas of the GGNRA, including the small fraction of ground historically used for that purpose, and Option B, which would allow for off-leash Dogs in designated areas only.

For all the reasons discussed in these Comments, Option A is absolutely unjustifiable in any respect, whether one regards it as the "status quo" or as a reversal of federal off-leash policy in effect in the GGNRA since its formation.

Option B is clearly the most rational and reasonable management option if the Service is to comply with its operational responsibilities as established by Congress and the various statutory and regulatory considerations, and decisional guidelines set forth in the ANPR materials.

I cannot and do not claim to speak for the entire population of Dog lovers who are very concerned about this issue. However, I offer my own thoughts and ideas on responsible off-leash use. Here are some (but certainly not all) possible guidelines to sensibly resolve the rancorous off-leash debate and harmonize the natural and healthy relationship of Dogs with GGNRA:

- Keep open all the off-leash Dog areas previously enjoyed before the policy "nullification" and crackdown of 2000; take down the "Leash Pets" signs installed in those areas since 2000. Those off-leash areas need not be expanded. Neither should they be contracted. To do so would only concentrate more off-leash Dogs in smaller spaces and thereby run the risk of doing exactly what misinformed off-leash critics fear, i.e., damaging the environment, not from Dogs but from the increased concentration of thousands of people who accompany them! This approach would keep in place current fenced native plant areas as a protection against all intruders, human and Dog alike.
- Fence off any cliffs in the off-leash areas (e.g., Ft. Funston) if the Service confirms (via scientific observation) they are either endangered bank swallow habitats or otherwise present a dangerous falling hazard for any visitor, with or without a Dog. If the cliffs are an attractive nuisance to the general human public, we certainly do not want our Dogs to get hurt either.
- Just as "Leash Pet" areas are now marked, also clearly post off-leash areas as "Off-Leash Dogs Allowed." The posting should contain a clear list of do's and don'ts for owners of off-leash Dogs, to facilitate official, peer-pressure and public pressure enforcement.

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- Put signs at all GGNRA entrances to read: "Off-leash Dogs Allowed Only in those GGNRA areas indicated." List those areas, perhaps on a clearly marked map at each entrance.
- Increase the enforcement and fines for infractions and damage actually caused by the Dogs of irresponsible owners who do not control their off-leash pets. A list of infractions that are both recognizable and common sense should not be hard to develop with the cooperation between the Dog community and GGNRA rangers.
- Informal meetings between rangers and Dog owner groups to keep communications open on Dog-related issues would go a long way to maintain a common front against irresponsible Dog owner behavior.
- The GGNRA supports native plant groups and other users of the GGNRA, through both indirect financial and policy "subsidies." There is no reason it could not establish similar relationships with the Dog community as well. For example, GGNRA could more generously support the regular 'Dog Area' clean-ups by the Dog community which already and on a regular basis cleans up the trash caused by all humans, not just Dogs, in the off-leash areas of Crissy Field and Ft. Funston, etc.
- Just as it provides planting areas and fencing for the native plant enthusiasts and maintains horse and mountain bike trails, etc. for other recreational users, GGNRA could expand limited resources such as 'poop bag' stands) and water fountains for Dogs, to help the Dog community both enjoy and maintain the areas for off-leash recreation, which are enjoyed by Dog-less visitors as well. Unless the GGNRA now underwrites the cost of picking up horse manure on the trails and human trash on the beaches, it should not have to underwrite "pooper scooping" for Dogs. Unlike other humans and horseback riders, the vast majority of Dog owners pick up after their Dogs, and as noted above, Dog owner groups already help the Service clean the GGNRA.
- The GGNRA could also consider an incentive program whereby those Dog owners who can demonstrate that they have volunteered time or money on behalf of GGNRA projects, and/or who have Dogs with demonstrated off-leash control, could "earn" permits for greater off-leash access to the GGNRA, outside the transferred areas.
- Establish a reporting procedure and database to record and track all infractions of GGNRA rules, including human and Dog-related infractions. Over time, this would provide a sound scientific basis to determine the real GGNRA enforcement, safety and environment issues that need to be addressed, and to suggest ways to address them.
- Invite Dog owners to be the rangers' eyes and ears, to help with enforcement and safety in the GGNRA. Some might even be "deputized" to help enforce the

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pooper scooping and other Dog related regulations in the off-leash areas. No single group of people visits the GGNRA off-leash areas more often or at more times of the day than Dog people. Many if not most carry cell phones on their walks. Why not provide them with a ranger call number so these Dog owners could report not only peers who are not controlling their Dogs but also other suspicious human activity or emergencies in the GGNRA. That sort of cooperation could go a long way to keeping off-leash activity flourishing within its bounds and to restore an important relationship between Dog owners and rangers that has been badly frayed by the recent crackdown.

- With cooperation of various Dog owner groups, develop a statement of GGNRA's off-leash and pet policy whenever it becomes "official," so there is no longer any confusion or dispute over what that policy is. Publicize and distribute it through a variety of channels such as the GGNRA visitor center(s), local veterinarians, pet supply stores, etc., and of course via the GGNRA and NPS web sites. It could contain not only off-leash do's and don'ts but also such information as how to get help if your Dog or other animal is injured on the GGNRA; what to do if your Dog discovers ill or injured wildlife; procedures for reporting policy violations by irresponsible owners; GGNRA plants that may be poisonous to Dogs; a list of fines or other consequences for violating off-leash rules; and other information that would help harmonize Dogs and the GGNRA.
- Recognizing that anyone walking a Dog off-leash has a duty to keep a watchful eye on it for its own safety and to control it at all times, a limit should be set on the number of off-leash Dogs any one person could safely have under his/her care in the GGNRA. That limit should be set following at least a consultation, if not an agreement, with the professional Dog-walking community. A commercial activities permit or license might also be appropriate provided it is determined to be necessary in order to ensure that large numbers of Dogs under large spans of control do not create a negative impact on the off-leash areas. Such a permit should not be instituted merely to harass professional Dog walkers who provide a valuable contribution to healthy, well-socialized Dogs, or for mere revenue purposes.
- The GGNRA should consider establishing a credible K-9 unit, containing not only enforcement Dogs to accompany GGNRA police and rangers on their tours but also search and rescue Dogs. This would greatly extend the enforcement and search/rescue capabilities of the GGNRA in its 116 square mile jurisdiction. It would also send a clear and welcome message confirming that Dogs are valued and incomparably precious creatures who are not and never have been the enemy of the GGNRA, its wildlife or its unequalled natural beauty. I feel certain that there would be many in the Dog community more than happy to volunteer time, money or expertise to maintain such a unit.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT A

EVIDENCE THE SERVICE HAS DUTY TO CONSULT WITH THE CITY FOR PLANS  
RELATING TO  
FORMER CITY PARKLANDS

1. Statutory mandate (16 USC 460bb) Organic Act (16 USC 1c):

- By statute GGNRA must maintain recreational urban open space necessary for urban environment and planning Congress “specifically and directly” provided that the GGNRA was established to “provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to urban environment and planning”
- GGNRA shall manage the resources consistent with land use planning principles Unique limitations were imposed on discretionary power: “The Secretary of the Interior shall utilize the resources in a manner which will provide for recreation and educational opportunities consistent with sound principles of land use planning and management.”
- The Organic Act requires the Service to apply these unique urban planning principles in the GGNRA The Organic Act section 1c(b) mandates: “Each area with the national park system shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of any statute made applicable to that area”.

2. MOU/Agreement:

- MOU/Agreement with the GGNRA signed in 1975 requires GGNRA to submit park plans for former city parks to the city for review...
- A City planning memo dated June 12, 1977 confirms that MOU requires GGNRA to solicit city input on preliminary plans to convert Funston into an ecology preserve. The city responded to these preliminary plans saying they would have to be consistent with recreational use at the site and noted that they expected to be involved in further plans regarding the Funston area. Dept. Planning Memo to CAC from Rai Okamoto Director of Planning, Staff Response to GGNRA Alternatives. “The Commission requested that these comments be forwarded to you during your public meetings, even though it regards the comments as preliminary and anticipates a continuing participation in the planning process for the park. The Commission intends to review the final plan and receive testimony on it in order to indicate City policy to you as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and County of San Francisco and the GGNRA”.
- Fort Funston Memo .discusses two alternatives pertaining to Funston, “Alternative A

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would involve only minor site improvements, and structures at Fort Funston would be stabilized; Alternative B would be similar to A, but would include dune-building and stabilization efforts at Fort Funston which would result in an 'ecological preserve.'.. The staff report continues "it seems most appropriate to keep Fort Funston open to various users without over-accommodating any one group. If it is demonstrated that certain unique users, such as hang gliders or equestrians, who need access to the site, can co-exist with a 'natural preserve,' it could be desirable to establish parts of Fort Funston as ecological areas."

Note the GGNRA General Plan apparently adopted Alternative A . There was very little mention of Fort Funston in the General Plan, certainly nothing about an ecology preserve. Despite these facts, GGNRA violated the MOU by destroying "exotic ecology", restricting public access to the bluffs and beach, and converting recreational open space into native plant closures in 1991 without providing the city or public with an opportunity for input. Furthermore this was done in violation of the enabling statute which required the Service to develop a full Fort Funston Plan Amendment as it did for Crissy Field in 1990-5. Finally, GGNRA lied to the Board of Supervisors by responding to a letter of inquiry saying the habitats were contemplated by the 1980 General Plan. No mention was made of the City's insistence in the prior memo that it expected to participate in further plans regarding Fort Funston.

- General Plan 1980 confirms MOU requires GGNRA to submit park proposals to city "A memorandum of understanding between the city and the national park service ensures their review of park proposals, particularly those related to transit systems, proposed construction, and sand incursion upon roadways adjacent to the park." General Plan for GGNRA 1980, pg. 200

- Presidio EIS (1994) confirms MOU requires GGNRA to submit park proposals for Funston to city for input: "1975 Memorandum of Understanding...provides that the national recreation area will formally notify and consult with the city on all planning matters relating to these parcels [former city parcels], future transit system proposals, and planned construction on national recreation area lands within the boundaries of the city." Final General Management Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement for the Presidio of San Francisco (EIS Presidio), July, 1994, pg. 6

- MOU Between Presidio and City Regarding Master Planning, Construction and Real estate Utilization Mayor Miscode and Boas, 12/7/77 "The Presidio will advise the City designee in writing of all matters concerning master planning, construction, and real property utilization initiated on the Presidio which may have impact upon the city. The City Planning Commission will review such proposal and advise the Presidio in writing as to the conformance of such development with the Master Plan of San Francisco."

- 1990 MOU "This memorandum stipulates that the national recreation area is to regularly advise and seek comments from the city planning department on all planning matters relating to future use of the Presidio that could result in significant impacts on the

3948-23-1A

physical, social and economic environment of the city " EIS Presidio, July 1994,  
pg. 6

23/23

3949-01-1A

March 15 2002  
1617 B Dolores St  
SF

Supt GG NRA

Dear Sir:

Dogs do not need to be off-leash in our parks where they are a detriment to the environment, a plague to wild life, and a nuisance & sometimes a danger to other people.

yours truly  
John Best

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern: 3951-01-1A

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
*Barbara Figone*  
BARBARA FIGONE  
SF, CA

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern: 3950-01-1A

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

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

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Sincerely,  
*Mare A. Oder*  
Mare A. Oder  
293 Surrey St  
S.F. CA 94131

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

*I should have some rights too*

To Whom It May Concern: 3953-01-1A

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

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

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Sincerely,  
*Gina Gusk*  
GINA GUSK  
SF, CA

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern: 3952-01-1A

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
*Laura Abramson*  
Laura Abramson  
1538 Grove St  
SF CA 94117

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern:

3955-01-1A

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Christopher Fajal  
CHRISTOPHER FIGONE  
SF, CA

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern:

3954-01-1B

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jeff Figue  
JEFF FIGONE  
NOVATO, CA

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern:

3957-01-1A

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

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

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

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER KOX + LAN LIEU MAR 18 2002

1000 Powell #72  
SF, CA 94108

RECEIVED

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern:

3956-01-1A

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Robin E. Mann  
Robin E. Mann

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3959-01-1A

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Carole Landon

1000 Powell #78

San Francisco, CA 94108

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3958-01-1D

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

William B. McGeary

1311 Bay View Place  
Berkeley CA 94708

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3960-01-1A

**We Support Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA!**

I can't imagine enjoyment of the GGNRA without the company of my (off leash) pet by my side.

Signed:

Jill Francke

**RECEIVED**

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3961-01-1A 3-16-02

Superintendent  
G G N R A

I Have Lived For 55 Years  
In San Francisco And Dogs  
Have Been Off Lease AT The  
Beaches In Many Areas For All  
That Time. I Support A  
Section 7 Exemption

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Sincerely

Tom Kelleher  
115 Eureka St  
S.F. 94114

3962-01-1A

March 16, 2002

Superintendent,  
NIS NRA

I support a  
Section 7 Exemption.

There is room for  
off-lease recreation  
in the 75,000 acres  
of the GGNRA.

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Sincerely,  
Joann Kelleher  
115 Eureka St  
SF CA 94114

I am a SF native  
3<sup>rd</sup> generation dog lover.

3963 -01-18

3-16-02

To Who It May Concern -

Please enforce a leash law at Rodeo Beach area. We cannot walk on the beach or sit without dogs running up to get into your lunch. In fact, we are always <sup>lucky</sup> if we can find a place to put our blanket down where a dog has not pooped.

Once again - please restrict the dogs.

Thank you.

Mr. & Mrs. M.B. Scott  
246 San Francisco Blvd.  
San Anselmo, CA.

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE



## AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1931 N. MEACHAM ROAD, SUITE 100 • SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS, 60173-4360  
 PHONE (847) 925-8070 • FAX (847) 925-1329 • www.avma.org

**RECEIVED**  
**MAR 18 2002**  
 SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

March 11, 2002

Docket No. 02-568  
 Superintendent  
 Attention: ANPR  
 Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
 Building 201, Fort Mason  
 San Francisco, CA 94123

**Re: Docket No. 02-568, Pet Management in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California**

Dear Sir or Madam:

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), on behalf of its more than 67,000 member veterinarians (representing approximately 85% of veterinarians in the United States), is pleased to offer the following responses to options posed by the National Park Service (Interior) for addressing appropriate pet management within Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

***Option A: Enforce existing regulation/dogs on leash and on trail***

Because authority does not exist for policy established by the GGNRA Citizens Advisory Committee to supercede that established by the National Park Service (NPS), the AVMA believes that on-leash regulations established by the NPS for dogs in the GGNRA must be actively enforced, at least until such time as the NPS determines that off-leash dog use is acceptable, and under what conditions. The AVMA supports the idea of public education regarding park policies, and recommends that related materials aggressively emphasize responsible dog ownership as an important part of enjoying canine companionship in National Parks. Responsible dog ownership, as defined by the AVMA, includes preventive and therapeutic veterinary care (to include vaccination and parasite control), licensing, and appropriate socialization and training activities.

***Option B: Identify specific locations/ways to address off-leash use within GGNRA***

Off-leash dog activity within National Parks, including the GGNRA, should only be permitted in areas where there is reasonable assurance that such activity will not negatively impact ecologic integrity, wildlife health, and visitor safety. Documented incidents resulting in degradation of critical wildlife habitat, disruption of normal wildlife behavioral patterns, and injuries to pets and people, suggest that "voice control" is not an adequate means of restraining pets in areas that are home to sensitive wildlife or in areas having physical features (e.g., cliffs) that present increased potential for injury. When determining whether a particular area is or is not acceptable for off-leash dog use, the potential for bi-directional transmission of disease and parasites between domestic pets and indigenous wildlife must also be considered. While not the only infectious

disease of concern, canine distemper could be especially devastating to naive marine mammals, and could be transmitted to them indirectly, following interactions between dogs and susceptible terrestrial wildlife. Responsible dog owners will be equally concerned about the potential for transmission of enzootic disease to their pets.

When considering whether to permit off-leash dog use within the GGNRA, the AVMA urges the National Park Service to realistically assess the availability of alternative recreational areas where owners might enjoy mutually beneficial exercise with their dogs off leash with fewer potential negative impacts to flora, fauna, and human and animal safety. If such areas are readily available, or arrangements could be made to make alternative areas available, the need for areas within the GGNRA for off-leash use might be reduced and competing interests satisfied.

The AVMA chooses to make one additional comment specific to a citation from the report of the AVMA Task Force on Canine Aggression and Human-Canine Interactions, which has been included in the *Federal Register* notice as an expert opinion supporting the need for leash requirements. This quote has unfortunately been taken out of context. The report of the Task Force, "A Community Approach to Dog Bite Prevention," does not specifically address off-leash dog recreational areas, and comments referring to "unrestrained dogs" are not intended to reflect either support or opposition to such areas.

The objective of the AVMA is to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine. The Association is the recognized voice for the profession in presenting its views to government, academia, agriculture, animal owners, the media, and other concerned members of the public. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments.

Sincerely,



Arthur V. Tennyson, VMD  
Assistant Executive Vice President

CHAB/CEI/GCG

3965-01-1A



"Ari Bendersky"  
<aribendersky@rcn.com>

03/16/2002 07:00 PM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_ANPR@nps.gov>  
cc: <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: ANPR Comment: In Support of Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA

Hello:

Please don't take away the parks. Dogs need green space to run and grow. Just as kids need playgrounds, dogs too need open space to socialize. Giving dogs free space to romp creates better, well-mannered animals.

Places like Fort Funston and Dolores Park are wonderful pieces of land where happy dogs become healthy dogs. In my experience of taking my year-old pup to both, I have encountered wonderful people with well-behaved dogs. Emma and I go to Dolores every morning, where we both get to socialize with the friends we've made. These dog guardians not only respect each other, but the park as well. We make sure the dogs aren't in places they shouldn't go and definitely stop them from digging up the grass and mud. Personally, I thank the Dolores Park groundskeepers often for creating such a beautiful place where we can all go.

So please, do not make us put our dogs' leashes back on. It would be a disservice to everyone, especially our four-legged friends.

Thank you,

Ari Bendersky

San Francisco

---

Ari Bendersky  
415.701.7911 (main)  
415.307.7911 (cell)  
aribendersky@rcn.com

~~XXXXXX~~  
3966-01-1C



DuBreuil@aol.com  
03/16/2002 07:21 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov, ohline@cdr.stanford.edu  
cc:  
Subject: Fort Funston

I believe it is important for the GGNRA to ask for an exception to the National Park policy that forbids unleashed dogs at Fort Funston. Going to Fort Funston is a weekly ritual for my family year-round. We go to the park and walk on the beach with our labrador retriever. She is in heaven. We are, too.

I am also a member of the Sierra Club, a registered Green Party voter, and environmentally-concerned voting citizen. I think it's perfectly reasonable to set limits on where dogs walk and run, just as we ask people to stay on trails in parks. There are currently no signs up telling people of some of the park service's concerns (such as dogs chasing birds). If the signs were up, people would largely comply and those who didn't would get well-deserved tickets. Simply putting up signs and informing people of the \*reasons\* for dogs (and children) not to chase birds or climb on the dunes (and I've seen many families encouraging their children to do that!), would also increase peer pressure on park users to abide by these rules.

Dog owner who go to the trouble to bring their dogs to Fort Funston are responsible people. Please treat us respectfully, and we will respond in kind.

Jill Troy  
Redwood City, California

3967 -01-3B



Fan Jiao  
<fan@netridge.com>  
03/16/2002 02:54 PM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Off-Leash on OUR beaches

Dear National Park Service folks,

We take our dog to Fort Funston for some fun.  
It is the off-leashed dogs running, playing make the  
park special!

We heard you folks wanted to change that, and we  
disagree. First of all off-leash dog walking was an  
intended recreational activity when the city of SF  
gave her beaches and castal bluffs to GGNRA.  
And recreation and conservation are multially exclusive.  
The off-leash policy has been working for 23 years  
successfully - why you want to change this right now?

Please keep the off-leash policy for OUR beaches.

3968-01-3A



"Gerald Dalton"  
<gjdalton@worldnet.att.net>

03/16/2002 03:13 PM  
EST

To: "Brian O'Neill" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: I Support Alternative A - Keep Dogs Leashed!

Saturday, March 16, 2002

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

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am writing to support Option A in the ANPR and further request that the Park Service continue to allow leashed pet recreation where currently permissible, while minimizing pet impacts to visitors and park resources.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the world's largest urban park, provides critical habitat for some of the state's most rare and threatened species including 11 federally listed endangered wildlife species and 9 federally listed plant species. While parks such as GGRNA also provide a great place to recreate with pets, I am concerned that the ANPR could lead to changes in the current leash policy that would put sensitive park resources and public safety in jeopardy.

Numerous academic and government studies identify off leash pets as threats to visitor safety, wildlife, and the integrity of natural and cultural resources. For example, a study by the American Humane Association documents injuries to humans, wildlife, and pets as a result of unleashed pets and recommends that pets be leashed in public areas set aside for natural resource protection purposes. Golden Gate National Recreation Area records indicate numerous incidents of dog bites, threats of dogs to park visitors, and instances where park rangers were forced to risk their own safety to rescue uncontrolled pets and pet owners trapped on cliffs or in the ocean.

For these reasons -- threats to public safety and park resources -- I support Option A. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Gerald Dalton  
874 Benedetti Drive  
Apt/Suite202  
Naperville, IL 60563 - 8922  
gjdalton@worldnet.att.net

3969-01-3A



"william burgess"  
<teetee5221@msn.com  
>

03/16/2002 11:02 AM  
EST

To: "Brian O'Neill" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: I Support Alternative A - Keep Dogs Leashed!

Saturday, March 16, 2002

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

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am writing to support Option A in the ANPR and further request that the Park Service continue to allow leashed pet recreation where currently permissible, while minimizing pet impacts to visitors and park resources.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the world's largest urban park, provides critical habitat for some of the state's most rare and threatened species including 11 federally listed endangered wildlife species and 9 federally listed plant species. While parks such as GGRNA also provide a great place to recreate with pets, I am concerned that the ANPR could lead to changes in the current leash policy that would put sensitive park resources and public safety in jeopardy.

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For these reasons -- threats to public safety and park resources -- I support Option A. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

william burgess  
5123 Dunn Drive  
Las Cruces, NM 88011  
teetee5221@msn.com

3970 - 01 - 1D



KAMEICHI@aol.com  
03/16/2002 01:16 AM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Off-leash status of GGNRA sites

Hi, I grew up in San Francisco's Sunset District. My family always had a dog when I was growing up, but unfortunately our dogs were generally kept in the garage and back yard. As a kid, I knew nothing of off-leash areas where my dog could run free and socialize with other dogs and humans. Duke, my German Shepherd dog actually bit about five people during his 15 year life span. I can now say that all of the biting was caused by fear reaction to strangers who wanted to pet him. As an adult I now have a 100 pound German Shepherd mix named Jake. My family rescued him at 10 weeks from the Hopalong Rescue group in Oakland where we live. Jake goes everywhere with my family. We tie him to a post when having breakfast or lunch on weekends, and he is a regular at three or four off-leash parks in the East Bay. While we have a few areas where we can take Jake, his most favorite location is the beach area in the new lagoon area of the Presidio in San Francisco. When we drive anywhere near the Marina District, he get excited since he think he is going to be able to run in the water and visit with whatever dogs and people are on the beach. He is a socialized dog. Something that I can't say about my old dog Duke. I have absolutely no fear of Jake biting anyone, and this is because he has been allowed to run free and doesn't fear people. Jake is only two years old. He has grown up with my three-year old Daughter and is used to having toddlers around him. I credit his socialization to the fact he has had access to many areas where being off-leash has been allowed. Please consider the socialization aspect when dealing with off-leash access for our pets. I know that the GGNRA is trying to comply with it's current across the board regulations, but I hope a mutually satisfying result can come about through interaction with Bay Area dog owners. I have friends that travel to San Francisco from Contra Costa County just to let their dogs run in the ocean and bay waters. It is my hope that all of us can continue to utilize this natural asset in the San Francisco Area.

Regards,

Gary, Debbie, Allison and Jake Naganuma  
Oakland, California

Member of:  
Oakland Dog Owners Group, ODOG  
California Dog Owners Group, CALDOG  
Point Isabelle Dog Owners, PIDO

3971-01-1A

## JEAN PALMETER

1621 JUDAH STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94122-1719 • 415-759-0850

March 16, 2002

GGNRA  
ATTENTION: ANPR

Dear GGNRA:

As a concerned San Francisco citizen, nature lover and someone who walks regularly in Golden Gate Park and Ocean Beach, I would like to make my comments about the "dogs off leash".

First, I would like to say that I love dogs but it is the owners who are the ones who do not comply with current least law rules. Numerous occasions I have had dogs run up to me or a couple of times down hills where they appeared to be after me or on trails and beaches where they are suppose to be on leash. In Golden Gate Park this happens every single time I walk in the park!!! I usually go from 19th Avenue out to Ocean Beach. Once a very lovable but muddy retriever jumped up on me. His owner saw me coming but made no attempt to put this dog on leash. While there are some owners who will leash their dogs when they see me coming(keep in mind they should be on a leash anyway) most never even try to do this.

While these owner are making promises to you that they will respect the environment and others using the areas, they still right now have not been doing that. I walked once with a friend who is petrified of dogs and she will not walk in the park with me again - is this fair?

Please do not let the SPCA and their members intimidate you. There needs to be stricter leash laws and perhaps we can find some other areas for dogs off leash but it is time for the GGNRA to be tough on the dog owners and stand up for the rest of us who would like to watch nature in peace and not be afraid of strange big dogs running up to us!

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Sincerely,  
Jean Palmeter

3972-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

Date: 2.11.2002

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

Name: Chandler Downs (optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  M  F Ethnicity: white)  
 Address: 435 Shotwell Street San Francisco CA 94110  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

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

Dolores Park: this beautiful park is enhanced by healthy & happy dog owners & their dogs from the Mission, Castro, Noe Valley, etc.

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

There is a strong dog-friendly community in Dolores Park. "Dolores dogs" provides bass for maintaining hygiene. Friends, yes.

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

Dogs are an important part of our society. My dog is a watch dog, much needed in this high crime neighborhood. Dolores Park is a good - what impact do the dogs have?

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

My dog needs exercise, fresh air, and a natural setting. Where will he get this if not in the parks and on the beach?

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

Dogs make me feel safe. I have had no problem with off-leash dogs. Gangsters & drug dealers in Dolores Park were however a prob.

Signed: Chandler Downs

Date: 2.17.2002

3973-01-1B



Kent Fitzgerald  
<klec@earthlink.net>

03/17/2002 09:11 PM  
PST

Please respond to klec

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: against unleashed dogs

To whom it may concern:

I am adamantly FOR having the Golden Gate National Recreation Area being a safe haven for native wildlife, marine life and human beings.

I am adamantly AGAINST changing policy to allow unleashed canines in any National Park.

PLEASE keep dogs on leash ! Let the cities create dog parks as an alternative. Unleashed dogs scare me and my children and have ruined our beach experiences.

Sincerely,

Lee FitzGerald and family  
60 Trellis Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903

3974-01-1A



bdinsf@webtv.net  
(Barbara Daily)  
03/17/2002 08:43 PM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Leash Regulations

I feel strongly that all dogs should be on leashes in public recreational areas.

Thank you,

Barbara Daily  
1400 Geary #2204  
San Francisco, CA 94109-9314

3975 - 01 - 3B



sAm BaGdOrF  
<funky20012002@yahoo  
o.com>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc: forfunston@hotmail.com  
Subject:

03/17/2002 06:39 PM  
PST

Dear Superintendent,  
3/17/02

I have heard about banning off-leash dogs in the GGNRA. I heard that one of the reasons for doing this was that kids are scared of dogs, I have never met any kid scared of my dog (a black lab). I also believe that dogs on leashes are usually a sign that a dog has a behavior problem. If all dogs are on leashes it will be impossible to tell what dogs are "safe" or "non-safe".

I am against leash-laws because I enjoy walking my dog in parks as well as the beach. My dog enjoys running back and forth but has never bothered anyone. I know many people including non-dog owners who feel the same way.

Sincerely,

Bagdorf 14

Sam

---

Do You Yahoo!?  
Yahoo! Sports - live college hoops coverage  
<http://sports.yahoo.com/>

3976 - 01 - 1C



Cajeans@aol.com  
03/17/2002 08:46 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: dog-leash comment

I feel dogs should be able to run free at the National Recreation area. I am a dog owner but don't walk my dog there.

HOWEVER, I think there should be a very stiff fine (i.e. \$200 ) for not picking dog stuff up whether on or off leash.  
If they could patrol for dogs off leash, it should be easy to patrol for owner violations of not cleaning up their dogs messes.

cajeans@aol.com

carol swindell  
120 castleton way  
san bruno, ca 94066

3977-01-1D



Dick Grant  
<Dick@GallerySystems  
.Com>

03/17/2002 01:53 PM  
PST

To: "goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: dogs

The irresponsibility of a few dog owners should not be used as a reason to deny the rest of us access to off-leash areas in the park. institute reasonable rules regarding control and cleanup, charge violators hefty fines, and use the funds to pay for the control officers to be sure irresponsible owners are punished.

Please don't let the current news about an extreme exception (the mauling case) lead to a politically expedient but short-sighted decision. Consider the example of Pt. Isabel in Richmond.

Thank you.

Richard Grant  
2910 Garber St.  
Berkeley, CA 94705

3978-01-3B



Gretchen Grant  
<Gretchen@GALLERY  
SYSTEMS.COM>

03/17/2002 12:47 PM  
PST

To: "goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc: "Benjamin Grant (E-mail)" <bgrant@smwm.com>, Dick Grant  
<Dick@GallerySystems.Com>, "Phyllis Grant (E-mail)"  
<phylliselizabeth@yahoo.com>, "Matthew Ross (E-mail)"  
<matthewross@earthlink.net>

Subject: Dogs off leash

Rather than punish those of us who have gone to the time and expense to train our dogs, clean up after them and socialize them, why not hire the same number of rangers (or whoever you plan to hire to give out tickets for off leash animals) to give tickets to those people who do not act responsibly? And make those tickets huge! Put up signs where the threatened areas are, and require people to be careful. Make those of us who have dogs prove that we can be good citizens instead of assuming that all of us are as bad as a very small number of idiots who abuse the system. Just because some people are terrible drivers doesn't mean that no one should have the right to drive, does it? But, appropriately, we do have very punitive laws for drunken drivers, careless drivers, and unsafe drivers. How about a test that is required before a dog is allowed off leash? I am required to pay the government to administer a test to me to allow me to drive. I must already purchase a dog license, and I would pay extra for a test to insure that I have the right for my dog to be off leash.

Dogs are known to be wonderful companions both physically and mentally to the elderly and infirm - not to mention the rest of us. It is terribly important for less mobile people to be able to arrange for their pets to get really good exercise. On leash exercise is not enough for most dogs.

The pleasure of being able to see a dog run free or to run with your dog is something very special. Don't take this away, please.

Thank you - Gretchen Grant

3979-01-1A



"Julie Baldocchi"  
<julie@pacificnurseries.com>

03/17/2002 11:21 AM  
PST  
Please respond to julie

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Dog Walking

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for dogs being able to run off leash in the GGNRA. We as a family enjoy the park and the motivating force getting out of the house is to take the family dog out for a run. The benefit is being able to enjoy the park at the same time. Being able to have our dog run off leash is crucial to this experience. This is how she gets her exercise and social fun with other dogs off leash.

Thank you for your consideration,

Julianne Baldocchi  
2950 Pine St.  
San Francisco, CA 94115

415-922-0963



"D.M. Baptista"  
<dmbaptista@salud.un  
m.edu>

03/17/2002 01:58 PM  
EST

To: "Brian O'Neill" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: I Support Alternative A - Keep Dogs Leashed!

Sunday, March 17, 2002

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

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am writing to support Option A in the ANPR and further request that the Park Service continue to allow leashed pet recreation where currently permissible, while minimizing pet impacts to visitors and park resources.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the world's largest urban park, provides critical habitat for some of the state's most rare and threatened species including 11 federally listed endangered wildlife species and 9 federally listed plant species. While parks such as GGRNA also provide a great place to recreate with pets, I am concerned that the ANPR could lead to changes in the current leash policy that would put sensitive park resources and public safety in jeopardy.

Numerous academic and government studies identify off leash pets as threats to visitor safety, wildlife, and the integrity of natural and cultural resources. For example, a study by the American Humane Association documents injuries to humans, wildlife, and pets as a result of unleashed pets and recommends that pets be leashed in public areas set aside for natural resource protection purposes. Golden Gate National Recreation Area records indicate numerous incidents of dog bites, threats of dogs to park visitors, and instances where park rangers were forced to risk their own safety to rescue uncontrolled pets and pet owners trapped on cliffs or in the ocean.

For these reasons -- threats to public safety and park resources -- I support Option A. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

D.M. Baptista  
P.O. Box 23158  
Albuquerque, NM 87192  
dmbaptista@salud.unm.edu

3981-01-1A



"Burnett Britton"  
<burbrit@earthlink.net  
>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Leash Regulations

03/17/2002 06:25 AM  
MST

Please enforce your leash regulations.

Thank you,

Burnett Britton  
1400 Geary, #1709  
San Francisco, CA 94109

3982 -01-3B



"Gerald Saltzgeber"  
<sfgabers@worldnet.at  
t.net>

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject:

03/17/2002 05:45 AM  
PST

we believe it is time to protect ordinary citizens from the unregulated pet owners. we have been scared by dogs running loose. we have stepped in dog poop that is very common on our sidewalks. we have been afraid to let our small grandchildren play in the parks & on the beach due to the large number of dogs running around and through them. chrisy field is a wonderful addition to our city, but we are afraid of the huge number of dogs that are loose there( there are a number of confritations between the dogs that end in very big fights).

it is not reasonable for dog owners to have the unregulated use of our city & push the rest of us from our parks & sidewalks.

gerald & phyllis saltzgeber  
415-771-6029

3983-01-3A



"HARRISON P.  
BERTRAM"  
<thedanzman@yahoo.  
com>

To: "Brian O'Neill" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: I Support Alternative A - Keep Dogs Leashed!

03/17/2002 12:18 AM  
EST

Sunday, March 17, 2002

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

Dear Superintendent O'Neill, ,

I am writing to support Option A in the ANPR and further request that the Park Service continue to allow leashed pet recreation where currently permissible, while minimizing pet impacts to visitors and park resources.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the world's largest urban park, provides critical habitat for some of the state's most rare and threatened species including 11 federally listed endangered wildlife species and 9 federally listed plant species. While parks such as GGRNA also provide a great place to recreate with pets, I am concerned that the ANPR could lead to changes in the current leash policy that would put sensitive park resources and public safety in jeopardy.

Numerous academic and government studies identify off leash pets as threats to visitor safety, wildlife, and the integrity of natural and cultural resources. For example, a study by the American Humane Association documents injuries to humans, wildlife, and pets as a result of unleashed pets and recommends that pets be leashed in public areas set aside for natural resource protection purposes. Golden Gate National Recreation Area records indicate numerous incidents of dog bites, threats of dogs to park visitors, and instances where park rangers were forced to risk their own safety to rescue uncontrolled pets and pet owners trapped on cliffs or in the ocean.

For these reasons -- threats to public safety and park resources -- I support Option A. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

HARRISON P. BERTRAM  
1090 W GROTON CT  
SCHAUMBURG, IL 60193 - 3745  
thedanzman@yahoo.com

3984 -02 -1A



"Jacquelyn Jones"  
<galena\_pbs@hotmail.com>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: GGNRA Off-Leash Rules

03/17/2002 03:47 AM  
GMT

Jacquelyn Jones  
570 28th Avenue #3  
San Francisco, CA 94121

Off-leash play is essential to the health and well-being of dogs. Without good off-leash play, dogs lose critical socialization time. When dogs don't get to play, they don't learn the rules of play which results in dogs who don't learn that biting too hard is a very bad thing. Dogs who play regularly with other dogs learn fantastic doggy manners including how much teeth pressure is okay, and how much ends play abruptly. This is called bite inhibition. Unsocial dogs don't develop bite inhibition. Dogs that don't develop bite inhibition are more likely to cause serious damage to dogs and people if they decide to bite.

A dog expends more energy in 5 minutes of dog-dog play than they do during a 1 hour hike. Dogs who get lots of energy expenditure through play and exercise eat fewer couch cushions, lovely wooden tables, shoes, briefcases, etc. Dogs who eat less of the belongings of their guardians get to remain with their guardians. Dogs who tear up the house end up either outside barking all day long, loose on the streets, in animal shelters or in doggy heaven because their guardians or shelters had them euthanized.

Dogs want really really badly to go say hello to every other dog they see. When they walk around on leash all the time and they don't get to say hello to enough dogs, they develop something called barrier frustration. They begin getting very worked up at the site of other dogs. They lunge at the other dogs trying desperately to get closer so they can sniff butts. Their owners freak out at the site of their lovely dog lunging at the end of the leash barking and they stiffen. The dogs end up getting classically conditioned (just like Pavlov's dogs did when they salivated for a bell because it was presented just prior to food enough times) to get really aggitated at the site of another dog. Pretty soon it all escalates and the dogs are lunging and growling, and then lunging and snarling, and then lunging and snarling and snapping - all this because they didn't get to sniff some butts and romp around freely with their buddies. Imagine if you lived with a bunch of dogs who kept you on a leash and didn't allow you to shake hands with other humans, didn't allow you to play sports or games or run around happily with other humans.

But then you've probably heard lots of elegant ways of saying exactly what I just said. So now on to my proposal:

Enforcing on-leash rules will not be cheap or easy. Expect some peaceful protests, expect groups of people respectfully disobeying the rules. Why not spend the money you would have spent enforcing the on-leash policy on enforcing voice command rules, anti-fowl chasing rules, dog and handler manners and giving out littering fines for people who don't pick up the poop?

Fine people for letting their dogs chase birds, bark at horses, for not having control of their dogs, for not cleaning up after their dogs. This would target the people you really don't want at the park anyway! I've been complimented on several occasions by horse-riders for my dog's manners. Make me the rule, not the exception. Punish the bad guardians, not their dogs! Punishing the dogs will make for more aggression, more destruction, and one thing that we definately don't need - more dogs in shelters, so many

3984-02-1A

that they have to be euthanized and piled into a dumpster outside the shelter. Be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

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**RECEIVED**

March 16, 2002

**MAR 18 2002**

To Superintendent Brian O'Neill:

**SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

I am writing to strongly support continuation of off-leash walking in the GGNRA. There is room for off-leash dog walking in the more than 74,000 acres of the GGNRA. Traditional off-leash use occurs in only 0.5% of this land. Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning" (16 USC 460bb)". San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA to preserve them for recreational use. Off-leash walking can peacefully co-exist with preservation of natural resources and other recreational uses, such as hang-gliding and mountain biking.

San Francisco has the largest population of dogs per capita in the country, a liberal off leash policy and a significantly lower dog bite average than the rest of the country. How do you explain that? Because dogs need to be off leash in order to properly socialize to both other animals and people, including children. Dogs are much more likely to be territorial and therefore defensive and potentially dangerous on leash. Dogs respond to danger by either fleeing or fighting. Since fleeing is not an option when a dog is on leash, many otherwise non-aggressive dogs can be quite ferocious on leash or in a confined space where they cannot get away from a perceived threat. Leash laws punish responsible citizens for the actions of a very few irresponsible ones. Yes, there are irresponsible dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs and who do not have proper control over aggressive dogs. The vast majority of dog owners in San Francisco are, however, extremely responsible and conscientious, precisely because we want to continue enjoying a liberal leash policy that we know is for the best of dogs and people.

I have owned a home for four years in Golden Gate Heights in San Francisco; my husband and I chose our particular house almost exclusively because our back yard is up against Golden Gate Heights Park and our dog would finally have a wonderful park to enjoy after living in a Cole Valley apartment for the first seven years of his life. We made the most important and expensive purchase of our lives based on our dog, which demonstrates the importance of dogs in their owners' lives. Our case is, of course, not unique; you will find the same premium placed on dogs among the majority of dog owners in San Francisco, which is why leash laws are doomed to fail. The very high percentage of tax paying dog owning San Franciscans will not tolerate them! Very occasionally, a group of teenagers will come to our park and party or get high and sometimes they either leave a lot of trash behind, graffiti or make a lot of noise. Should we formulate a policy to ban teenagers from the park? This is exactly what leash laws propose - to punish everyone for the actions of a very few. I have lived in San Francisco for 15 years, but it wasn't until I got my first dog Spike 10 years ago that I felt that I was really a part of a community. I began to meet people in my Cole Valley neighborhood for the first time because I was walking Spike twice daily. I began to go to my local dog park, Grattan field, and I met a whole group of people who gathered there every evening for dog play time and people social hour. I met many wonderful people at that park and

became close friends with a few of them, and all of this community was centered around dogs. This was a group of people who were interested in and invested in both the neighborhood and the City. Dogs are good for community; dogs are good for public health and public safety. Now in my new neighborhood, Golden Gate Heights, I have the same sense of community that centers around our park. I got a second dog, Jake, because we finally had a back yard and now both my dogs walk and play every day in Golden Gate Heights park. Our park is remarkably clean, with families, children and dogs getting along fine. The dogs and their owners look after the park (keeping partiers, the homeless and gang kids out, calling the police on strange people etc.) Dog owners are a very significant community in San Francisco and we will not accept proposed changes in leash laws. If off leash walking is taken away from the GGNRA, every park in SF will be highly impacted.

The Park Service has stated that children and elderly people, among other groups, may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. In my 12 years of experience in off leash areas, I have found just the opposite to be true. I run into families with infants, toddlers and babies who don't have dogs of their own but who come to dog play areas expressly to introduce their children to dogs and because their children are delighted with canines. I have seen elderly people do the same thing.

Just as we have liberal leash laws in many of our city parks, we need to continue having liberal leash laws in the GGNRA – dog owners are probably the biggest and most dedicated group of park and GGNRA users in San Francisco. Please work with the stake holder groups to develop a policy that allows off-leash walking to co-exist with preservation of natural resources and other recreational uses.

Kathy Burton, home and dog owner  
372 Quintara St. San Francisco CA 94116  
415 759 5578 burt@pacbell.net

*Kathy Burton*

*3/16/02*

3986 - 01 - 10

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

March 15, 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

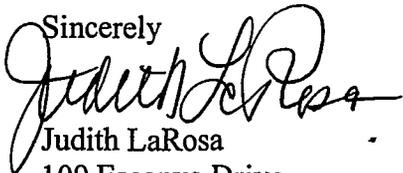
I am a native San Franciscan and support off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

There is room for off-leash recreation in the 75,000 acres of the GGNRA. Off leash dogs under voice control can and do share the park easily with other users. Targeted enforcement against problem dogs and their guardians makes more sense than a blanket ban on off leash recreation.

It is an important part of my life to have the ability to walk and socialize my dog on a daily basis. The quality of my life would be negatively impacted if I were not able to use the GGNRA as a place for me to take my dog.

Please support the off leash area for the GGNRA.

Sincerely



Judith LaRosa  
109 Escanyo Drive  
So San Francisco CA 94080

3987 - 01 - 3B

- no address  
on envelope

March 14, 2002  
GGNRA  
Attn ANPR  
Fort Mason  
Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear GGNRA,

I AM WRITING TO TOTALLY DISAGREE WITH YOUR OFF LEASH POLICY WITHIN THE GGNRA. WE HAVE A TRADITION OF OFF LEASH DOG WALKING WITHIN THE GGNRA PARK LAND LONG BEFORE WE VOTED YOU IN TO OVERSEE OUR PARK LAND. I HAVE A PAMPHLET THAT SHOWS OFF LEASE AREAS WITHIN THE GGNRA PUBLISHED BY THE GGNRA. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE ABOUT FACE. IS THERE A NEW ADMINISTRATION THERE? THEY ARE REALLY PICKING UP THE IRE OF THE LOCALS AND I THINK THEY NEED TO RETHINK THEIR STRATEGIES. I WANT THE GGNRA TO REOPEN ALL THE ILLEGALLY CLOSED AREAS AND EXPAND AND OPEN NEW AREAS IN THE PARK. DOG WALKING IS A VALUABLE AND HEALTHY RECREATION. RECREATION IS THE WHAT THE R IS IN GGNRA?

Respectfully,

George Paine

3988 - 01 - 13

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002

Name: Kristina SILVA (printed)  
Address: 108 Professional Center Parkway #102 (street) San Rafael (city) CA (state) 94903 (zip)

Marino Headlands Beach  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area is a great place to take my 6 month old well trained RotRier. I take my twin 5 year old niece and newfew with me and my 10 year old niece there also. The dog never jumps on people and I clean up after it. She causes no trouble at The GGURA. Please dont put leashes on well trained dogs that deserve the pleasure of running in the sand with my nieces and newfew!

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

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

Signed: Kristina Silva Date 3-15-2002 (optional: Age 21 Sex M F Ethnicity F)  
Version 2.0

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

Name: Dorrian W. Athrell (optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  M  F Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_)  
Address: 77 Manchester St. SK Ca 94110  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

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

Fort Kinston Beach Area

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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

As a person with AIDS I get exercise, sun and enjoyment of seeing my dog play in the surf.

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

Yes! There are very few beaches for dogs - as a dog owner I should get some portion of beaches for my recreational activity of dog walking.

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

It would be sad and I would resent it.

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

I am not afraid of dogs off-leash

Signed: D. Athrell Date 3/10/02

3990 - 03 - 1A

Mar. 15, 2002

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

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear GGNRA Superintendent,

As a professional dog trainer, I am particularly and directly involved in the proposed rulings concerning off-leash dogs in the parks here in the San Francisco Bay Area. Let me start by saying that it is impossible to have a fully trained dog, one that is truly under the owner's control by having the animal permanently bound to a leash. The full control of a dog depends on the *difference* of expected behavior both on and off the leash. This is to say that when a dog is on leash he or she is *tactilely* taught what is expected of them. By placing a dog on the leash, they know how to walk, heel, etc. by learning what the *feel* of the leash means. This all-important technique can only be learned if the set of behaviors that go along with the leash (walking and heeling correctly) stand in direct contrast to what it means to be off the leash. This is also the reason why you see so many irresponsible dog owners that do not have control over their dogs being dragged around like an idiot bundle. In each and every case fully 98% of the dogs that exist can change their behaviors if taught correctly. There are really less than 2% bad dogs out there, which represent the minute amounts of poor and inbred breeding. You might be thinking that this number is larger, but as a professional, I must ask you to look closely at these figures. You will invariably be lead to a poor owner's excusing his or her irresponsibility. In each and every cases of incident there are 100% bad owners.

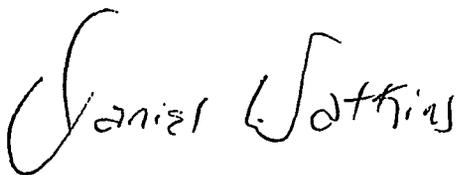
I want to mention here that the horrible events filling our newscasts recently are perfect examples of this. The horrific incident concerning the death of Diane Whipple happened *inside* her apartment building at her own apartment door. This tragedy occurred because of the irresponsibility of the owners by not having control of their dogs no matter where they were, simply because they were never properly trained. I say this to point to the importance of understanding the value of what a dog is. As a Superintendent in the National Park System I assume that you have an interest in nature and natural forces. In this, you must know that canines are very social animals, an instinct descending from their ancestral fore-bearers long before they were domesticated. To deny a dog this vital part of their existence is simply cruel. To do this also means that you are producing an entirely dysfunctional animal, and an animal that is ultimately not under your control. This must necessarily produce the exact opposite of a healthy dog and their healthy human/animal relationships. And all of this speaks to the point of punishing the responsible dog owners for the behavior of their irresponsible counterparts. (And I truly mean counterparts.) I am also aware of the paradoxes that must exist by being an officer in the National Park Service in such a totally urbanized area. So, what is to be done?

The first compromise that comes to mind would be designating dog hours in the parks where the essential socialization can take place. I believe that this structure would also decrease the cost of patrols and enforcement.

I very much need to add here that the so-called 'dog runs' are not an answer. These confined areas immediately become filthy and very unhealthy for dogs and humans alike.

A second idea might be for dog owners to provide proof that they and their dogs have received proper training. I would completely support summonses for those owners that cannot present such proof. A simple enforcement tool in this regard would be to have the owner physically display an on-the-spot control of their dog along with a training card; something like a driver's license. I admit that enforcement officers would have to be somewhat educated as to the applications of this rule, but as far as my personal philosophy goes this type of program would hit two positive objectives at once. I would even go so far as to endorse the *urbanized* National Park Service initiating a program for proper dog/park training and management. I know that this would be of essential value and provide an outlet for dog owners that figure they can't afford to train their dogs. (Which only means that they should not have them, but please consider the noble rescue efforts that are made every day, and that give happy results to the owners and of course the dogs alike.) There is no amount of money that can equate the humane benefit of the living and devoted love that exists in the home of a happy, healthy dog.

Respectfully yours,



Daniel Watkins  
2200 Beach St. #301  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 776-0486  
[claydanhi@yahoo.com](mailto:claydanhi@yahoo.com)

3991-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

RECEIVED

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

MAR 18 2002

Name: CLAIRE CHOW

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Address: 476 LIBERTY ST SF CA 94114  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

\* I would like Ft Funston + Crissy Fields to remain off-leash, in particular on the paths + trails and on the beach.

\* I support native plants, if the GGNRA wants to temporarily fence off areas that's fine, as long as I can walk on the beach with my dog off-leash. He doesn't chase birds.

\* I often see elderly people out with their dogs and grandchildren. Coming to Ft Funston gives them an opportunity to get out of the house + get healthy exercise. Let's not take that away.

\* If the dogs were leashed, the walking would not be so enjoyable. Dogs get more aggressive when leashed. I absolutely believe continuing off-leash recreation in this area is a great use of this land. People are out walking their dogs, who otherwise would not be doing so. The benefits far outweigh the negatives.

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco? NO.

Signed: M. Claire Chow Date 3/16/02 (optional: Age: 45 Sex M  Ethnicity W)  
Version 2.2 March 9, 2002

3992-01-1B

*John M. Strawn, Ph.D.*  
*15 Willow*  
*Larkspur CA 94939*  
*415 927 8856*

15 March 2002

Golden Gate National Recreate Area  
Fort Mason Building 201  
San Francisco 94123

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 18 2002**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

My fellow Americans,

I am writing on the subject of dogs and leash laws.

My preference is to ban dogs off-leash from all areas under your jurisdiction. I will admit that it is fair to allow dogs to run free in some specially designated areas.

However, the GGNRA has been inefficient in enforcing its current regulations. I have personally experienced a dog off-leash urinating on my son's beach toys, for example, in an area under your jurisdiction that was supposed to be free of dogs.

GGNRA could well leave the current regulations in place. Rather than focusing on how to change the regulations, I would urge GGNRA to put into place an effective enforcement mechanism.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Strawn

RECEIVED

March 1, 2002

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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

Attn: ANPR

My name is Robert Hollingsworth. I have been a resident of Marin City, just north of Sausalito, for the past 19 years. I am writing to express my opinion on the GGNRA dog leashing regulations for your input and consideration. I do not have a dog myself. But for many years I have very often, almost daily, gone for walks and jogs on the fire road up on the ridge behind my house in Marin City. A few years ago this area was purchased by, and made part of, the Marin County Open Space District. Their intent was to eventually turn this area over to the Park Service for inclusion into the GGNRA. This turnover has just recently been finalized, and the area is now under the jurisdiction of the GGNRA and subject to their regulations. The fire road up on this ridge is used for mountain biking, jogging, and walking, mainly by local residents, but also by some people who drive in to use it. However, the primary use of the fire road is, and always has been, for dog walking. In recent years, dog walking there has increased somewhat, primarily due to the completion of the housing development in the lower area of Marin City. The vast majority of people walking their dogs there are local residents.

I love the open space up on that ridge. Being able to go for walks there adds immeasurably to my enjoyment of life. I also enjoy sharing "my backyard" with others: hikers, bikers, joggers, strollers, dog walkers, and dogs. There is plenty of room up there for everyone. Observing others enjoying themselves in the out of doors only adds to my own enjoyment. And who is enjoying themselves the most? Obviously the dogs. They absolutely love it up there. After being cooped up all day in their owners' apartments, they love being free to run around, chase balls and sticks thrown for them, play with each other, and generally stretch their muscles and burn up some energy. Some owners walk their dogs on a leash. Most do not since there is no danger of their dogs getting run over up there, and the dogs love so much being untethered.

More often than not, when I go for a walk, jog, or hike up there, I come across people walking their dogs. In all the years I have gone up there, I have never been threatened or molested by a dog. The most interest they have expressed in me is to give me a sniff as I go by. This is because they are well aware that this is not their home territory, and it is not their business to defend it or ward off intruders. I have no trouble at all sharing "my" space with those dogs. In fact, as I said, I enjoy seeing them frolicking around. The dog walkers are always courteous and are conscientious about picking up after their dogs. Any impact on the environment is nil compared to the impact by the humans who use that area. Those domestic dogs couldn't catch a rabbit up there if their life depended on it. They are not coyotes! There is a lot of wildlife there, but it generally avoids the fire road during daylight hours due to heavy use by humans--dog walkers and otherwise. On rare

occasion I have seen dogs attack each other (never a person). When this happens, the dog owners are always quick to respond and breakup the confrontation. Generally, and almost universally, the dogs like to meet each other and play with the other dogs they know.

It is my opinion that blanket dog leashing regulations are not appropriate for the GGNRA. The GGNRA is a recreation area, not a National Park out in a more remote area whose primary goal is to preserve its wilderness character. It is in the midst of a huge metropolitan area. Furthermore, portions of that area, such as the one by my house, have a decades long history of prior use for dog walking before being incorporated into the GGNRA. It is not as though the Park Service would be instituting more lenient regulations by allowing unleashed dog walking in the areas where unleashed dog walking has been allowed for years already. It would just be maintaining the status quo. Wildlife would not be placed in greater danger; it has been living with unleashed dog walking with for decades (in fact I am quite sure that the automobile poses a much greater threat to wildlife in the GGNRA). I do not think it is reasonable for the Park Service regulations to be so inflexible that they cannot allow some degree of customization appropriate to the locality and situation to which they are being applied. It certainly seems reasonable to me that those places in the GGNRA that have always had unleashed dog walking should continue to do so.

As a person who does not have a dog, but who does frequently use a portion of what is now part of the GGNRA that is heavily used by dog walkers, I just wanted to provide you with my input and views on the dog leashing regulations for the GGNRA. I hope you will take my input into consideration when you finalize those regulations.

I strongly support flexible regulations that would allow unleashed dog walking in those areas of the GGNRA where it has already traditionally been done for years.

Thank you very much,

*Robert Hollingsworth*

Robert Hollingsworth  
26 Dutton Court  
Marin City, CA 94965-1113  
[rkollingsworth@attbi.com](mailto:rkollingsworth@attbi.com)

3994-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: Doniel Gaaneli (printed)  
Address: 1393 NOE ST. S.F. CA 94131  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

ANIMALS & people MUST CO-EXIST. DOGS OFF LEASH DO NOT CAUSE MORE PROBLEMS THAN HUMANS TRASHING PARKS. WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL? WHY SPEND MONEY & EFFORT IN ISSUES THAT ARE NOT THAT RELEVANT

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true - that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?

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

Signed: Doniel Gaaneli Date 3-17-02 (optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex M F Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_)  
Version 2.2 March 9, 2002  
GGNRA013368

3995-01-1C

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

RECEIVED

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Doris Copley \_\_\_\_\_ MAR 18 2002 \_\_\_\_\_ (printed)  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 832 Maddux Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (street) \_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_ (zip)



My husband + I walked for 30 years on the beach and visited all parts of the park. Now that he is gone I have walked alone and visited all parts of the area. Now that I am older I cannot walk so far but still visit. I can see where children, the older and disabled may want to avoid large dogs but I can't see where racial minorities are any different - they are able to take their own dogs. If they wish to live in our country they should use what we offer. I seldom see children up there. I also feel safer when walking alone if there is a dog nearby as many times you encounter shady characters you don't really trust. I have made many friends & met nice people. If you keep a dog always on a leash he gets mean & wants to fight. Of course off-leash recreation areas are a good use of these areas. That also is a recreation area for them. It's not going to hurt the weeds & grass for a dog to run over it. If there are large dogs causing trouble put a few signs along the path to call a ranger to care for them also on the beach is where dogs get the best exercise. If more city dogs had adequate exercise there wouldn't be so many dog bites in the city. No the GGNRA should not be allowed to reneg on this agreement. How can a dog hurt sand & water, live & let live. God made us all - man & beast. Let's all be happy.

Here are some ideas for your letter:

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

Signed: Doris Copley Date 3-9-02 (optional: Age: 68 Sex M  F Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Version 2.0

3996-01-2

ALAMEDA PET HOSPITAL  
DR. KAREN L. BUCHINGER

2275 Buena Vista Ave.  
Alameda CA 94501

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

March 15, 2002

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

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to urge you to make an exception to the National Park policy that forbids unleashed dogs at Fort Funston. There are very few places where dogs are allowed to run off-leash. Being a veterinarian, and a dog lover, I value the time spent with my dog in a place like Fort Funston. I have training in Wildlife Biology as well, and I respect the need to protect the environment. Perhaps there can be an intermediate solution to allow dogs to roam in portions of the area, while keeping other areas off limits. I have never experienced dogs chasing birds during my visits to Fort Funston.

I hope a solution can be made to benefit all populations. Please consider the wishes of responsible dog owners like myself, and allow us to continue to play at Fort Funston off leash.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Buchinger, DVM

3997 -01 - 1A

RECEIVED

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

MAR 18 2002

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

Name: Susan Amdur Susan Amdur (printed)

Address: 21 Lisbon San Francisco Calif 94112  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

My dog loves children & they pet her in groups. She also has been to nursing home seniors & people in wheel chairs love her. Pet a dog lower your blood pressure! I would never come to GGNRA alone in past as nude men would jump from bushes & flash me. This stopped with the dogs. Dogs off leash for fun & safety! This place is filled with people & dogs

Here are some ideas for your letter:

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

Signed: Susan Amdur Date 2-26-02 (optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex M  F Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_)  
Version 2.0

3998 - 01 - 3B

March 14, 2002

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

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

**Cast my vote for keeping dogs off leash in the GGNRA and I am  
not even a dog owner**

Sincerely,

Bobby Hill

3999-01-1C

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: Todd Frankel (printed)

Address: 503 St. Francis St. Redwood City CA 94062  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Sir,

This is the only place where dogs can run unleashed, not considering kennel parks, from hills to shore. They can run in packs, individually in spirit with nature. Sure this could be created anywhere, but Fort Funston is gaining a statewide reputation as the place to go, and isn't SF

always on the cutting edge of people's rights?

Take care, Todd Frankel

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

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

Signed: Todd Frankel Date 3/17/02 (optional: Age: 42 Sex (M) F Ethnicity W)

3-17-02

Superintendent  
GGNRA

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MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Re: Comment on ANPR - Pet Management

I strongly urge GGNRA to require that all pets be on leash at all times in all GGNRA areas.

I am a long-time volunteer with the Habitat Restoration Team, a group which removes non-native plants and plants natives throughout the GGNRA. Consequently I have learned a great deal about sensitive habitats, including the impact of humans and non-native animals on newly restored areas, such as the bank swallow site at Fort Funston and the dunes in the Crissy Field area.

Because of my restoration experiences and my observations of off-leash dog behavior, I am convinced that many native plants, along with bayside and oceanside bird populations, are

seriously threatened by the intrusions of large numbers of off-leash pets on a sustained basis.

I certainly sympathize with urban pet owners but believe that environmental protection is the more important long-term strategy.

Therefore, I vote for a regulation that requires that all pets be kept on-leash within the GG NRA.

Sincerely,

Charles Starbuck

CHARLES STARBUCK  
1625 HEAVENWORTH ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

4001-01-10

March 15, 2002

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

RECEIVED

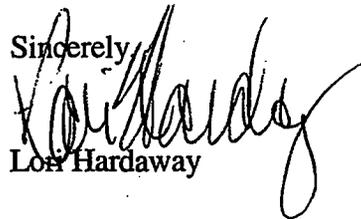
MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I am writing in support of maintaining off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, particularly at Fort Funston. The GGNRA was established to maintain recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning. When the beaches and costal bluffs were given to the GGNRA, it was intended that off-leash recreation be a part of that recreation necessary for urban environment and planning. There are few off-leash areas available to pet owners and pets. Fort Funston provides an extremely valuable recreational space for Bay area denizens and their canine pals. Please preserve this off-lease treasure.

Sincerely,



Lori Hardaway

[Redacted] = Lori Hardaway  
1047 Sonoma  
Menlo Park, CA 94025



Superintendent O'Neill  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
GNNRA 048376

011-201

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: CHRISTOPHER Mesa (printed)  
Address: 2929 Geary Blvd. San Francisco ca 94118  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Fewer LAWS & b  
battered decisions & b  
owner responsibility & b  
Less gut control  
over PUBLIC LAWS

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Christopher Mesa Date 3/17/02 (optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  M  F Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_)  
Version 2.2

4003-01-1B

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: JUDITH HERZOG BEBIANNO (printed)  
Address: 21 PALM AVENUE CORTEMADERA CA 94925  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Public land for Public People  
FOR Public UNLEASHED DOGS!

Leash-up when curteously  
appropriate

GOOD Dog owners / Good Judgements

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Judith Herzog Bebianno Date 3/17/02 (optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex M Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_)  
Version 2.2  
March 9, 2002  
GGNRA013378

4004-01-10

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: Jennie Bradish (printed)  
Address: 838 No. Mayfair Ave. Daly City Ca 94015  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

I support A section 7 exemption!!!

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Jennie Bradish Date 3/18/02 (optional: Age: 79 Sex M  Ethnicity W)  
Version 2.2 March 9, 2002

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

Name: Laura Sweet (optional: Age: 33 Sex: M  F Ethnicity: N/A  
Address: 17 Fieldcrest Dr Daly City CA 94015  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

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

M-F I walk my dogs at Ft Funston + Ocean Beach. It is a great way for me to get exercise and relax after work while enjoying my dogs at the same time. There ~~is~~ is no other place near our home where we can walk continuously for an hour and not have to walk around a dog pen. It provides me not only physical exercise but ~~ment~~ <sup>ment</sup> ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup>

2. Please describe whether off-leash recreation is a social outlet for you. Do you bring your friends and family along or meet with friends? Have you made new friends through this activity? Yes! I often meet friends and family at Ft Funston. My nephew cannot have a dog and he looks very forward to going to Ft Funston to meet the dogs, meet new people and play in the surf. He also loves to help pick up garbage for the NPS.

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

I do believe that portions of the GGNRA should be protected. However, I strongly disagree that Ft Funston should be used as a conservation area. It is an urban park that is crucial for Bay Area residents. There are plenty of other coastal areas where native plants can be added to bring back native species.

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

I would be devastated! Ft Funston is a huge part of our lives. I would not be able to drive to an area large enough that would provide us the space and scenery that Ft Funston does. I feel I would be affected physically + mentally.

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

I always feel safe with my dogs - off or on leash. I do not feel uncomfortable with any of the dogs that I have met in any of the GGNRA parks. I have found the users are respectful + responsible dog owners.

Signed: Laura Sweet RECEIVED Date: 3/18/02

MAR 18 2002

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: PATRICK KAUSTENS (printed)  
Address: 1361 LERIDA WAY PACIFICA CA 94044  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

WE take our collie "BRANDY" to FORT FUNSTON where she can EXERCISE & INTERMIX with other dogs, and I don't get threatened with a ticket. Everyone with off leash dogs there seem to clean up after the dog, and KEEP watch over them. I've seen all kinds of minorities, disabled people, kids and old folks there at Ft. Funston park not having problems with the dogs. THE PARASAILS

Here are some ideas for your letter: are more dangerous than the dogs

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

Signed: Patrick Kaustens Date: 3/15/02 (optional: Age: 52 Sex: M Ethnicity: C)  
Version 2.0 GGNRA013381

3/18/02

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

This is a plea to  
ensure dogs can run OFFLEASH  
in San Francisco Parks.

Dogs only have .5% of land  
to run offleash now.

PLEASE DO NOT take  
this away.

Thank you,

Gretchen Hoffmann

A VOTER in San Francisco

4009-01-3B

no address on envelope

3/18/2002

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

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I AM WRITING A SHORT NOTE TO CRY OUT TO STOP ALL THIS NONSENSE OF STOPPING OFF LEASH DOG WAKING WITHIN THE GGNRA.

Keep GGNRA Off Leash

Sincerely,

*Mindy Shoo*

Mindy Shoo

4010-01-3B

- no address

March 18, 2002

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

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear GGNRA,

I HAVE READ THE ANPR DOCUMENT AND WHAT DOES A DOG MAULING IN AN APARTMENT HALLWAY HAVE TO DO WITH OFF LEASH DOG WALKING WITHIN THE GGNRA. I HAVE NEVER READ A MORE POORLY WRITTEN DOCUMENT. THIS DOCUMENT APPEARS TO THE QUALITY OF MANAGEMENT THAT WE HAVE ALLOWED INTO OUR PARKS. I AM HIGHLY SUSPECT OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION THEY SEEM TO BE QUITE MISDIRECTED. WE VOTED FOR THE PARKS TO MANAGE OUR PARK AND NOT TO RECREATE AS EVERY NEW ADMINISTRATION COMES INTO POWER. THIS ADMINISTRATION SEEMS TO WANT TO REMOVE ALL LOCAL COLOR FROM IT PARKS. SAN FRANCISCO HAS A LONG TRADITION OF OFF LEASH DOG WALKING AND YOU HAVE BEEN SLOWLY AND COWARDY CLOSING OUR OFF LEASH AREAS. I DEMAND THAT YOU RE-OPEN ALL THE OFF LEASH AREAS THAT YOU HAVE CLOSED, FOR EXAMPLE OCEAN AND BAKER BEACHES, LANDS END AND OTHERS LISTED IN YOUR ANPR. IF YOU CAN'T HONOR THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT I THINK WE SHOULD FIND AN NEW ADMINISTRATION THAT IS CAPABLE OF MEETING AND PROVIDING FOR LOCAL TRADITIONS AND NEEDS.

**REOPEN AND EXPAND OFF LEASH  
RECREATION WITHIN THE GGNRA.**

Respectfully,

Jane Whyte

4012-01-1A  
4013-01-1A

March 18, 2002

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

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MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent:

THIS is what the public has to say regarding unleashed dogs on GGNRA property:

National Parks are designed for the recreational needs of people FIRST.

Native plants, birds and fish also come FIRST.

If we enjoy these areas with our pets, they should be under leash control because the recreational needs of "domesticated predators"--dogs--do not come FIRST.

People--old, young, exercising, playing, enjoying nature should always come FIRST.

We appreciate your taking our comments into consideration when making your decision.

Sincerely,



Philippe F. Devigne  
Linda M. Devigne  
26 Idora  
San Francisco, CA 94127

March 7, 2002

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

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Sir or Madam:

I want to go on record that I feel that total restriction of off-leash dog walking at the San Francisco beaches and coastal areas is a negative and totally unresponsive approach to the needs of the city and its dog-owning population. It was my understanding, along with the many people I've spoken to, that off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning".

San Francisco is a city – one that has grown and become increasingly busy in terms of traffic and pedestrian congestion. It is foolish to think that taking a dog for a walk along any of the city streets will afford sufficient recreation or exercise for either the dog or the walker. It is also foolish to think that a dog is totally safe running in a small park that is completely surrounded by city traffic. Every dog, regardless of size, needs to be able to run or even just walk in an open, stress-free environment on a regular basis.

I believe very strongly that well-trained dogs can and should be off leash in an open area such as Crissy Field and/or Fort Funston, and have proven in the past that they can interact successfully with other people, children and the wild bird life that all choose to spend time in the same areas.

While I do believe that maintaining the natural wild life along the shores is positive and necessary, let's be realistic! Closing the entire park to off-leash walking of dogs is not necessary to accomplish this goal. Parts of the park can and should be protected, however, making the entire beach off limits is ridiculous. The birds (the only form of wild life I have seen on these beaches) are as negatively effected by the thousands of people who walk and run there on a regular basis as they are by the dogs that run and play on the beach and in the water.

One section of Crissy Field has already been restricted entirely to dogs on or off leash. Though understandable, it's questionable since no one I've spoken with has ever seen a bird or seal or anything else along that shore. Sharing the resources makes sense – the key word here, however, is SHARING.

4014-02-1A

The huge grass area at Crissy Field is perfect for people and for off-leash dogs as are the beaches along the water there and at Fort Funston. Though I know there are many birds that also love that environment, the numbers of people walking and running along the paths and beaches are already an extreme deterrent to the nesting and/or resting habits of the natural wild life. Off-leash (well trained) dogs would have no worse an effect.

I also believe that each owner must take responsibility for controlling and cleaning up after his or her own dog. If tickets are to be given, it should not be for letting a dog run and play with the other dogs, but for an owner who ignores the etiquette of a public area by allowing an over zealous pet to interfere with other park users or who refuses to take responsibility for cleaning up after his/her dog(s).

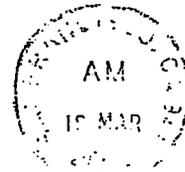
This is an important issue for those of us who want to take advantage of the beautiful open areas available to us in an otherwise busy and congested city – and we want to be able to give our dogs the same opportunity.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Jerrelynn L. Reffee*

249 Chestnut  
San Francisco  
California 94133



GGNRA  
Attn: ANPR  
Port Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, California 94123

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002

Name: JOHN LEVIN (printed)  
Address: 25 Hill St. SF CA 94110  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

I have lived in San Francisco for 35 years and have enjoyed the GGNRA since its inception. Up until last year I have never been bothered by dogs off leash and now that I have a dog ~~I understand~~ I even more understand the need for citizens to have a place where their dogs can run off-leash.

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

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

Signed: John Levin Date 3/15/02 (optional: Age: 58 Sex M F Ethnicity     )  
Version 2.0

MAR 18 2003

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

(optional: Age: 38 Sex M  F Ethnicity WHITE

Name: SANDRA SETTLES  
Address: 37 POWERS AVENUE SF. CA 94110  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

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

WE TAKE OUR DOG TO THE TOP OF BERNAL HILL EVERY DAY. IT'S BOTH SOCIALLY AND PHYSICALLY (WE RUN WITH OUR DOG) BENEFICIAL FOR ME, MY HUSBAND AND OUR DOG. THERE OUR DOG CHLOE GETS TO RUN AND PLAY FREELY-OFF LEASH WITH HER MANY DOG FRIENDS.

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

IT IS-- WE HAVE MADE FRIENDS WITH OTHER DOG OWNERS, SOMETIMES OUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE DOGS WILL STOP BY AND WALK TO THE TOP OF THE HILL WITH US. IT'S JUST NICE TO SEE HAPPY DOGS RUN AROUND OFF LEASH.

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

YES I DO. I THINK SIMPLY BY NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC WITH SIGNAGE THAT CERTAIN AREAS ARE "OFF LEASH DOG AREAS" AND INSTALLING TRASH CANS AND BAG DISPENSERS WOULD BE VERY BENEFICIAL. THAT WAY THE GENERAL PUBLIC WOULD BE FOREWARNED, AND EITHER DECIDE TO ENTER THE AREA, OR NOT.

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

WE WOULD HAVE ONE VERY DEPRESSED AND BORED DOG. PLAY AND EXERCISE TIME WOULD NOT BE THE SAME AT ALL; NO MORE CHASING BALLS, FRISBEES OR OTHER DOGS. DOGS DON'T PLAY WELL ON LEASH - THEY JUST GET TANGLED UP AND OFTEN HURT BECAUSE OF IT.

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

WE ASSUME IF A DOG IS OFF LEASH WITH ITS OWNER PRESENT, THAT IT IS A FRIENDLY DOG. DOGS THAT ARE WELL SOCIALIZED USUALLY ARE, SO I GUESS I WOULD HAVE TO SAY I DO FEEL SAFER. ALSO, A LOT OF DOGS ARE "LEASH AGGRESSIVE";

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

MEANING IF THEY (OR ANOTHER DOG) IS RESTRAINED BY A LEASH, THEY BECOME DEFENSIVE, AGGRESSIVE... TRYING TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

4017-61-1A

Tara & Tim Dale  
2442 Chestnut St  
SF, CA 94123  
415-563-0777

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom it may concern,

3/9/02

We are a tax payers, business owners, home owners, big supporters of San Francisco, and we have a dog. We love our dog. He is a black lab named Wilbur.

One of our very favorite things in life is to watch our dog run and play on the beach at Chrissy field. He catches sticks, swims plays with other dogs and he makes the people who see him smile.

We also love to take him on bike rides. He runs next to our bikes. It is a good way to tire him out. if we had to keep him on a leash, we would no longer be able to take him on rides because it would be dangerous to ride while he is tied to a leash.

We are very much in favor of having off leash recreation in the GGNRA. Especially at the beach near Chrissy Field. It is very important for city dogs to have a place where they can run and play. If dogs cannot run and play, they get restless, hyper and sometimes depressed. Dogs need to run and play.

There are many dog owners who can not run along with their dogs on a leash. What happens to their dogs if this leash law goes into effect? They suffer.

We Believe dogs and people can live harmoniously. We think off leash activity can continue while respecting the other park uses.

Off leash recreation is Very important to us, our family, our friends and our dog. Please do not take Wilburs and other SF dogs right to freedom and happiness away.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Tim Dale Tara Dale*

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to save off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. I am not a dog owner but I do enjoy going to the beach and watching dogs play on the surf. It's cruel to always keep dogs on-leash, as by their very nature they need to run and be free. There are already far too many parks where dogs must remain on-leash and people who are afraid of dogs can go to those parks.

In conclusion, I am a voter and a tax-paying citizen who respects and supports the rights of dogs and their owners.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mee

Elizabeth Mee  
175 5th Ave  
San Francisco Ca 94118

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MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

4019-01-1A

March 18, 2002

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

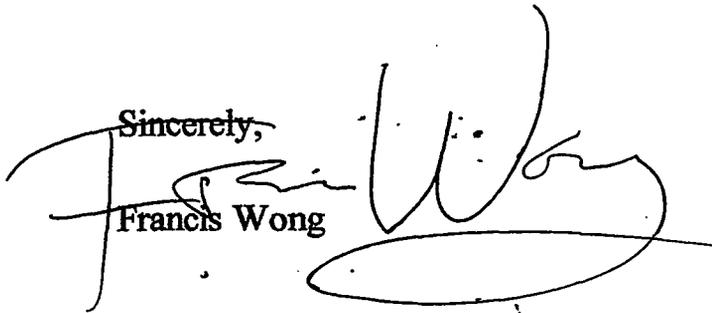
Superintendent  
Golden Gate Recreation Area  
Building 201  
Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am upset about the GGNRA attempting to restrict off leash dog waking in the GGNRA. I am not a dog owner but these dogs and owners deserve to have a place to exercise their bodies as well as their rights. How can you shift your rules like this, print a pamphlet that shows where to walk your dog and then decide to end this activity. I wish to vote in favor of continuing the off leash rights of pet owner and their pets.

Sincerely,

Francis Wong



4020-02-3B

RECEIVED

March 16, 2002

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

ANPR  
Fort Mason, Bld. 201  
San Francisco, CA. 94123

Dear Committee;

I read in the paper about your investigation and giving this address for any comments.

In the first place I even hesitate writing you because some of the dog owners have made threat against some people who have protested. So I may not sign my name. I am a woman.

SAN PEDRO ROAD, SAN RAFAEL

I walk along the levy at Loch Lomond, as do alot of other people of all ages. Quite a few are older people and also very young, including toddlers who are with their parents who are fishing.

I have been jumped on and scared by dogs there many times. This has frightened me, although I am strong. I know a young man who works out there who complains of the same thing and has been discouraged from walking there. He has thought of carrying mace or some weapon. I have seen dogs charging way to close to toddlers.

Dogs come running at me very fast and jump up on me, getting my clothes wet and muddy. Worse part is that they scare me--I go there to meditate and enjoy the beauty of nature and have been walking along in a quiet state. The owners do not seem to care, the dogs are not on rope of any kind or restrained. The owners just let them do it and say they are just being friendly. Or that they always do that.

Last year the MOONDOGGY DOG WALKING Service was there--one woman with 5 dogs all off leach. They were coming toward me down the levy. One big dog, short haired, who looked mad, came charging at me and rammed his body into me--then he backed up and ran at me as hard as he could run and threw his whole body in the air up against me. He stretched from my knee to my chest--his mouth was right next to my breast. His impact threw me back into some rocks. Fortunately I am strong--although I am a senior. He could have knocked a weaker elder down or a child. He was acting like a guard dog. As I believe he was trained to do. He is very strong and muscular. With a strange dog watcher in a strange environment, I would guess. He really scared me--I felt faint. Of course he got me muddy. The woman didn't seem to care at all. I told her he attacked me, as she knew very well since she was standing close by. She showed no remorse. So I took her license plate # and went to the police station to report it. The officer said I looked very pale. He said he would call her and tell her she had to have the dogs on leach. She was not there for a month or so and then she was back, still no leach. So I called the police again and they said to report it also to the Humane Society, which I did. They put up a sign out there (which has since disappeared). I have not seen her again on the levy. But other dogs are out there with their owner and off the leach. They continue to jump up on me and others. Actually I like dogs usually, if they are not jumping

12

on me and scaring me in a threatening way. I know very well when a dog is friendly and just being playful and when a dog is mean. I have owned alot of dogs myself.

I love to walk at the levy so much that I refuse to give it up. But I either have to ride my bike so that I can put it between me and the charging dog--or I have to carry a big stick to protect myself. As I say a tall strong young man out there has the same experience and has been not walking there much any more for that reason.

I believe I have said enough. Good luck in finding a way to protect walkers, young and old.--so that we can enjoy the beauty of this country without being attacked. I blame the owners of the dogs, more than the dogs--some owners actually seem to get a certain pleasure out of scaring people, through their dogs--by not keeping them under control. They look like they think it is kind of funny.

Sincerely,

A Senior who is afraid to sign  
her name--

March 16, 2002

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

**RECEIVED**

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing in support of off-leash dog walking in the GGNRA.

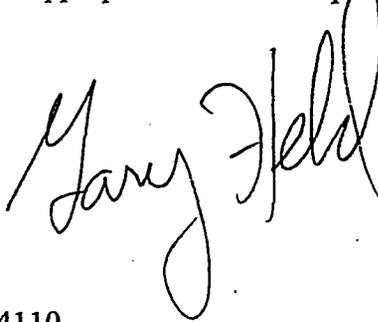
Off-leash areas are extremely important to the well-being of dogs. Off-leash recreation burns off energy. It helps prevent aggression and wards off the behavior problems that develop when dogs don't get enough exercise. It also contributes to the health and well-being of the people who join their dogs in off-leash areas.

I spend time at Chrissy Field and Fort Funston with my girlfriend's dog, Justice. Justice is an active, healthy, friendly dog. He loves to socialize with other dogs. He is at his best in the off-leash environment. He is happiest at the Ocean, playing on the beach with the other dogs. In addition, he accompanies my girlfriend on hikes in dog-accessible areas in the Marin headlands. Without the canine companion I would not feel comfortable if she hiked those areas alone.

The national park system provides opportunities for the public to enjoy a wide range of recreational pursuits, from hunting, fishing and boating to snowmobiling, hang gliding and water skiing. If the National Park Service can manage high-impact activities like snowmobiling and hunting, it can certainly manage off-leash dog walking, which occupies less than 1 percent of the land in the GGNRA.

Off-leash recreation in the GGNRA is not something new. People have been walking off-leash dogs in the park for decades, and since 1979 with the blessing of the Pet Policy formulated by the GGNRA Citizen's Advisory Commission. Off-leash areas in the GGNRA are a longstanding tradition that has served the community well.

When San Francisco gave the GGNRA lands to the National Park Service, the city was assured that traditional recreational uses, including off-leash dog walking, would be continued. The Park Service should honor its commitment to maintain a broad range of recreational use that is appropriate in an urban park.



Gary Held  
321 Coleridge Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110

100 Parker Ave., # 205  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
March 17, 2002

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MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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

Gentlemen:

I value off-leash dog walking, and I believe that off-leash activity can be managed in a way that respects the preservation of natural resources and other recreation interests in the GGNRA.

I feel that it is important that dogs have the privilege to feel free of their leash at certain times, and that this activity shouldn't be curtailed.

Sincerely,

*Yvonne Burkman*  
Yvonne Burkman

4023-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: ERIC LACAYO (printed)  
Address: 308 CAYUGA AVE S.F. CA 94112  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

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MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: [Signature]  
Version 2.0

Date: 3/17/02 (optional: Age: 28 Sex: M Ethnicity: Latino)

March 9, 2002  
GGNRA013397

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

Name: Penny Fernandez (printed)

Address: 240 Manor Dr SF CA 94127  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

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

We take our dog Fred to Fort Funston at least two times/week. I have breast cancer and am having chemo therapy and these walks are absolute highlights of my week.

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

We, the Fernandez family, are considered a family of color and do not have any such feelings. Additionally, we frequently bring the grandparents to have a healthy walk and spend time with the family and dog.

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

Absolutely, I met a woman at Fort Funston and now we meet there to walk our dogs. Since I don't go into crowds, Fort Funston has been a crucial addition to my social life.

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

Dogs are such an asset to family life, safety in the city and companionship. Please keep Fort Funston open for off-leash usage so that people with healthy, happy dogs can continue to use this area. If dogs are aggressive or fight they should be ticketed and have to be leashed or go to training.

5. San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to ~~engage~~ engage on this part of its agreement with San Francisco? Absolutely NOT.

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Signed: P. Fernandez Date: 3/16/02 (optional: Age: 48 Sex M  Ethnicity/Latino)

3/12/02

JONATHAN ROMAN  
743-110<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
94121

Golden Gate National Rec Area  
ATTN: ANPR  
Fort Mason, Building 201  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Please Allow off-leash dog walking. I Don't  
have a dog but find it important to keep dogs  
AND owners happy together.. What I do  
think is important, is to have public education  
to let dog owners UNDERSTAND That disturbing  
Birds by letting their dogs chase after them  
is harmful to the birds.

thanks

Jonathan Roman

4026-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: Alicia Chazen ALICIA CHAZEN (printed)  
 Address: 608 Gates St. SF CA 94110  
 (street) (city) (state) (zip)

Please, please, please! The off-leash area of Ft. Funston is one of the most beautiful & joyous places on earth. Please protect this historic activity.

RECEIVED  
 MAR 18 2002  
 SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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

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

Signed: Alicia Chazen Date 3-14-02 (optional: Age: 32 Sex M F Ethnicity     )  
 Version 2.0

March 13, 2002

MSNRA

Attention: ANPR  
 Fort Mason, Building 201  
 San Francisco, Ca. 94123

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Superintendent O'Neill;

I am writing this letter to inform you I am a regular MSNRA park user. I support Fort Funston and other parks. I take my older dogs to get fresh air and smells <sup>that</sup> they love to park take in. Time has taken their toll on the older dogs. They are Man's Best Friend and they do not ask for much. My younger dog (Jack Russell) needs quite a lot of exercise, as well as I. To be able to jog with him by my side is to have freedom and fresh clean air to breathe and surrounding is our greatest pleasure. Respect for others is great and respect for dogs are great too.

Sincerely,  
 G. J. Concession

March 18, 2002  
GNRA  
Attn ANPR  
Fort Mason Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
Dear GGNRA,

**RECEIVED**

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing because I am outraged by your bureaucratic behavior with no thought to local interests or history. Firstly the issue of stopping off leash dog walking in the GGNRA is ridiculous. San Francisco has a tradition of being a pet friendly city and we were walking do in the parks (now the GGNRA) long before you were voted in to manage the land. I wish to submit my vote to reopen all the traditional areas of off leash dog walking per your pamphlet. Some areas you have illegally closed are Ocean Beach, Chrissy field, Lands End, Baker Beach and others both here and in Marin. I vote that you reopen these areas immediately and expand the off leash areas in the GGNRA.

Secondly regarding the pinball museum and the camera obscura at the Cliff House. Are you people trying to strip all our local history and flavor. I played with some of the machines at Play land and I want to find a temporary shelter and permantly put them in the new Cliff House.

In conclusion we voted you in and if you can't handle the job I recommend you resign from the GGNRA and find work more suitable to your talents.

**1. REOPEN AND EXPAND OFF LEASH AREAS AT THE  
GGNRA**

**2. FIND A TEMPORY HOME FOR THE PINBALL MUSUEM  
AND THEN PERMANTLY PUT IT IN THE NEW CLIFF  
HOUSE.**

Sincerely,

Charlie NG

4029-02-1A

**Ronald Elsberry**  
789 Noe Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
(415) 648-8150

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

RECEIVED  
MAR 18 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to express support for off-leash dog walking in the GGNRA — in particular at Fort Funston. I adopted a dog from the SPCA six years ago and regularly have taken him to Fort Funston during that period. We go there at least once a week, usually on the weekend, unless the weather does not allow it. My dog is a labrador retriever and requires *vigorous* exercise, even now at age nine, to remain happy and healthy. I have found that, by far, the best place for us to engage in this recreation is on the beach at Fort Funston. My dog can run happily in the expansive space, fetch toys that I throw, cool off in the shallows, socialize with other dogs, and just have a good time. I also get exercise by doing aerobic walking and climbing the sand ladder up from the beach. This exercise and recreation are vital for him and for me.

Other options for exercising my dog and engaging in similar recreation are not feasible or practical. The few dog parks that permit off-leash activity are crowded with people and with dogs. In such limited spaces, there are more dog fights, aggressive guarding by the dogs of their toys (and of their owners), interference with other people using the park, and increased stress among all users and pets. For example, at Dolores Park, I have witnessed innumerable dog fights and disputes among owners arising from such incidents. In addition, gang and drug activity at this park make it dangerous, despite efforts of the police to abate such activity. I have witnessed numerous drug transactions as well as physical assaults among apparent gang members. Once my friend, leaving the park with his dog, heard a gunshot followed by the sound of a bullet whizzing next to his head. Needless to say, such incidents discourage people like me from using the park for any purpose. Other places, for example the fenced dog run at Corona Heights, are cramped and crowded. After ten minutes there with my dog, I witnessed three full-fledged dog fights, one in which my dog was attacked by another. I *never* have encountered, witnessed, or heard of such events at Fort Funston in all the time I have been there. The expansive space and atmosphere, as well as the responsible attitude of the vast majority of dog owners who go there, appear to prevent such incidents.

I have a profound respect for the environment and for the rights of all people to use public land. I understand the need to protect native plants and wildlife, and I believe that certain areas should be off limits to people as well as dogs. I never let my dog trample vegetation or

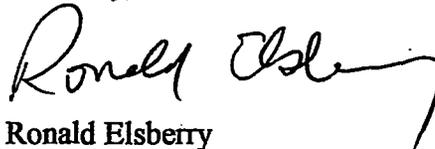
bother animals — wild or domestic. I always pick up my dog's feces and place them in trash receptacles. Moreover, because I almost always exercise my dog on the beach, there is scant opportunity for him to affect any vegetation. He does not chase birds or bother any animals in the water. The only sign that my dog has been there are his footprints in the sand. They are smaller than those of people and of the horses that frequent the beach.

I believe that public land designated as an urban park should be suitable for a variety of uses. Indeed, at Fort Funston, there is hang gliding, horseback riding, kite and model airplane flying, fishing, and yes, off-leash dog recreation. In my view, it is essential that such a park include some accommodation for off-leash dog exercise. As explained above, a small, fenced dog run is inadequate and creates more problems that it would solve. If off-leash recreation is deemed too destructive for certain sensitive areas, I suggest that, at a minimum, the beach itself be designated as a permissible off-leash area. Unlike other areas of GGNRA, such as Ocean Beach, the beach at Fort Funston seldom is used for sunbathing or picnics, for example, and ordinarily has few people on it, except for dog owners.

If I were prohibited from exercising my dog off-leash in the GGNRA, I simply do not know what I would do. The loss would have a tremendous impact upon my physical and emotional well being, as well as that of my dog. Although I actually have considered moving to some other area of the state that would permit such activity, in the event that off-leash dog walking is banned in the GGNRA, there is no practical way for me to move away from San Francisco. I own a home here and my career is here. I know of no viable alternative for me other than off-leash recreation at Fort Funston.

I strongly urge the National Park Service and GGNRA to make provisions to permit the longstanding practice of off-leash dog exercise in these parks to continue. Not to do so, I believe, would show disrespect and callousness to good citizens like me who are responsible dog owners and just seek to do what is right for themselves, their dogs, the environment, and other members of the public.

Sincerely,



Ronald Elsberry

4030-01-1A

RECEIVED

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

MAR 18 2002

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

Name: Arline Elliott (printed)

Address: 524 Valverde Dr. SSF CA 94080

(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Please leave Fort Funston an off-leash area for dog walkers and for the general public.

All of us enjoy it as it is: the old who sit on the benches, the young parents who air their children and their dogs at the same time, the lonely who come with their dogs to meet friends. I have had my dog admired in many different languages as I walk on the Fort Funston grounds. Just last week I talked with two young women from the Czech Republic who were admiring the view and the freedom that dogs and people had there.

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true - that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Arline Elliott Date 3-17-02 (optional: Age: 65 Sex M  F Ethnicity W)

Version 2.2 Charles J. Elliott 3-17-02 + M W

March 9, 2002

4031-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: Malcolm Harris (printed)  
Address: 3752 20<sup>TH</sup> St. San Francisco CA 94110  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

I think there is more than enough space for off-leash areas, as well as leashed areas and no pet areas. In general, federally managed lands tend to be disproportionately biased against off-leash areas. My dog needs space to run. When one lives in urban areas back yards don't suffice.

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true - that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: [Signature] Date 03/18/02 (optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex M F Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_)  
Version 2.2

4052-02-1A

FEB 19 2002

JAN 19 2002

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE

January 19, 2001

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**I understand from local newspapers that yet another joy is about to be removed from the public by well meaning bureaucrats.**

**Having walked my dogs for forty years at Fort Funston and the Presidio, I find it ironic that this pleasure is being removed by Agencies dedicated to bringing joy and recreation to the American public. This is an urban recreation area, not a wilderness.**

**I urge you as one of the thousands enjoying the recreation of walking dogs in total freedom to reconsider this division.**



**Alexander M. Hunter  
1631-25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122**

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

MAR 18 2002

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

Name: Ally Hunter (printed)  
 Address: 1631-25<sup>th</sup> Ave San Francisco 94122  
 (street) (city) (state) (zip)

The GGNRA could make a national name for itself by cooperation with the dog walking public by establishing a training school, a health instruction course and by setting aside a portion of all areas for dog play and fetch and of course charge for these to establish a fund to enhance protected areas.

*Ally Hunter*

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

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex M F Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Version 2.0 GGNRA013408

4033 - 01 - ic

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: Hazel Walter (printed):  
Address: 451 NIAN TIC DALY City CA 94014  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

It funston is a unique place. I bring all my out of town guests there. I've met my best friends there. There is so little you can do there as recreation as it's usually windy. The hike to the beach is prohibitive for a lot of people. There are so many places those without dogs can go and so few off leash areas. Don't take this special place away from us

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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

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

Signed: H. Walter Date 3-18-02 (optional: Age: 57 Sex M  F Ethnicity W)  
Version 2.0 GGNRA013409

4034 - 01 - 13

MARNI LEIS

209 OAKDALE AVENUE • MILL VALLEY • CA 94941  
415.381.0859 • FAX 415.383.0430 • EMAIL MLEIS@TISOFT.COM

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

TO: SUPERINTENDENT, GGNRA, FAX 561-4733A

*BUSY ALL WEEK*

RE: PETS

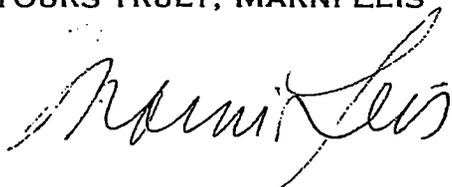
I HAVE ENJOYED THE FREEDOM & PRIVILEGE OF USING PARKS & BEACHES WITH MY PET OFF LEASH, FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS. IN THAT TIME I HAVE NEVER SEEN MY DOGS, OR ANY OTHERS, ATTACK WILDLIFE, OTHER DOGS, OR PEOPLE. I ACKNOWLEDGE THERE ARE UNIQUE INSTANCES BUT THESE SHOULD NOT GOVERN THE LIVES & RIGHTS OF OTHERS.

I WALK ON TRAILS WHERE ALMOST THE ONLY PEOPLE I SEE ARE OTHER DOG WALKERS. MANY OF US WHO USE THE OUTDOORS ON A DAILY BASIS ARE STEWARDS OF OUR AREAS WITH AS MUCH OR MORE PRIDE, DESIRE, & ABILITY TO PROTECT, AS LEGISLATORS.

THIS STATE HAS BECOME SO REGULATED & UPTIGHT, I CANNOT BELIEVE IT IS STILL CALIFORNIA—WHERE A BOY (OR GIRL) & THEIR DOG PLAYING ON THE BEACH IS A QUINTESSENTIAL WESTERN IMAGE.

FINE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT PICK UP AFTER THEIR DOGS OR WHO WILLFULLY IGNORE SENSIBLE, WELL POSTED, RULES, BUT DO NOT PENALIZE THE MANY WHOSE DAILY WELL BEING DEPENDS ON THIS WONDERFUL PRIVILEGE.

YOURS TRULY, MARNI LEIS



4035-01-1B

3/15/02

TO: GGNRA officials.

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I have two children age 9 and 6 y.o. I took my children to Rodeo and Muir beaches whenever the weather permits. I stopped taking my children to the beaches since March 2000, after our car was invaded by unleashed dogs during one of our outings. The owner of the dogs told me that I should not taking my children to places where dogs were if I cannot stand to see the dogs' freedom to roam at their will.

I do hope that GGNRA will strictly enforce the dog-leash rule to all GGNRA. An alternative is to strictly restrict the dogs' freedom to be in all GGNRA whenever children or adults are around (i.e. 9am - 6pm daily, especially during the week end). We have rule about where and when children are allowed (because children can misbehave). We should have the same expectation for animals (which we all know that animals will be animals - i.e. being wild and dangerous because they are animals!).

Sincerely,

AM - TU TRAN

1012 Erica Rd, Mill Valley, CA 94941

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

RECEIVED

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

MAR 18 2002

Name: Francis Taylor (printed)  
 Address: 2982 26th St SF CA 94110  
 (street) (city) (state) (zip)

Every day, I go to a park near my home and let my dog run. Other dogs are there, and many are with children. Whole families come out to play - kids and dogs together. The problem is - the cops come by and ticket off-leash dogs. A sign in the park says, "Off-leash dog area, two blocks." The two blocks are up to the top of Bernal Hill, a long, steep climb that ends in a dangerous walkway with no sidewalk. If you had a kid and a dog, what would you do? The attack on off-leash areas only encourages car traffic and discourages neighborhood walking. Those same cops who ticket off-leash dog walkers will NOT TICKET drivers who mow down pedestrians. Limiting off-leash walking inhibits community building.

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true - that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Francis Taylor Date 3/19/02 (optional: Age: 52 Sex M Ethnicity W)  
 Version 2.2

4037-01-1B

Otto von Franque, MD  
Mary Ann Y. Kim, PhD

280 Panoramic Hwy  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
415 583-3422  
gaelk@msn.com

March 16, 2002

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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

Dear GGNRA:

We would like to contribute some comments to the discussion on leashing dogs on GGNRA property. We are very much in favor of such a law. We live close to Muir Beach and go there with our toddler-aged son. He has not been injured—yet. But he has been knocked over by dogs running at him and has been scared of dogs since.

One particular instance involved two free-roaming dogs. We checked with every person on the beach to find their owner to no avail. Eventually we determined their home as they ran into a house on the hillside. Their owner was sitting on his deck, totally ignoring these big free-roaming dogs. And he obviously also did not clean up after his dogs.

We discussed this with the ranger when he appeared and he empathized with our concerns for our son's safety and even recognized the house as a source of frequent prior offenses, but said that enforcement of any rules was practically impossible.

As long as there are such oblivious and irresponsible owners who don't attend to their dogs or have no instant voice control over them, we favor a leash law to allow children to play at the beach without risk or fear.

Finally, unless such a law remains and is enforced, allowing dogs to run freely is just a tragic accident waiting to happen—surely with lawsuits against GGNRA to follow.

Sincerely,

*Otto von Franque*  
*gaelk*

GGNRA013413

4038-01-13

March 17, 2002

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

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter to ~~proclaim my strong support for continuing the longstanding tradition of off-leash recreation~~ for responsible pet-owners and their pets in certain parts of the GGNRA.

I moved to the Bay Area in the 1980s because of its natural beauty, the diversity of its people and the tolerant and reasonable mindset of its citizens. Dogs are an integral part of the Bay Area's character and charm. So, surely, there is room in the GGNRA to ensure that dogs and their owners can peacefully co-exist with those people who are not as fond of dogs.

I adopted a vizsla four years ago, in part, because the Bay Area offered many places where I could run and exercise my pet. Exercise is critical to the well-being of my dog and me. One of our favorite places is Crissy Field. Here, we can run and swim and blow off steam after a busy day. Not only do we love it, but we're frequently stopped by others who want to pet her and comment on how they love to watch her run and play. I'll use Crissy Field as an example for ~~the solution you should consider for the entire GGNRA.~~

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and bluffs to the GGNRA. Clearly, Crissy Field is large enough that a portion can be retained for off-leash use, a portion for on-leash use, and a portion where no dogs are allowed. For example, the eastern-most part near the parking lot and the former airfield could be for off-leash use, the paths to the bridge for on-leash or off-leash if under voice control, and the western-most beach could be for people only (no dogs).

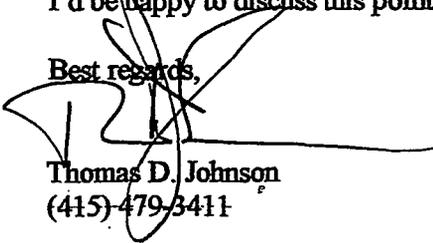
This same space-use allocation methodology could be used for the entire GGNRA. This simple solution will ensure the continued use of the GGNRA as it was intended for all if its two and four-legged citizens.

I will ~~frankly be shocked and outraged if we are prohibited from using any part of the GGNRA for off-leash use.~~ Don't let the few irresponsible pet-owners and the few that complain about them, eliminate the enjoyment for the majority of responsible pet-owners and other pet lovers.

Of course, the GGNRA should continue to ensure that pet-owners clean up after their pets and that unruly and untrained dogs be leashed and/or prohibited from the GGNRA.

I'd be happy to discuss this point of view. Do not hesitate to call me should you have questions.

Best regards,

  
Thomas D. Johnson  
(415) 479-3411



Thomas D. Johnson  
9 Mount McKinley Rd.  
San Rafael, CA 94903

GGNRA013414

GGNR  
Fort Ma

4039-01-3B



"Tae Paik"  
<tpaik@hotmail.com>  
03/18/2002 05:12 PM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
CC:  
Subject: Dog Walking in GGNRA - Keep The Dogs On Leash Rule

I would like to submit my strong support for keeping the "dogs on leash" rule in the GGNRA for the enjoyment and safety of ALL visitors.

I use the GGNRA parks frequently and see many people walking the dogs (often as many as up to 6-8 dogs). Frankly, I often see them struggling to control multiple dogs. If the dogs on leash rules are not applied and the dogs left to run free, this not only creates a "hostile" environment for people wanting to use the park facility in safety, but also increases the chance for encountering other "hostile & unfriendly" dogs and get out of control.

The national park facilities should be for ALL visitors, not just few vocal dog owners. If these rules are abolished, then the National Park Service will not only open itself up for future liability lawsuits, but also risk public safety should another incidents such as the infamous S.F. "dog mauling" cases reoccur.

There can be allowances for one dog not on leash only when there are no other dogs/people in view, however, I feel strongly that they should be kept on leash when there are other dogs and people in view. The current rule should remain as is, since it provides the opportunities for dog owners to use the facility while protecting the general public.

Sincerely

Tae Paik

4040 -01 - 3B



"David McDonald"  
<davidmcd@earthlink.net>

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: GGNRA Pet Policy

03/18/2002 04:18 PM

PST

Please respond to  
davidmcd

As a native of the bay area I cherish our open spaces and those under the careful watch of the GGNRA. The pending decision to require dogs to remain on leash at all GGNRA spaces is one that does not support all the residents who use these spaces. It is unreasonable to confine dog play to tiny dog parks or leash only environments. I recently had knee surgery and find it impossible to run with my dog (yes on leash) and if i couldn't let him run at a few selected beaches or parks the quality of my life would be greatly diminished. Imagine the impact on your life should you only be able to allow your well trained dog to run at one of a few small parks - I could no longer enjoy the bay area i grew up in. Certainly, there must be some middle ground. Please allow dog owners a few key spaces such as the east Crissy Field beach, Rodeo Beach, parts of Funston and even parts of ocean beach. Dog owners should be fined if they do not clean up after their dog or if their pet enters leash-controlled or off limits areas. I invite you and your organization to contact me should you wish additional input on a compromised position. Good luck to your group as you work to resolve this challenging situation.

Best regards,

David McDonald  
415.509.5411

4041-01-1D



"Jeff Greeson"  
<kromagon@sbcglobal.net>

03/18/2002 02:44 PM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_ANPR@nps.gov>, <gale.norton@doi.gov>,  
<feinstein@feinstein.senate.gov>, <boxer@boxer.senate.gov>,  
<George.Miller@mail.house.gov>  
cc: <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: ANPR Comment: In Support of Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA

To whom it may concern:

I am deeply troubled by the National Park Service's attempt to prevent myself and others from exercising their well-behaved dogs on public, taxpayer supported land in San Francisco. I have heard the various arguments in support of a ban on off leash dog areas, and I have yet to hear one that can't be accommodated with common sense. The GGNRA staff has made a very poor case, saying that endangered birds are threatened (the fences seem to be working just fine), and using the bureaucratically lazy "because the rules say so" argument. Working on a compromise or finding a mutually beneficial solution has not been approached. The GGNRA has some outstanding areas that enable dog owners in an urban area to take care of their animals in a way that cannot be done anywhere else. Please do not take this resource away from us.

Thanks,  
Jeff Greeson  
3939 Bayview Circle  
Concord, CA 94520

GGNRA013417

4042-01-3B



"Lee E. Heller"  
<leeheller@netpipeline  
.net>

03/18/2002 01:39 PM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: support off-leash special rule at GGNRA

March 18, 2002

TO: National Parks Service  
RE: GGNRA: ANPR

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge that the Parks service allow a special rule for off-leash recreation at the GGNRA.

I am a long-time supporter of environmental causes, and a member of the Sierra Club, the National Resources Defense Council, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, and other similar organizations. I am also a dog owner, and I know that it is possible to have off-leash areas in park areas and still protect precious environmental resources. The answer is to set aside areas for off-leash use, and to enforce leash laws only where dogs are behaving destructively. Since the off-leash area of the GGNRA comprised only a tiny percentage of the total area, it seems absurd not to maintain that area for off-leash recreation as a legitimate choice among recreational activities at the National Recreational Area.

The public will for an off-leash area is there. Please meet the demand.

Sincerely,

Lee E. Heller, Ph.D.

40 43-01-1B



"West Blithedale"  
<daisy@microweb.com  
>

To: <goga\_pets\_ANPR@nps.gov>  
cc: <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: ANPR Comment: In Support of Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA

03/18/2002 01:07 PM

PST

Please respond to "West  
Blithedale"

March 18, 2002

Sharon Salisbury  
David Morris  
116 W. Blithedale  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
daisy@microweb.com

This is in response to requests for public comment on the future of off-leash dogs on GGNRA land. We have only seen notices about land in San Francisco but nothing about GGNRA land in Marin. Will these be included in the new rules?

We are members of Audubon and other wildlife organizations. We also own two dogs. We feel very strongly that there is enough land for all users, providing they are responsible, which is a problem for everyone, not just dog owners. We strongly support no dogs in critical breeding grounds, leashed dogs in some areas and no dogs in other areas. However, as with the recent debate with MCOSD, we also believe that dog owners should be allowed to use a part of these lands. One of the places we have been taking our dogs for years is Oakwood Valley. I have never witnessed one dog-related incident detrimental to wildlife or humans in the 20 years I have been walking there with my unleashed dogs. I understand dogs are only allowed on 0.5% of all GGNRA land. On MCOSD dogs are only allowed on about 98% of the land.

The latest Audubon letter mentions that Bay areas and counties have bent over backwards to provide dog parks and dog walking areas. We find this a puzzling statement. There was a tremendous battle in Mill Valley to get a dog park built and it is packed every day. Dog owners just finished fighting for a small amount of MCOSD land to walk our canine friends off-leash. Walking your dogs off-leash is so nice for both the owner and the dogs. We look at wildflowers and birds and they smell doggie things and run through mud puddles. When I see someone coming I call them to my side until I know it is a good situation for all. I don't see much wildlife on the trails heavily used by bikers, walkers, birders, and dog owners. They stay in the rest of the land where there is not so much impact.

There seems to be a real anti-dog sentiment, especially after the horrible attack in S.F. This is unfair. One of the main reasons for loss of wildlife is habitat loss. I work at Wildcare and most of the injured birds and mammals that are brought in are the result of cars, gun shots and running into high wires. As development continues to grow, the wildlife loses habitat and corridors to get from one place to another. There is plenty of blame to go around.

Please consider this and that we are only asking for a small amount of land, mainly land that has been used by dog owners for years.

Thank you.

Sharon Salisbury  
David Morris

GGNRA013419

4044-01-1D



"Barb Singleton"  
<barbsingleton@mind  
spring.com>

03/18/2002 01:19 PM

PST

Please respond to  
barbsingleton

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc: <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: We still need to continue the dog off-leash law for Fort Funston

Dear GGNRA,

This letter is to let you know that I appreciate the opportunity to bring my little Cairn Terrier, Ozzy, to Fort Funston and let him walk with me off leash. It would be devastating him (and myself) not to be able to run freely should you consider reversing the policy of letting dogs walk without a leash.

I also take Ozzy to Point Isabel in Richmond, and Muir Beach in Marin County. I appreciate being able to let him run off leash there as well.

I am not aware of any other park areas in which I can take Ozzy out for a long walk and play with him. This activity one of my most favorite recreations and I would hate to see it taken away. I understand that there are 75,000 acres in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and off leash use only happens in 1/2 percent of this total.

Please continue to let dogs and owners have their special place to run freely off leash such as Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, Point Isabel, and Muir Beach.

Sincerely,

Barb Singleton & Ozzy  
6561 Lucas Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94611  
(510) 339-7224

4045-01-1B



Dexha@aol.com  
03/18/2002 03:25 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: unleashed pets

Thank you for encouraging comments regarding unleashed pets in the GGNRA. We have shared property in Bolinas along Pine Gulch Creek with our family for over 20 years, and have enjoyed hiking trails in all of the Public Lands adjacent during these many years.

Dogs not on a lease are not only a great nuisance but frightening and threatening to small children when hiking with us, their grandparents. So please put us down as being strongly opposed to allowing dogs on the trails, and if allowed, by all means they should be on a leash.

I note that duck-hunters rent private land and perhaps that would be a solution for dog owners that are eager to allow their pets to run free.

Dexter and Carol Hake  
12830. Viscaino Road  
Los Altos Hills, Ca. 94022  
650 941 0458  
in Bolinas, 140 Olema-Bolinas Road

4046 -01- 38



"Sheila Semans"  
<sssemans@scc.ca.gov  
>

03/18/2002 12:24 PM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_ANPR@nps.gov>  
cc: <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: ANPR Comment: In Support of Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA

TO Whom It May Concern;

I'm writing in support of the effort to maintain off-leash dog policies in the GGNRA. I have been part of this battle for years now, and appreciate the many sides and complexities of this issue. I do, however, feel like there is a potential for compromise that meets the needs of the many different communities that use the GGNRA for recreation. I am a dog owner, but I am also an environmentalist, and I think there should be off-limit areas in the GGNRA for habitat protection. But I also think dogs do not equal destruction, and I see the NPS going out of its way to accommodate a variety of users are at least as "damaging" to the environment as any dogs could be. I was walking out at Ocean Beach the other day and it is my opinion that dogs are not the biggest problems out there. There was so much junk (garbage, rusty nails, partially burnt wood) in the sand from all the bon fires that go one there, that is was unsafe to run around and play frisbee with my niece. And there were guys zooming around on the shore in small carts (or modified skateboards) they made to be pulled by a parachute. I watched as they raced between people, and almost knocked over a woman. There were dogs running around and playing as well, but from my vantage point, they were no where near the most destructive force on the habitat (both natural and cultural). We need policies to police all people who are not following the rules, and not ones that simply exclude a whole group of park users.

What seems to be missed time and time again in these debates is that people with dogs are not only taking the dogs on a walk for the dog's own good, but also for their own. Using the parks with our dogs is an important part of our recreational needs. Our parks should be there to serve the public in a way that is not harmful. Rain or shine, young and old are out there with their dogs chatting, playing and enjoying what the GGNRA has to offer. Recreation, socialization, education...these are all things I experience when I go on dog walks. Please do not take this away from us.

Thanks for your time.

Sheila Semans

4047-01-1D



mmaslan  
<mmaslan@spinintern  
et.com>

03/18/2002 11:56 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: dogs at GGNRA

March 18, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with regards to policies for dogs on GGNRA lands. I am a Sierra Club member and also a member of the Audubon Society. I also am a lover of dogs.

While I fully understand the concerns of the above organizations, I STRONGLY SUPPORT OFF LEASH RECREATION FOR DOGS in some portion (s) of GGNRA land. We reside in a large urban area and must create multi-use recreational areas in our existing parklands. While some areas of habitat must be protected, to remove all access for off-leash dog usage is not in the best interests of those of us who are outdoors, rain or shine, 365 days per year, early mornings and late afternoons and evenings. Many times I am out with dogs and am acutely aware that the only persons out are dog lovers. Please take this into account as you decide on this most controversial of issues.

Sincerely,

Marsha Maslan  
2709 A Benvenue Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94705  
(510) 540-1978



"Maria Iddison"  
 <middison@hotmail.co  
 m>

03/18/2002 11:37 AM  
 PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
 cc: fortfunston@hotmail.com  
 Subject: Off leash Dog walking

Dear GGNRA,

I am an English professional who relocated to the San Francisco area five years ago. One of the things that drew me to this part of California, were the wonderful parks and outdoor facilities, to be enjoyed by me, my family and my dog. San Francisco in particular has also been recommended to me many times for its tolerant attitudes. I come from a country where there are almost no off-leash areas for dogs, and as a result dogs are poorly socialised with each other and with people, and we have proportionately many times more dog attacks on people than are reported in Northern California. From a safety perspective, on leash dog walking does not encourage dogs to behave well in new social situations.

Fort Funston in particular is an area almost exclusively enjoyed by dog owners and dogs. Before we came here, I know that the area was populated by young people taking drugs and drinking, and the area was NOT full of people enjoying this wonderful area of coast, because it was regarded as somewhat dangerous, too remote and isolated. I cannot imagine why discouraging dog owners from walking there by restricting off leash would lead to any other situation than the return of homeless people, and young people seeking quiet places to hang out. I am already unable to go to Golden Gate Park alone because of hassles with exactly the same population. There is nothing more unnerving than walking round a quiet path to find three drunk men and their dogs camped in a quiet corner, when you are quite alone yourself. Please don't do this to Fort Funston as well.

The GGNRA's mandate is to find space for recreation for everyone, and whilst I totally understand the need to conserve some areas from an environmental perspective, or because there are many young families using an area, surely the rules allow for some discretion, so that there does not have to be an "All or Nothing" rule. Surely some parks and areas can be left as off leash to provide that facility, whereas others can be restricted in favour of other interests.

I am aware of the concerns about bank swallows nesting places at Fort Funston. Many areas are already roped off and protected, and I rarely see dogs trespassing in those areas. Fort Funston is bordered by a heavily polluting road, a noisy shooting range, and a giant sewage overflow pipe, which must also affect the birds. The huge impact to dog owners of restricting off leash walking there can surely not be equally balanced against the minimal impact to the environment that will be gained.

If you ban off leash walking at Fort Funston in particular, there will be obvious consequences. Firstly many people will simply ignore or disobey the rules, and the area would make it extremely difficult to enforce them. The Park Rangers would be forced into confrontation with the many people who have enjoyed and respected their knowledge and assistance in the past. Obviously many people will refuse to pay fines and deliberately try to clog up the court process, drawing much negative publicity, and avoidable expense for the GGNRA. Ultimately the GGNRA cannot enforce the restriction there, but it will prevent people from going and using the area, when, like myself, they can use a more local on leash park, without the same hassle, and as

4048-02 - 3B

predicted the type and character of people using the area will change - surely this cannot be what the GGNRA hopes to achieve.

My model in all of this is Stinson Beach, where an area of the beach is allocated for dog walkers, and the rest is for families, this accomodates everbody very happily in an area far smaller than Fort Funston.

Please find a compromise that works for all of us here.

Sincerely  
Maria Iddison

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4049-01-3B



elisabeth hansot  
<hansot@leland.stanfo  
rd.edu>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: off-leash recreation

03/18/2002 11:31 AM  
PST

Please support creation of a special rule to  
allow off-leash recreation in some portion of the GGNRA.  
Elisabeth Hansot

4050 - 01 - 1A



**Bob Jacklevich**  
<jacklevich@yahoo.com>

03/18/2002 11:28 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Dogs on GGNRA property

Good Morning:

I received a note from a fellow dog owner regarding this site and that it was opened to people who weren't able to attend neighborhood meetings relating to the ongoing conflict between the GGNRA and dog owners in the City.

When the the City of San Francisco agreed to give over the land now in dispute to the GGNRA, it was clear to all who voted for the hand over that the Federal Government (GGNRA) that people and pets were to be allowed to continue to use the land. Somehow, Someone, has made a decision that agreement is now longer to be honored. Exactly how did this happen?

I, as a dog owner, home owner, tax payer, and frequent user of the Fort Funston area of the park have never been asked to vote on making the changes that seem to be in the works. Is it necessary that people in San Francisco approach the State and Federal government with legislation or new law which forces or tries to force the GGNRA to honor the original agreement? That question is asked and spoken about frequently in many circles of concerned citizens in the Bay Area.

I would ask that the original agreement be upheld and not abandoned and a compromise be made which would serve all of the parties involved. Needless to say that my wife and I are very concerned about how GGNRA is handling this situation. I may be advised that the GGNRA look at how the BLM admisters its' pet policy and how well it is received by the public.

Bob Jacklecixh

617 Connecticut Street

San Francisco, CA 94107

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4051 - 01 - 3B



"Holly Higgins"  
<holly.higgins@cp.net  
>

To: <goga\_pets\_ANPR@nps.gov>  
cc: <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: ANPR Comment: In Support of Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA

03/18/2002 11:28 AM  
PST

Hi Gang,

I just wanted to let you know that owners who are responsible about having their dogs off-leash should be allowed to continue. I have been in these great open-space areas both on my own to run, and with my dog. We have always had positive experiences when we meet up with other dogs and their owners. People are aware and careful of their pets. Heck, they only bring their dogs here BECAUSE of how much they love and care for their dogs. My puppy is still a little young and we don't let him off leash around many people or other dogs, but he is learning to be a great off-leash dog---because I am a very responsible dog owner. He's a Weimaraner, and no human being could possibly keep up his running speed if I am to walk him to his heart's content---so off-leash spaces and wonderful dog parks are my saving grace to keeping my pup a happy dog. Please help save these spaces! People can learn to enjoy and not abuse this wonderful privilege, and I genuinely think that they are already taking care to be smart about having a dog run off-leash. Anyone who would be against this has never seen the beauty and joy of a truly happy dog running across the sand. Thanks for letting so many dog owners voice their support.

Thanks!

Holly Higgins  
Sr HRIS Analyst  
Critical Path  
direct: 415-344-5002  
holly.higgins@cp.net <mailto:holly.higgins@cp.net>



winmail.dat

4052 -01- 1D



Joanne Horn  
<horn3@ltnl.gov>  
03/18/2002 11:04 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: support for special ruling to allow OLA

--  
To Whomever it May Concern"

I fully support the creation of a special ruling to allow off-leash pet recreation in the Gopden Gate Natl. Rec. and other regions administered by the Natl. Park Service. Off leash recreation is extremely important to both pets and their owners, and is an appropriate use of NPS lands which belong to all Americans, and which should serve the needs of all Americans, including pet owners. Please consider these issues and comments when making a decision to create a special ruling.

Sincerely,

Joanne Horn; 4132 Greenwood Ave., Oakland CA 94602

Joanne M. Horn, Ph.D.  
LLNL, L-206  
POB 808  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925-423-3949 (tel)  
925-422-3118 (FAX)

4053-01-1B



Daniel Edelstein  
<edelstein@earthlink.net>

03/18/2002 10:32 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Dog Issues/Comments

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion about the current dog policy issue.

I fully support dogs being off leash in all GOGA/GGRNA areas, except for sensitive areas where birds may be nesting.

I feel that most dogs are fine and obedient, and that it is the rare few that are "problem" dogs.

More owner education would help make more of these unruly dogs more compliant and less "problem" dogs.

Thank you, Daniel Edelstein

Daniel Edelstein  
12 Kingfisher Court  
Novato, CA 94949  
(20 miles north of San Francisco)

415-382-1827 (voice)  
415-382-1842 (fax)  
edelstein@earthlink.net

4054-01-3B



KWEsau@aol.com  
03/18/2002 01:28 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Ground for Off-leash dogs, Please

Really, what harm do responsible dog owners do? I think that there should be, what, a "special rule" to allow off leash recreation in at least some portion of the GGNRA. Dog Waste? I always carry bags, extra bags, and bags to share. My dog is controlled, peaceful, cool, and calm. Let us walk, please.

4055-61-3B



"Elizabeth Lake"  
<elake@bdlaw.com>  
03/18/2002 12:40 PM  
EST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: off-leash

This email submits my support for a  
new policy to creating a special rule allowing off-leash recreation in the  
GGNRA.

4056-01-3B



Elen Weiss  
<elenw@earthlink.net>  
03/18/2002 09:04 AM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Dog Parks

To whom it may concern,

As a private dog owner and former dog trainer of over 20 years, I must add my voice to the hope that when you review the off leash regulations for dogs in the Parks, you vote in favor of responsible dog owners and their well behaved dogs by creating a special rule to allow off leash dogs in the existing recreational areas that have been used in that vein for years.

It is an acknowledged fact that pets make a great and positive difference in a person's life. These beloved companions should have the ability to get free-roaming exercise to help keep them healthy and fit. For city dwellers, the existing off leash areas are the best way to maintain their pets' physical and mental health. Isolating pet owners to only small dog runs is not an acceptable way to deal with the overall well-mannered pet population any more than would be denying open space to small children and regulating them and their parents to only playgrounds.

For the most part, those pet owners who walk their dogs in off leash space are considerate of others and their pets. Their pets are generally better socialized, better mannered and better controlled both inside and out of the house than those pets without the benefit of off-leash exercise.

People who choose to be without a pet in these multi use areas should be cognizant that there will be dogs as well as other users in that area with them. If they need the privacy to pursue their interests, surely they can go to the over 90% of the recreational areas where off lead pets are not allowed.

Ownership of a pet is a responsibility and joy. Owning a good pet takes training, affection and exercise. It would be a pity not to allow our city animal owners the ability to properly care for their charges.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Elen Weiss

4057-01-10



"Haight Guy"  
<haightguy@hotmail.com>

03/18/2002 08:49 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Off leash parks

Please support the legislation for off leash parks for responsible dog freedom. They are our best friends! Let's be nice to them!

Thanks,

Paul Grimes

389 Adams Street

Oakland Ca 94610

Get your FREE download of MSN Explorer at <http://explorer.msn.com>.

4058-01-3B



GAGF@aol.com  
03/18/2002 11:18 AM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Dogs On Leash

I fish regularly from Fort Point through Crissy Field to the yacht harbor. Most dogs seem to be under control. But I've seen something like less than 20% of them actually leashed, and in the area that is proscribed to dogs (shoreline running north-south) there are plenty of loose canines prowling.

The law already on the books needs to be enforced. To change it for the convenience of dog owners would be caving in to people who frequently exhibit total disregard for the law. I am required to have and display a fishing license and would be subject to a large fine if I did not comply. It seems remarkably unfair for anyone to consider lifting the restrictions on dogs and at the same time demand obedience from those of us who PAY for our experience in the GGNRA.

4059-01-1D



"James Landay"  
<landay@cs.berkeley.edu>

03/18/2002 08:00 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: off leash dogs in GGNRA

I would like to support the Park Service in creating a special rule to allow off leash dogs in small portions of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. There are only a very few places in the Bay Area for dog owners to allow their pets to enjoy their natural abilities to run and play off leash. The GGNRA should support citizens who own dogs as well as the other citizens of this country. Please make this possible.

James Landay

James A. Landay  
Assistant Professor  
CS Division, EECS Department  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1776 USA  
(510) 643-3043  
(510) 642-5615 (fax)

landay@cs.berkeley.edu  
<http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~landay>  
Group for User Interface Research  
<http://guir.berkeley.edu>

4060-01-~~10~~ ID



Larry Fallin  
<acorvette4me@yahoo  
.com>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: off leash

03/18/2002 06:17 AM  
PST  
Please respond to larry

I support off leash areas in GGNRA. thank you

Larry Fallin

Moraga, CA

Larry Fallin

(925) 212-2691

email: [larry@larryfallin.com](mailto:larry@larryfallin.com)

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4061-01-1D



"Dean Galloway"  
<deangallow@earthlink.net>

03/18/2002 12:44 AM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc: "Nancy Rieser" <gofindnancy@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Unleash the good dogs

Though I don't have a dog anymore, I believe in the godness of dogs that are loved by their owners. Therefore, I believe that those dogs should be allowed some place where they may run free of their of their leashes. I support creation of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some portion of the GGNRA.

R. Dean Galloway  
1555 Lakeside Dr #92  
Oakland, CA 94612-4544

4062-01-1D



Bezege@aol.com  
03/18/2002 03:24 AM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: offleash areas

I am writing to request that offleash outdoor areas be continued in the Bay Area, there is enough space for all, which is part of makes California so wonderful. Well-exercised dogs are better behaved, and so are their owners! Petowners are citizens too, and sharing resources is important for all of us.  
Yours truly, Bea Goldman, Oakland CA

4063-01-1A

Chris Powell  
03/18/2002 08:42 AM  
PST

To: Alex Naar/GOGA/NPS@NPS  
CC:  
Subject: New Submission

----- Forwarded by Chris Powell/GOGA/NPS on 03/18/02 08:36 AM -----



Online\_Forms@nps.gov  
v  
03/16/02 05:48 PM EST

To: GOGA\_Public\_Affairs@nps.gov  
CC:  
Subject: New Submission

Date Submitted 16-Mar-02

E-mail address (needed for a response):: susan\_way@yahoo.com

Comments:: PLEASE do more to enforce existing pet leash laws within the GGNRA, and most especially in the Presidio of San Francisco (of which I am a resident). Numerous scientific studies indicate that off-leash dogs and outdoor cats are a hazard to themselves and to people. Off-leash dogs straying off cliffs or into the surf have put their owners and rescuers into unnecessary danger time and time again. Both a recent KPIX poll and public comment on the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's draft dog policy indicate that the great majority of Bay Area residents value dog leash laws and favor their uniform enforcement. As a dog-allergy sufferer who does not like to be confronted by unknown animals, I feel harrassed on a daily basis when I step outside my apartment door or onto nearby Baker Beach and meet off-leash dogs and unattended cats. As a responsible pet owner, I am tired of seeing the ill-cared-for, dirty, occasionally injured, and otherwise neglected ani!

imals that make up a significant minority of the off-leash pet population. As a nature lover, I am deeply offended when I see dogs, on-leash or off, and feral and outdoor cats digging, trampling, and urinating on treasured and tenuous native plants or hunting butterflies, quail, migratory songbirds, and local shorebirds.

We have good laws on the books. They DO NOT need to be loosened in favor of more dogs off-leash. Enforcement ought at least to pay for itself in revenue from tickets issued. Please, protect the Golden Gate National Recreation Area for people, properly restrained pets, and the wildlife that was here first.

Optional:: Yes

Name:: Susan Way

Address:: 1512A Pershing Dr.

San Francisco, CA 94129

Phone::



Kyle Mizokami  
 <kylemi@mac.com>  
 03/18/2002 07:50 PM  
 PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: <no subject>

To whom it may concern:

Being a lifelong resident of San Francisco and a regular (once a week) visitor to Crissy Field, I support National Park Service regulations prohibiting dogs off leash in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

I have had several unpleasant run-ins with off-leash dogs, sometimes as often as once per visit to Crissy Field. These include:

1. Off-leash dogs digging through my personal belongings, looking for food, while the dog owner calls the dog but does not approach the dog to restrain it. This has happened more than once, and once the dog actually made off with some of my food. The owner was apologetic, but the damage was done. Typically when this happens the owner is supposedly exercising "voice control", but as anyone who knows anything about dogs, there is no such thing as "voice control" when food is in front of a dog.
2. Dogs digging holes on the beach that are hazardous to beach walkers. Case in point: once while fishing at the beach I was approached by a young, 7 year old girl. We talked, then she ran off. I took a step backwards and almost fell into a 1' hole, 2' wide and bearing the unmistakable claw marks of the dog that had dug it. If I or the little girl had been less cautious, we could both have been seriously injured. I immediately filled in the hole, something the dog owner obviously neglected to do. I have seen many such holes on the beach.
3. Off-leash dogs chasing birds and other wildlife. It's nice to see birds on the beach. It's not nice when the birds are chased off by dogs and then all you see are dogs on the beach. Dogs are not a native species to Crissy Field. I do not come to Crissy Field to see a beach full of dogs. I come to see sandpipers, sea gulls, cormorants, pelicans, sanderlings, and other wildlife. When dogs are present, these birds go elsewhere. Dog owners may counter that there are plenty of birds in the fenced off tidal marsh area, but these are often not the same species that feed on beaches.
4. Off leash dogs approaching me and barking for no reason. As a supreme court justice once put it, "the most fundamental right is the right to be left alone". I go to Crissy Field to enjoy the scenic beauty of the field and get some peace and quiet. Many people go to the beach and are left alone by other humans who recognize someone trying to get away from it all when they see it. Oftentimes on the beach a dog intrudes on my personal space and I resent that. Unlike the dog owner, I don't think it's cute. I do not like having someone else's definition of "cute" forced on me by someone else.
5. On one occasion last winter, I reeled in a small fish. As I raised up my rod to unhook the fish and let it go, out of the corner of my eye I spotted a brown labrador retriever running straight for me. I quickly lifted my rod up and shouted "Hey!" and the dog's jaws closed right where the fish (which was still on my line, with hook) had been only 1/4 of a second before. The dog ran back to its owners, who leashed it and then walked past me without making eye contact. The dog could have sustained serious injury, for not only was there a hook in the fish, the fish had dangerous spines protruding from it's back and fin. The chance of this happening would have been substantially less if the dog had been leashed and the dog owner able to restrain the dog before it lunged at me.

6. I have actually been jumped on by off-leash dogs while lying in the sand at Crissy Field. While the jack russell terrier might have been acting playful at the time, jumping repeatedly on my chest and I was at that moment amused, it was still an unwanted intrusion on my personal space.

7. I deeply resent the fact that large portions of Crissy Field have been fenced off with dog-proof fences that are unsightly and that distract from the aesthetic beauty of the restored grounds. If all people controlled their dogs properly, no doubt such an ugly fence would not have been erected and a less visually intrusive fence would have been utilized. As it is, because of dogs, Crissy Field resembles a zoo. At Crissy Field, however, the fencing is to keep animals out, not keep animals in.

8. Unleashed dogs frequently defecate on the beach and in the sand dunes, apparently out of sight of their owners, who then do not clean up after them. This is obviously unsanitary and the prospect of stepping on such feces, in places where people often go barefoot, is extremely unappealing.

9. I have actually been bitten by an off-leash dog in the GGNRA. The incident occurred just inside the GGNRA, near the Presidio Gate. I was walking north, a jogger and his off-leash Dalmation was walking south. When we crossed paths, the Dalmation (completely unprovoked, mind you) lunged at me and bit me in the left thigh. The bite was painful, broke the skin, and eventually became inflamed before it healed. The dog owner was, of course, stunned.

I am not a militant anti-dog person. I enjoy dogs and have one in my household. However, I am growing increasingly impatient with a dog community that seems more interested in the presumed rights of their dogs over the rights of their fellow humans.

I recognize that most dog owners are responsible, mature adults. However; in my experience, a considerable percentage of dog owners are irresponsible or ignorant. They are unwilling to train, discipline, control, and clean up after their dogs. I do not know what percentage this is, but it's enough so that on almost every visit to Crissy Field, I have an unpleasant or unwanted experience with an off-leash dog. Whatever the percentage is, it's high enough for me to expect some regulation of off-leash dogs.

Having probably spent roughly eighty hours or so on the beach at Crissy Field in the last year, I feel somewhat qualified to offer suggestions as to what can be done.

1. Require that all dogs present in the GGNRA be leashed at all times. This would not only give the dog owner total control over the animals, it would also make other visitors feel safer about their park experience. Furthermore, it would eliminate the need for the unsightly barriers that protect the restored sand dunes and marsh areas.

2. Make the "No Pets" signs posted at the entrances to the Crissy Field wildlife protection area larger and more visible. It is not uncommon to across the "wildlife protection area" during peak usage times and see one or more dogs on the beach. I doubt that any of those people walking their dogs in this forbidden area are willfully violating the regulations. The signs are quite small, and while I'm sure in that respect they are meant to be non-obtrusive; clearly they're not doing the job.

3. Such signs as I advocate should not only state that <sup>the</sup> dogs are prohibited in the area, they should also explain why dogs are prohibited in the area.

4. Enforcement of the no-dog policy in the wildlife protection areas of Crissy Field should be increased. In the last several months, I have not once seen a park ranger in the wildlife protection area. Dogs have been able to run free and unleashed through the areas in which they are prohibited,

and not a single dog owner has been stopped and warned about the regulations once.

I urge the National Park Service and Golden Gate National Recreation Area to act to restrain dogs visiting the GGNRA with regulations mandating leashes at all times. Ensuring that all dogs are properly leashed and thus under close control of their owners would make Crissy Field safer and more accommodating for all.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Mizokami  
2842 California Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
kylemi@mac.com

4065-01-3B



BColl717@aol.com  
03/18/2002 09:43 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: special rule to

Park Service:

I just want to put myself on record as strongly supporting the creation of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some portion of the GGNRA. As a tax payer and owner of a well trained dog I find it needlessly restrictive that there be no place in the area that well behaved animals can run free.

Sincerely,

Bruce Collard

4066-01-3B



Andreasafir@aol.com

03/18/2002 09:26 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov

cc:

Subject: Off-leash area

I strongly encourage you to preserve off-leash recreation area for the Bay Areas many well-behaved and monitored dogs and their guardians, many of whom are voters. This is an equity issue. I appreciate your support for my dog and me.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Safir

4067-01-1A



"Insley, Ann"  
<Ann.Insley@Schwab.com>

03/18/2002 07:03 PM  
MST

To: "goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Maintenance of Designated Off-Leash Recreation Areas in GGNRA

> To Whom It May Concern:

>  
> I do not own a dog, but strongly support the designation of GGNRA areas,  
> such as Fort Funston and Crissy Field, for off-leash recreation. San  
> Francisco is a compact, urban environment where recreational activities  
> are as important to dogs as they are to humans. Dogs need to be off-leash  
> to become socialized, and many dogs need to be exercised off-leash to  
> reduce aggressiveness and destructiveness. I would much prefer to  
> encounter a dog that has been properly exercised in an off-leash area than  
> one that has been confined indoors all day due to the increasing scarcity  
> of local parks that allow dogs.

>  
> A concerted effort should be made to ensure that the needs of all GGNRA's  
> constituents are met in a safe environment - playgrounds for children,  
> habitat for wildlife and native plantings, hiking/biking/running trails  
> for humans, and off-leash areas for dogs. I am certain an exception to  
> the National Park Service's prohibition of off-leash dogs in national  
> parks can be made to accommodate the desires of the taxpaying public who  
> live in this urban recreation area called San Francisco. Just ask, and  
> use my name as proof.

> Sincerely,

>  
> Ann Insley  
> 2 Scott Alley  
> San Francisco, CA 94107

>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>

4068-01-1A

Chris Powell  
03/18/2002 11:24 AM  
PST

To: Alex Naar/GOGA/NPS@NPS  
CC:  
Subject: New Submission

----- Forwarded by Chris Powell/GOGA/NPS on 03/18/02 11:17 AM -----



Online\_Forms@nps.gov  
v  
03/11/02 11:01 AM EST

To: GOGA\_Public\_Affairs@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: New Submission

Date Submitted 11-Mar-02

E-mail address (needed for a response)::

Comments:: Every time I go to the GGNRA, I see dogs chasing birds. I think dogs should be kept on leash at all the parks:

Name:: Elaine Vestal  
Address:: 294 Carl St.  
San Francisco, CA 94117  
Phone::

4069-01-1A



campbes1@WellsFargo  
.COM  
03/18/2002 05:53 PM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Maintenance of Designated Off-Leash Recreation Areas in GGNRA

To Whom It May Concern:

I do not own a dog, but strongly support the designation of GGNRA areas, such as Fort Funston and Crissy Field, for off-leash recreation. San Francisco is a compact, urban environment where recreational activities are as important to dogs as they are to humans. Dogs need to be off-leash to become socialized, and many dogs need to be exercised off-leash to reduce aggressiveness and destructiveness. I would much prefer to encounter a dog that has been properly exercised in an off-leash area than one that has been confined indoors all day due to the increasing scarcity of local parks that allow dogs.

A concerted effort should be made to ensure that the needs of all GGNRA's constituents are met in a safe environment - playgrounds for children, habitat for wildlife and native plantings, hiking/biking/running trails for humans, and off-leash areas for dogs. I am certain an exception to the National Park Service's prohibition of off-leash dogs in national parks can be made to accommodate the desires of the taxpaying public who live in this urban recreation area called San Francisco. Just ask, and use my name as proof.

Sincerely,

Sandy Campbell  
152 Clara Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107

GGNRA013448

4070-01-3B



"Joanne McGrail"  
<jomcg@mindspring.com>

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc: "Fort Funston" <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: anpr

03/18/2002 05:39 PM

PST

Please respond to  
"Joanne McGrail"

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

The thousands of dog owners in the Bay Area are asking that the .5% of the GGNRA lands that have been traditional off-leash dog walking areas remain so. This was the agreement when the land was turned over to the GGNRA in 1979. This is a tiny portion of land and probably the most well cared for (by its visitors) area of the GGNRA.

Please, the original agreement must be honored.

I am a responsible senior citizen who walks her dog at Ft. Funston almost daily. She is not destructive nor aggressive, but needs her exercise. Ft. Funston is the only place I feel safe walking. If a few people are uncomfortable around dogs I'm sure they can find places to enjoy on the other 99.5% of the GGNRA land.

Joanne McGrail

MAR-18-02 11:17 AM LIPSETT

4154402336

P. 01  
Page 1 of 1

4071-01-1A

561-4355

**Main Identity**

---

**From:** J. Lipsett <jlips@pacbell.net>  
**To:** <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2002 9:05 AM  
**Subject:** ANPR Comment: In Support of Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA

Dear Sirs:

I believe the GGNRA should have space for off leash dog walking and swimming. There are many acres in the GGNRA and some should certainly be designated off leash areas. I would like to see an area at Crissy field designated as off leash as well as Ft. Funston. There is plenty of space for all types of recreational activities and some large spaces should be dedicated to off leash dogs. There is no need for heavy handed regulation in this matter as you will waste much time, energy and money enforcing a blanket ban on off leash dog walking as well as creating animosity of responsible citizens to no good end. Everyone can be satisfied with a compromise that allows for on leash, off leash and mixed areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Lipsell  
66 Winfield Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
415-826-0504

3/18/02

GGNRA013450

MAR-18-02 02:40 PM

FREDERICK HOBSON

1+415+346+5584

P.01

Frederick Hobson

4072-071A

March 12, 2002

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

Dear GGNRA:

I am writing to you in support of the proposed plans to limit off-leash dog walking in GGNRA parks and sites. As an alternative to the loss of these off-leash areas, I have proposed to the City and, as well, SF Dog that other sites be developed for off-leash activities. Among the proposed sites, I have suggested stadiums (Pacific Bell, Candlestick, Kezar) and baseball diamonds.

As both a pet guardian and environmentalist, I believe that we must offer protection to both plant and wildlife. The proposed ban by GGNRA, although it might anger some, is, in my view, in the best interests and the greater good. As an outgoing member of the San Francisco Commission of Animal Control and Welfare, I say that we must first protect wildlife and habitat.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my comments.

Yours Truly,



Frederick Hobson  
Commissioner 2000-2002  
SF Commission of Animal Control & Welfare  
(415) 346-5584

---

P.O. Box 422325  
San Francisco, California 94142  
Phone: 415-346-5584

1/2

Frederick Hobson

March 12, 2002

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

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2002

COMPLETION OF 07701

Dear GGNRA:

I am writing to you in support of the proposed plans to limit off-leash dog walking in GGNRA parks and sites. As an alternative to the loss of these off-leash areas, I have proposed to the City and, as well, SF Dog that other sites be developed for off-leash activities. Among the proposed sites, I have suggested stadiums (Pacific Bell, Candlestick, Kezar) and baseball diamonds.

As both a pet guardian and environmentalist, I believe that we must offer protection to both plant and wildlife. The proposed ban by GGNRA, although it might anger some, is, in my view, in the best interests and the greater good. As an outgoing member of the San Francisco Commission of Animal Control and Welfare, I say that we must first protect wildlife and habitat.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my comments.

Yours Truly,



Frederick Hobson  
Commissioner 2000-2002  
SF Commission of Animal Control & Welfare  
(415) 346-5584

---

*P.O. Box 422325  
San Francisco, California 94142  
Phone: 415-346-5584*

Mar 18 02 03:18p

LeColonial Restaurant

415 931 2933

p.1

4073-01-1A

Tara & Tim Dale  
2442 Chestnut St  
SF, CA 94123  
415-563-0777

To Whom it may concern,

3/9/02

We are a tax payers, business owners, home owners, big supporters of San Francisco, and we have a dog. We love our dog. He is a black lab named Wilbur.

One of our very favorite things in life is to watch our dog run and play on the beach at Chrissy field. He catches sticks, swims plays with other dogs and he makes the people who see him smile.

We also love to take him on bike rides. He runs next to our bikes. It is a good way to tire him out. If we had to keep him on a leash, we would no longer be able to take him on rides because it would be dangerous to ride while he is tied to a leash.

We are very much in favor of having off leash recreation in the GGNRA. Especially at the beach near Chrissy Field. It is very important for city dogs to have a place where they can run and play. If dogs cannot run and play, they get restless, hyper and sometimes depressed. Dogs need to run and play.

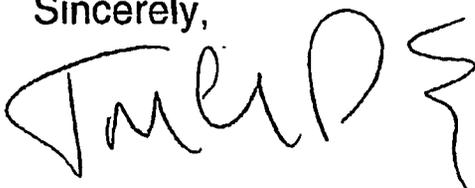
There are many dog owners who can not run along with their dogs on a leash. What happens to their dogs if this leash law goes into effect? They suffer.

We Believe dogs and people can live harmoniously. We think off leash activity can continue while respecting the other park uses.

Off leash recreation is Very important to us, our family, our friends and our dog. Please do not take Wilburs and other SF dogs right to freedom and happiness away.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



4074-01-1B

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: MARI ANORAN (printed)  
Address: 736 VIA CASITAS, GREENBRAE, CA 94904  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Please keep the GGNRA leash-free for dogs! With dwindling venues to take our family pet, we would ask you keep a Bay Area tradition intact. I've never had any problems with taking our dog to Fort Cronkite. In fact, being able to take my dog to Ft. Cronkite has not only enhanced our enjoyment but many others too. I feel it maintains a family-friendly environment and urge you not to change anything.

Sincerely,

*Mari Anoran*  
*March 18, 2002*

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
4075-02-1A



AORegan@nummi.co  
m  
03/18/2002 01:04 PM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Support of Off-leash Recreation



(See attached file: GGNRA letter.doc) GGNRA letter.doc

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
4075-02-1A

Via E-Mail: ggoa\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov

Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attention: Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

In response to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's ("GGNRA") Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("ANPR") FR Doc. 02-568, filed January 10, 2002, we support the long-standing tradition of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

Our dog is an important member of our family. Off-leash socialization and exercise contributes to our dog being a well-adjusted and healthy dog. It is also personally important for us (our family of three) to engage in the physical and recreational activities associated with walking with our dog offleash. We know many other dog owners and others who agree with this. If our dog had to be leashed, none of these benefits would be the same for us.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco transferred its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning" (16 U.S.C., section 460bb). GGNRA should not be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco. Continuing to make offleash recreation a primary use in areas of GGNRA is a good use of the land.

There is room for offleash activity in GGNRA's 75,000 acres. Traditionally, off-leash use has occurred in only 0.5% of this land. Off-leash activity can continue while respecting other park uses, including preservation of natural resources and other recreational uses.

We are responsible dog owners. We pick up our dog's waste. We do not leave trash but leave the parks clean. We ensure that our dog does not disturb people, wildlife, or plants. Our young daughter in turn learns the importance of preserving this wonderful natural resource. If GGNRA continues to permit off-leash access for people with dogs, we will support it as a community member in whatever way we can. Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Ann, Thomas and Kelly Kronemeyer  
3854 Cesar Chavez Street  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
tkrone@pacbell.net

To Whom It May Concern: 4076 - 01 - 1A

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Laura Dawson  
1537 Beach St  
SF, CA 94123

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern: 4077 - 01 - 1A

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Robert Franza  
3439 Divisadero Street  
San Francisco, California  
94127

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern: 4078 - 01 - 1A

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Susan Way  
1512 Pershing Dr Apt A  
San Francisco, CA 94129.  
(GGNRA resident)

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

4079 - 01 - 1A

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Linda Way  
1512-A Pershing Dr.  
SF CA 94129

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

GGNRA013457  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern:

4080-01-1A

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Sylvia Jepsen, SYLVIA JEPSEN  
12A Linn Ave  
SF, CA 94118

RECEIVED  
MAR 19 2002  
COMPLAINTS OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern:  
4081-01-1A

MAR 19 2002  
I strongly support existing regulations that require pets to be on leash and on trail when in national parks. I support Option A as proposed in the recent ANPR.

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

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

Sincerely, 3/17/02

Daniel Jacobs  
Daniel Jacobs Dog owners need to show restraint and respect wild animals, native plants, & other people enjoying GGNRA sites.

4082-01-1A

March 12, 2002

Katherine Brody

To: ANPR, Golden Gate

I'm hoping that another of San Francisco's wonderful  
treasures won't fall by the wayside - Pt. Funston.  
For 36 years I've been bringing visitors to this lovely  
spot showing them not only the great beauty  
but also a part of history - the bunkers which have  
since been closed. I urge you to keep this  
beautiful place as an off beach recreational  
park where people from all over the world can  
marvel at the peaceful coexistence of dogs,  
man, plants and birds.

Thank you

Katherine Brody

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE

333 Pacheco Street  
San Francisco, CA 94116

4083-02-1A

①

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Anna Forti  
2194 48th Ave  
SF CA 94116

3.14.02

Attention ANPR:

Comment Re: Pet Management

I'm very much in favor of protecting wild life. Also I'm in favor of dogs living as pleasant and natural a life as possible.

I do want to cooperate with reasonable laws, but keeping my dog on leash during times of the year the Snowy Western Plovers are not on our beach and using the leash along the path W. of the Highway where the plovers never are seems punitive.

42

... would like to see the ...  
... changed ...  
... best ... the dog ...  
... kept away from the ...  
... and ... free ...

Thank you

Anna Forti

~~Anna Forti~~

2/2

March 15, 2002



Brian O'Neill  
 Superintendent  
 Golden Gate NRA  
 Bldg 201, Fort Mason  
 San Francisco, CA 94123

**RECEIVED**

MAR 19 2002

**SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

The Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) strongly supports the existing regulation at 36 CFR 2.15, prohibiting pets from running at large in the national parks as vital to the protection of park resources and park visitors. Further, ANPR has a particular interest in offering these comments regarding a rulemaking to allow the running of dogs off leash in areas of GGNRA. Ranger lives are at risk.

In 1999, Ranger Steven Makune-Jarrell, was shot to death by a dog owner while attempting to protect park visitors from the owner's three dogs running off leash. As a Service and as professionals, how could we live with rangers dying in one park to enforce a regulation that another park declined to enforce via rulemaking?

Beyond that sobering fact, we firmly support consistent regulations and enforcement of all resource protection regulations as a top priority of the National Park Service. In this regard, the policy of the Service clearly establishes resource preservation as taking precedence over recreational uses.

Having a logical set of resource and visitor protection regulations consistently applied across the Service is very important to the success of the ranger occupation towards achieving the Mission of the National Park Service. The resource-education aspect of ranger law enforcement requires rangers to explain the logic behind park regulations. It would be difficult to explain this inconsistency in resource-protection regulations. Further, it opens the door to more variances from park-to-park within the System. To cite but a few examples, rangers would be asked to explain inconsistencies:

- Why is it important to protect some park resources from the impacts of free-running domestic pets, but not others?
- Why are domestic dogs more important than native flora and fauna?
- Why is a prohibited activity going un-enforced in one park area and not in another?
- Why are dogs allowed to run unrestrained while other pets must remain restrained?
- What entitles national park users in San Francisco to impact national park resources and jeopardize the safety of fellow park visitors while national park users elsewhere across the nation must comply with dog-leash rules?

These and other questions are best eliminated through a single, consistently applied, universally enforced, national code of regulations. Inconsistent enforcement and/or rule



making brings disrespect upon park resources and upon resource protection rangers, leading to frustration, confrontation, and violence. The very worst enforcement scenarios arise when an enforcement ranger must fall back upon authority and compulsion, in the absence of logic and reason.

If citizens in San Francisco wish to establish local sites for running dogs off leash, it is entirely appropriate for them to do so without impacting lands and resources set aside as units of the National Park System.

We advise against initiating a precedent-setting rulemaking that has a strong potential to fracture the underlying logic behind the National Park Service's existing resource and visitor protection regulations. ANPR recommends against the Service embarking upon a rulemaking to allow the free running of dogs or other pets in this or any other unit of the National Park System.

Sincerely,

Ken Mabery  
President

Cc: John Reynolds, Pacific West Regional Director  
Dick Ring, Associate Director, Park Operations, Washington Office  
Kym Hall, Regulations Manager, Ranger Activities Division, Washington Office

## Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

### Comment Form

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

**RECEIVED**

MAR 19 2002

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name:	pro- <u>laws</u> to control & contain dogs		
Address:	City: SF	State:	Zip:

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

Most non-dog owners will not participate in this ugly, nasty, loud & unsafe debate. You will not hear from most families because they cannot understand why a small minority of dog owners can dominate & force the rest of us into a debate about changing laws that keep us safe & protect diversity of animals/plants. We are disgusted and feel that dog owners will ultimately win because of intimidation & their relentless & ugly attitudes. We hope the Nat. Park Service will not continue with this & keep laws as they are.

Page \_\_\_ of \_\_\_

Date 3/19/02

## Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

RECEIVED

### Comment Form

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

MAR 19 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name:	A. O'Leary		
Address:	830 Teresita Blvd	City:	SF
		State:	CA
		Zip:	94127

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

Non-dog owners are not interested in fact-finding as a stalling <sup>tactic to keep the</sup> status quo <sup>by dog owners!</sup> forced status quo - not "official" allowing dogs to remain off-leash while any decision making is handled. Enforce the law now! We already know the adverse effect of off-leash dogs + already know that most dog owners will not + do not have control over their animals in such a way as to assure safety + preservation of <sup>native</sup> natural species. Gather your data some other way and NOT <sup>off</sup> the backs of the rest of us.

Continually

Page \_\_\_ of \_\_\_

Date 3/19/2002

4087-01-1A

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

## Comment Form

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name: <u>John Causler</u>			
Address: <u>1580 Valencia #201</u>	City: <u>SF</u>	State: <u>CA</u>	Zip: <u>94110</u>

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

I support off-leash  
dog walking in virtually  
all GGNRA areas.

Page 1 of 1

Date 3/19/02

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

RECEIVED

## Comment Form

MAR 19 2002

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name: CAROLYN BOWER			
Address: 73 Rossi Ave	City: SF	State: CA	Zip: 94118

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

Please leave dogs off-leash. Dogs need to run & play in order to be well adjusted socially. Where I go (Ft Funston, Crissy Field, the Presidio) has always been off-leash. Don't change it.

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

## Comment Form

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.

Name: J. McGrail			
Address: 575 Juniper Serra	City: S. F.	State: CA	Zip: 94127

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

Days and humans need off-leash recreation.  
 Please let us continue to have this privilege  
 as was meant in the original 1979 agreement.  
 .5% of 75,000 acres isn't much for thousands  
 of tax paying citizens and their dogs.

Page 1 of 1

Date 3/19/02

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

RECEIVED

## Comment Form

MAR 19 2002

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

SUPERINTENDENT

The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.

Name: TERREL WONG

Address: 3330 Quintara St City: SF State: CA Zip: 94116

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

OFF LEASH DOG WALKING should be allowed at Fort Funston. It is Beneficial to humans and dogs. When I take my dog to Fort Funston after work I can relax, socialize with other dog owners, exercise while walking, and have complete well being. When the weather is bad (rain, ~~at~~ winds at approx. 35-40 mph) you will see over 50 dog owners still ~~walking~~ using the park. ~~They~~ We are dedicated park users. To take away off leash would be taking rights away from many people who have dedicated there time to use the park. I take my dog to Fort Funston 7 days a week, up to 2 hrs a day. Have your pet management thought about the impact on the environment in whole if dogs aren't given an area to run? more feces & urine at local parks? Danger to humans (Dirty)?

Page \_\_\_ of \_\_\_

Date 3/19/02

Submit by Mail: Superintendent, GGNRA, Attn: ANPR, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123  
 FAX: (415) 561-4355 Email goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov ANPR Information Line - (415) 561-4728

## Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

### Comment Form

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

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MAR 19 2002

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name: Shaunn Mulhern	Address: 415 Victoria St	City: SF	State: CA	Zip: 94132
----------------------	--------------------------	----------	-----------	------------

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

My dog is a part of nature as well as the other animals at Fort Funston. She should not be kept out because of some other dogs behavior. There is enough room for the off leash dogs to run and play as well as the wild animals. Fort Funston enables me to have recreation that my child and my dog can utilize together at the same time. Which is important with our family's busy schedule.

Page 1 of     

Date 3/19/02

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

RECEIVED

## Comment Form

MAR 19 2002

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

COMPLAINTS SECTION

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name: Clyde Schauer
Address: 2225 Davis Drive City: Burlingame State: CA Zip: 94010

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

Please allow us to continue the privilege of having our dogs run freely at Fort Funston. It is such an important part of our week. I am a senior citizen with a dog who needs exercise often and regularly. Thank you, Clyde Schauer

## Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

### Comment Form

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

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MAR 19 2002

SUPERINTENDENT, GGNRA

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name: LINDA SHORE

Address: 1677 17th Avenue      City: SF      State: CA      Zip: 94122

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

I support off leash dog recreation in all GGNRA lands - I believe rescinding the 1979 Pet Policy is wrong. Instead, the GGNRA should plan the parks with all users (especially dog walkers) so areas can be set aside for particular interests - preservation, surfing, hang gliding, picnicing, etc. A blanket policy leashing all dogs is wrong (and unenforceable).

Page 1 of 1

Date 3, 19, 02

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

## Comment Form

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

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MAR 19 2002

CHIEF SUPERVISOR

The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.

Name: Lisa Vittori

Address: 628 Lyon St, Apt. 2 City: San Francisco State: CA Zip: 94131

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

After reading the entire ANPR reference manual, I saw almost nothing that reflected my experience as a dog guardian ~~and~~ environmentalist. Walking with my dog has opened the world to me in a number of ways, & has deepened my work as an environmentalist. In addition, the same ethic that causes me to respect nature also forces me to respect my dog as an autonomous companion, not a leashed appendage. Finally, because

Page 1 of 2

Date 3/19/02

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

## Comment Form

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name:			
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

I take my responsibilities seriously,  
~~I assure that I will take the necessary steps to ensure that my dog is properly trained and supervised at all times.~~  
 I ensure that we exercise 2 hours a day, which takes me to many wild places - places I would never go without the companionship of my dog; places which I've learned to appreciate because of the time we've spent there; places I have restored because I grew to care for them.

Page 2 of 2

Date 3.19.02

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

## Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

RECEIVED

### Comment Form

MAR 19 2002

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name: Helen Reder	City: Pacific	State: CA	Zip: 94044
Address: 265 Shoreview			

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

off leash dog walking is much less an environmental impact than golf, camping, driving, horses, children and many other uses. If NPC can condone fast food vendors and luxury hotels in wilderness parks, certainly off leash dogs in urban GGNRA areas can be tolerated.

I already decided NOT to continue contributions to Audubon. Please don't make me decide to discontinue my volunteer work with the Hyde Street Pier National Park.  
Stop aggressive enforcement of off leash!

Page \_\_\_ of \_\_\_

Date 3/19/02

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

## Comment Form

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

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MAR 19 2002

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name:	ROBERT POWERS		
Address:	265 SHOREVIEW	City:	PACIFICA
		State:	CA
		Zip:	94064

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

- ① KEEP THE DOGS AT FORT FUNSTON OFF-LEASH!
- ② NO MORE CLOSED AREAS. - NO BIRDS!
- ③ NO MORE "NATIVE PLANT RESTORATIONS" TOO ARBITRARILY

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

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## Comment Form

MAR 19 2002

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.

Name:	Roy Ramsting		
Address:	39 Madrone Park Cir	City:	Mill Valley
		State:	CA
		Zip:	94041

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

Beaches are for enjoyment of all

Dogs can't run + frolic  
on a leash

Dogs can't swim  
on a leash

Dogs can't get quality exercise  
on a leash

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

RECEIVED

## Comment Form

MAR 19 2002

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS OFFICE

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name: KEITH McALLISTER

Address: 2484 21<sup>ST</sup> AVE City: SAN FRAN State: CA Zip: 94116

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

ONE MORE TIME —

DOGS WOULD USE LESS THAN 1% OF GGNRA  
LAND.

LEAVE OFF-LEASH RECREATION IN PLACE.

Page 1 of 1

Date 3/19/02

# Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pet Management In Golden Gate National Recreation Area

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## Comment Form

MAR 19 2002

All Comments must be received by April 12, 2002

COMPLAINTS/INQUIRY: 02701

*The National Park Service is soliciting comments from all segments of the public interested in appropriate pet management in GGNRA, consistent with protecting national park resources and assuring visitor safety.*

Name:	Shirley Strout		
Address:	439 Victoria St	City:	SF
		State:	CA
		Zip:	94132

Please write legibly and if you need more space use another Comment Form.

Our dogs need a place to run off leash. It is inhumane not to allow this. Our state parks won't let our dogs set foot on a trail. Our Recreation Areas need to allow this activity.



MAR 19 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: PAMELA A PETRIELLO (printed)

Address: 555 27<sup>th</sup> ST #3 (street) SAN FRANCISCO (city) CA (state) 94131 (zip)

I strongly support off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. I take my dog DAILY to either Fort Funston or Chrissy Field and feel incredibly lucky to have such PARADISE AVAILABLE to BOTH me + my Dog. It would severely impact BOTH our quality of lives if this off-leash access was denied. Visiting friends + family also enjoy and appreciate the AVAILABILITY of such incredible beauty to BOTH of us - which is NOT AVAILABLE in their own STATES.

Frankly - I would be less inclined to choose to live in San Francisco if I did NOT have off-leash recreation areas as high quality as Fort Funston + Chrissy Field.

Thank you for understanding the importance of this issue

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

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

Signed: Pamela A. Petriello Date 3/15/02 (optional: Age: 38 Sex M Ethnicity White)

March 15, 2002

RANDY CUPP  
 145 BRODERICK ST. #201  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94117

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2002

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

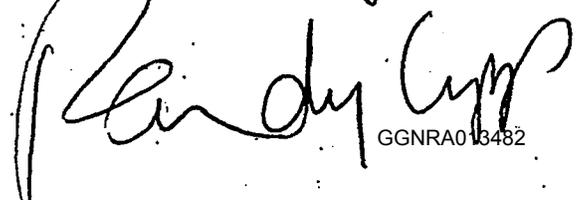
Dear GG NRA,

Please keep San Francisco Parks  
off-leash!

Dog owners use the parks more  
 than anyone else. What would parks  
 like Fort Funston + Buena Vista be  
 without dogs. I've lived here  
 16 years and have never run into  
 a violent dog.

Don't give into media hype —  
 let us keep our parks.

Randy Cupp



MAR 19 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: Dr. Rosemary Vega (printed)  
 Address: 961 HANCOCK ST (street) Daly City (city) CA (state) 94014 (zip)

I plead with you to keep these parks free. As a psychologist we are aware of "the benefits of feeling free". Both humans and animals need this. My mental health relies on exercise, socialization and the unconditional love from dogs. We love for fun + function... It is my greatest stress-reducer! Thank you.

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

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

Signed: Rosemary Vega  
 Version 2.0

Date

3/13/02

(optional: Age:

36

Sex

M

F

Ethnicity

Latina

GGNRA013483

4104-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Dr. & Mrs. George H. McGLYNN (printed)  
Address: 85 LINARES Ave. San Francisco CA. 94116  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

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

DAILY WE RUN IN G.G. PARK WITH THE DOG, MORNINGS!  
Daily, the dog runs and socializes with other dogs  
at our Golden Gate Heights park, afternoons!  
IT IS OUR EXERCISE PERIOD AS WELL AS OUR DOG'S.

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

We frequent only areas which are KNOWN  
OFF-LEASH areas.

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MAR 19 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

We meet daily old and new friends during  
our recreation time with our dog.

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

The existing areas for off-leash runs are perfect!  
Chrissy Field has really been reduced as far  
as water access for the dogs - But we will be  
Satisfied. Fort Funston is very important!  
needs to be left as it is right now.

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

Signed: [Signature] Date: 3/12/2002 (optional: Age: 60 Sex: M Ethnicity: C)  
approv.

March 12, 2002

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MAR 19 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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

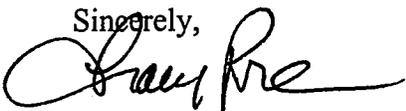
Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am writing in absolute support of continued off-leash areas in the GGNRA. Although, not a dog owner myself, I do understand the significance of a broad range of recreational uses in an urban park environment, particularly the need for appropriate off-leash areas, which benefit both the health and social welfare of dogs and humans.

The City and County of San Francisco turned over some of our beach and coastal trail areas to the National Park Service, with a commitment from the GGNRA Citizen's Advisory Committee, that off-leash areas would remain unchanged. Now, more than 20 years later, the Park Service wants to go back on this commitment, while at the same time there are some 40 national parks which allow off-leash recreation.

Within an urban setting families, seniors, and all other individuals, including dogs co-exist. We can also enjoy a variety of outdoor recreational activities together, while taking care to respect the wildlife and plant life, which also help to enrich our lives.

I strongly urge you to stand by the original commitment made to the citizens of San Francisco, which would ensure the continued opportunity for off-leash recreation.

Sincerely,  


Tracy Pore  
Native San Franciscan

4106-02-1A

March 18, 2002

Mr. Brian O'Neill, Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Building 201, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123

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MAR 19 2002

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Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I am one of many daily walkers and runners at Crissy Field, enjoying the beauty of the restored dunes and tidal marsh. Since the completion of the restoration, I have watched the number of people bringing their dogs to romp on the grass or beach grow almost daily. Daily, but especially on weekends, there are many children in and out of strollers, senior citizens, and runners as well as the walkers. I was raised with dogs and have always been quite fond of them. Until recently, when my feelings have changed somewhat. And I will say that many of the dog walkers are considerate of walkers and other users of the paths and beach, cleaning up after their pets and leashing them where signs indicate that that is the appropriate behavior. The professional dog walkers that I have observed seem to be especially careful about their charges. However, I am seeing more and more dog owners that seem to feel some sort of entitlement regarding the area. I am speaking of dog walkers who have their dogs off leash even where signs are posted asking that pets be leashed; who let their dogs run in the areas clearly marked as preserves: who let their dogs chase the birds and go under the bridge into the marsh or over the small fences into the planted areas. I have been jumped on by large dogs, almost tripped by small ones and growled at - all while walking quietly and without doing anything to encourage or antagonize these animals. I have watched owners leave their dog's droppings when they have watched them defecate, or kick sand over the pile. I have heard runners say, when asked to clean up after their animal, "I'll get it on my way back." Do they stop on their return trip? Probably not. I have seen people chatting with friends, or unloading the car, paying no attention to what their dog is doing. Part of the problem is enforcement. I have never seen anyone official ask dog walkers to obey the posted signs or pick up after their pet. I actually observed the following scenario: In the area near the Coast Guard buildings I passed a woman heading east on the path, whose dog was not leashed, although the signs in that area are particularly visible. A friend of hers whose dog was leashed, approached her and said "I thought the dogs were supposed to be leashed out here." The first woman replied, "oh, they don't enforce that

41106-02-1A

rule." A couple of days later, I saw both women and their dogs walking in that area, and neither dog was on a leash. The feeling seems to be "my dog is different, the rules are not made for us." Many of these dog walkers have no idea what "being under voice control" means. These dogs are all over the place and do not come when called. They jump on people, shake water and sand all over strangers and are not kept at heel, by any stretch of the imagination. Something really must be done to restore the balance, so that all people can enjoy this lovely area. If the dogs are not to be in some areas, then enforce that regulation. Enforce leash laws. It really is not the dogs' fault - but the fault inconsiderate or arrogant owners. I realize that mine is a minority opinion, but I appreciate the opportunity to express it.

Thank you for seeking public comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

*Lindsey Phillips*  
Lindsey K. Phillips

Lindsey Phillips  
1346 Filbert St.  
San Francisco, CA 94109



SAVE  
YOUR  
VIEW  
WEEK

*Superintendent, GGNRA  
Attention: ANPR  
Fr. Mason, Bldg. 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123*

94123/9999



2/2

4107-02 - 3B

Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attention: ANPR  
Fort Mason, Building 201

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MAR 19 2002

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Dear Sirs:

I am providing the following comments in support of continuing the off leash dog walking policy that has been in place in the GGNRA since its inception in 1972. I specifically believe that the rule making process should be started to allow the continuation of off leash dog walking in the designated areas of the GGNRA that are specified in the 1996 Compendium developed after careful study by the Superintendent, Brian O'Neil. The compromise compendium signed by Brian O'Neil in 1996 provides all the details, and further study is not warranted since the park service has over twenty-four years of data to support the position taken by its Superintendent. The current on leash requirements should be suspended until the ANPR process is complete. The imposition of leash restrictions is a direct violation of continuing use policies that were part of the GGNRA when it was formed in 1972. The on leash requirements also violate promises made in public and private by the National Park Service and its superintendent, Brian O'Neil. Option B should be adopted immediately with no further delay or wasteful and divisive studies.

Answers to specific questions in the ANPR are as follows:

Should the leash law regulation remain intact parkwide?

***The leash law should be revised to allow off leash dog walking in the GGNRA as originally agreed to when the GGNRA was established.***

Should additional areas currently closed to dogs be open to on leash use?

***Ocean Beach, Fort Funston, Marin Headlands and Tennessee Valley Trails in Fort Cronkite should be open to on leash dog walking.***

Should additional areas be closed to dogs?

**No**

Should analysis of any alternatives be measured from the current baseline of no off-leash dog walking, or the long-standing former policy that allowed off-leash dog walking in certain areas?

***Adequate data has been collected and analysis has been done over the twenty-four years period from 1972 to 1996 and resulted in the 1996 compendium signed by Brian O'Neil, GGNRA Superintendent. Consultation and detailed analysis of the effect on flora, fauna, and wildlife were done before the final 1996 Compendium was completed. The Compendium identifies specific areas for off leash dog walking in the GGNRA that will not impact the environment.***

Should the regulation be changed to designate former "voice control" areas for off leash dog walking?

**Yes**

If so,

Which geographical areas should/should not be considered for off leash?

***The areas for off leash dog walking are specifically and adequately identified in the 1996 Compendium. The 1996 Compendium should be updated to reflect the current configuration of the Crissy Field and dogs should not be allowed in the artificial wetland created by the GGNRA.***

Should there be a limit on the number of dogs?

**No. There**

Should areas be open to off leash use at certain times of the day or days of the week?  
***There should be no restriction.***

Should there be a bond required to cover liability?  
***No. A bond is not needed. As with all parks the public uses at their own risk.***

Should people be required to sign waivers of liability?  
***No.***

What are potential environmental impacts of any of the alternatives?  
***There are no environmental impacts identified after twenty-four years of study. The 1996 Compendium can be implemented immediately with minimal risk to the environment.***

What additional mitigating factors should be imposed?  
***None.***

What conditions could be required of owners?  
***Dog owners should be required to carry leashes and have dog litter bags available to them for immediate cleanup of dog litter.***

Should areas be fenced?  
***Areas considered sensitive have already been fenced off from both dogs and the public. No further fencing is needed.***

Should voice control be employed?  
***Yes.***

How should the numbers of dogs be limited?  
***The number of dogs should not be limited.***

Who should pay for facilities, improvements, and operations?  
***The GGNRA is a National Recreation Area and as such all recreational facilities should be paid for by the GGNRA.***

Option B below is the alternative that is fair and considerate of the "Original Intent of Congress" as well as respectful of the traditional and continuing uses of the Recreational Area, as well as mindful of the promises made by the park service and its representatives over the years to the public and specific organizations involved.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Irene Miller

Microsoft Corporation  
1065 La Avenida  
Mountain View, CA 94043

Forwarding Service Requested

**Microsoft**

GGNRA013489  
Diaz O'ny

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MAR 19 2002

COMPLAINTS OFFICE



## Sequoia Audubon Society

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

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

Sequoia Audubon Society, the San Mateo County chapter of National Audubon Society with 1650 members, wishes to comment on the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding off-leash dogs in National Parks. We have followed the issue through its many phases and throughout our position has been unwavering.

**Sequoia Audubon Society is strongly opposed to any change in the current rules that would allow off leash dogs in any National Park units.** It is our point of view that such a rule change would open the door for off leash pets in many NPS units, not just in the GGNRA. This would be detrimental to park wildlife as well as to the public's enjoyment of the parks.

Sequoia Audubon Society urges you to advocate maintaining the current rules as they stand.

Yours truly,

*Robin Winslow Smith*

Robin Winslow Smith  
President, Sequoia Audubon Society

P O Box 3897, Redwood City, CA 94064-3897 AC 650 369-1093

MAR 19 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: Wendy KATHN (printed)

Address: 161 Linden Ln Mill Valley CA 94941  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Going to Rodeo Beach + Ft. Funston for unleashed doggie walks, in addition to Muir Beach, Chrissy Fields + Ocean Beach had been a twice weekly event for myself, my husband and our dog. We met up with our good friends, had a great hike and our dogs had an opportunity to socialize, chase each other and play together. Often on our walks little children would ask to pet the dogs + enjoy their company. Several people + walkers + wheel chair brought treats for the dogs which loved the ritual. This was also an opportunity to check in with elderly dog walkers and make sure they are O.K. ON ONE OCCASSION, our elderly friend was at the beach and I went to his home, found he had fallen. Forum

Here are some ideas for your letter:

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

I also work for hospice + several patients + their dogs looked forward to daily visits to Ft. Funston for friendship + socialization.

Signed: Wendy KATHN Date: 3/15/02 (optional: Age: 51 Sex M Ethnicity mixed)  
Version 2.0

Forum  
Langston  
Cunha

MAR 19 2002

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: Helen Spring (printed)  
Address: 181 St James Dr (street) Sonoma (city) CA (state) 95476 (zip)

I AM NOT A dog owner. I really enjoy watching dogs, off leash, romping together. Please return to the policy of dogs off leash in GGNRA beaches.  
P.S. I AM 76 Ys OLD

Here are some ideas for your letter:

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

Signed: Helen Spring  
Version 2.0

Date

3/1/02

(optional: Age: 76 Sex M Ethnicity C)

GGNRA 013492

4111 - 01 - 1B

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: David Holmes (printed)  
Address: 250 Edgewood Ave. Mill Valley CA 94941  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

On my next birthday I will be 65 years old. And, I have a beautiful Australian Shepherd named "Dakota." Austrian Shepherds are working dogs and "Dakota" requires a lot more exercise than I can possibly give him on a leash.

There are dog runs and some fire roads where off-leash recreation is allowed and these are fine except in the winter months when they can be so wet and muddy that it is unpleasant as well as dangerous to us them. The sand on a beach is safer and nicer to play in than mud. For me Stinson Beach is far away and the Tide is not always right. Therefore it would be nice to have Muir Beach back.

Muir Beach was a very good place for off-leash play and exercise for as long back as I can remember. However, since being taken over by the GGNRA the park has been destroyed as a recreation area for me. I believe that the word "Recreation" should be the operative in the organization's title. It is not "Reclamation." Some of the improvements make the Parks usable, safe and convenient for people.

I suggest that there should be a time when dogs off-leash would be OK, say Sunrise to 10:30 am. And a time for those who want to enjoy the sun and would be bothered by off-leash dogs, say 10:30 am until sunset.

There are some very nice fire roads in the Marin County Open Space areas that allow off-leash dogs. I have seen older people walking on these roads needing the help of a cane. They carry treats with them to offer the dogs they may see on their walk. I can report that I have seen very happy and successful bonding between the dogs and people that for some reason can not have a dog of their own.

RECEIVED  
MAR 19 2002

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: David P. Holmes Date 3/19/02 (optional: Age: 64 Sex  M  F Ethnicity Love)  
Version 2.2

March 9, 2002  
GGNRA013493

4112-02-1A

Victoria Lansdown  
105 Jarboe St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

COMPLAINTS OFFICE

Superintendent O'Neill  
GGNRA  
Attention: ANPR  
Fort Mason Bldg. 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

3/15/02

Dear Sir,

I am a native San Franciscan, a home -owner, a voter, and a taxpayer.

For many decades I have enjoyed the wonders of the National Parks in the western United States, most especially Yosemite. I have always been an avid hiker and camper and have felt gratitude and respect toward the National Park Service for their role in preserving and protecting these treasures.

Not any more.

Unfortunately, I have come to view the NPS as another monolithic, and insensitive bureaucracy, bent on imposing its views and policies on an unwilling population, regardless of any promises it may have made in the past.

Case in point: The disruption of the performance piece by the class from the College of Arts and Crafts. Ranger says "1<sup>st</sup>. Amendment doesn't apply here". (NPS not subject to the Constitution?).

Case in point: The total disregard of the Musee Mecanique and the value the citizens of San Francisco place on it.

Case in point: The heavy-handed management of the GGNRA lands ceded to the NPS in 1972. The total disregard of the 5000 page Congressional document, which oversaw the transfer of those lands (NPS not subject to Congress?) and the disregard of the needs and wishes of the citizens of San Francisco that actually use the space. I am referring specifically to the overturning of the 1979 Pet Policy, which did, in fact, comply with the original statute outlining the purpose of the park.

The National Park Service is an arm of the federal Government (although, apparently not subject to the rules governing such agencies) and as such, certainly doesn't have to honor its word given to the people of the little municipality of San Francisco. The key word here is "honor". And as we all know, bullies don't have any.

1/2

4112-02-1A

I have been visiting what is now the GGNRA for 5 decades. My favorite picnicking, sketching and dog-walking areas have already been fenced-off. I am well aware that my enjoyment of these lands is doomed. Yet, I am writing this letter in the hope that somewhere, somehow justice will prevail, and the people of San Francisco will get what they were promised.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victoria Lansdown".

Victoria Lansdown

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: BETTE CLANCY (printed)  
Address: 1140 GRACE LN. NIPOMO CA. 93444  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

I'm writing you in regards to the Fort Funston off leash dog walkers I now live in a rural area of California, but in the 80's I used Fort Funston almost every day enjoying my dogs, good friends and the beautiful views. I do believe all dogs should have a Canine Good Citizen Certificate (C.G.C.) given by A.K.C. (American Kennel Club) all owners should carry "poop bags" for all litter (people and dogs) I would like to see the next generation of San Francisco's dog owners enjoy the fort as much as we have in the past.

Thank you  
Bette Clancy

RECEIVED  
MAR 19 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true - that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Bette Clancy Date 3/18/02 (optional: Age: 65 Sex M  F Ethnicity W.)  
Version 2.2 March 9, 2002

4114-01-1A

March 16, 2002

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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

Greetings:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Carrie Lee Sullivan  
101 Rivoli #4  
San Francisco CA 94117

4113-01-1A

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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

Name: Aileen Arrieta (printed) RECEIVED  
Address: 4042 25<sup>th</sup> St San Francisco, Ca. 94114 MAR 19 2002  
(street) (city) (state) (zip) COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS

I am a San Francisco homeowner who moved here 5 years ~~ago~~ ago. I chose San Francisco in large part because of Superior off-leash areas for my dogs to enjoy. I have two Standard poodles that must have off-leash exercise every day.

I think it is completely reprehensible that the GGNRA is going back on its promise to San Francisco regarding off-leash areas, particularly Fort Funston.

Please protect my dogs' ability to enjoy their dog parks - it's really important to them and to me.

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true - that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Aileen Arrieta Date 3/18/02 (optional: Age: 40 Sex M  Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_)  
Version 2.2

MAR. 19. 2002 6:11PM

CHIRON VAC FIN&amp;PLAN

NO. 3242 P. 2

4116 - - 1A

I want to mention here that the horrible events filling our newscasts recently are perfect examples of this. The horrific incident concerning the death of Diane Whipple happened *inside* her apartment building at her own apartment door. This tragedy occurred because of the irresponsibility of the owners by not having control of their dogs no matter where they were, simply because they were never properly trained. I say this to point to the importance of understanding the value of what a dog is. As a Superintendent in the National Park System I assume that you have an interest in nature and natural forces. In this, you must know that canines are very social animals, an instinct descending from their ancestral fore-bearers long before they were domesticated. To deny a dog this vital part of their existence is simply cruel. To do this also means that you are producing an entirely dysfunctional animal, and an animal that is ultimately not under your control. This must necessarily produce the exact opposite of a healthy dog and their healthy human/animal relationships. And all of this speaks to the point of punishing the responsible dog owners for the behavior of their irresponsible counterparts. (And I truly mean counterparts.) I am also aware of the paradoxes that must exist by being an officer in the National Park Service in such a totally urbanized area. So, what is to be done?

The first compromise that comes to mind would be designating dog hours in the parks where the essential socialization can take place. I believe that this structure would also decrease the cost of patrols and enforcement.

I very much need to add here that the so-called 'dog runs' are not an answer. These confined areas immediately become filthy and very unhealthy for dogs and humans alike.

MAR. 19. 2002 6:12PM

CHIRON VAC FIN&amp;PLAN

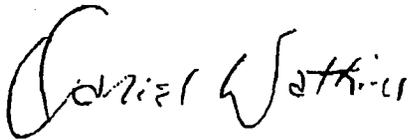
NO. 3242 P. 3

4116-

- 1A

A second idea might be for dog owners to provide proof that they and their dogs have received proper training. I would completely support summonses for those owners that cannot present such proof. A simple enforcement tool in this regard would be to have the owner physically display an on-the-spot control of their dog along with a training card; something like a driver's license. I admit that enforcement officers would have to be somewhat educated as to the applications of this rule, but as far as my personal philosophy goes this type of program would hit two positive objectives at once. I would even go so far as to endorse the *urbanized* National Park Service initiating a program for proper dog/park training and management. I know that this would be of essential value and provide an outlet for dog owners that figure they can't afford to train their dogs. (Which only means that they should not have them, but please consider the noble rescue efforts that are made every day, and that give happy results to the owners and of course the dogs alike.) There is no amount of money that can equate the humane benefit of the living and devoted love that exists in the home of a happy, healthy dog.

Respectfully yours,



Daniel Watkins  
2200 Beach St. #301  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 776-0486  
[claydanhi@yahoo.com](mailto:claydanhi@yahoo.com)

03-19-02 11:39AM FROM BRKLEY LAW GROUP

TO 5614355

P001/006

4117-01-1A

Via Fax: 415/561-4733

Via E-Mail: ggoa\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov

Via Mail:

Superintendent

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Attention: Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

In response to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's ("GGNRA") Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("ANPR") FR Doc. 02-568, filed January 10, 2002, I support the long-standing tradition of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

My dog, standard poodle Shaina, is an important member of my family. Off-leash socialization and exercise contributes to my dog being a well-adjusted and healthy dog. It is also personally important for me for my own physical and recreational activity to enjoy walking with my dog offleash. I know many other dog owners and others who agree with this. If my dog had to be leashed, none of these benefits would be the same for me.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco transferred its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning" (16 U.S.C., section 460bb). GGNRA should not be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco. Continuing to make offleash recreation a primary use in areas of GGNRA is a good use of the land.

There is room for offleash activity in GGNRA's 75,000 acres. Traditionally, off-leash use has occurred in only 0.5% of this land. Off-leash activity can continue while respecting other park uses, including preservation of natural resources and other recreational uses.

I am a responsible dog owner. I pick up my dog's waste. I do not leave trash but leave the parks clean. I watch that my dog does not disturb people, wildlife, or plants. If GGNRA continues to permit off-leash access for people with dogs, I will support it as a community member in whatever way I can. Thank you for your attention to this.

*Diana R. Linetsky*  
3/8/02

Diana R. Linetsky  
2325 - 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94116  
415/731-8817

03-19-02 11:39AM FROM BRKLEY LAW GROUP

TO 5614355

P002/006

4118-01-1A

Via Fax: 415/561-4733

Via E-Mail: ggoa\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov

Via Mail:

Superintendent

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Attention: Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

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Mikhail Linetsky  
2325 - 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94116  
415/731-8817

*Mikhail Linetsky*  
*3/8/02*

03-19-02 11:39AM FROM BRKLEY LAW GROUP TO 5614355 P003/006

4119-01-1A

Via Fax: 415/561-4733  
Via E-Mail: ggoa\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
Via Mail:  
Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attention: Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

In response to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's ("GGNRA") Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("ANPR") FR Doc. 02-568, filed January 10, 2002, I support the long-standing tradition of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

My dog, standard poodle Shaina, is an important member of my family. Off-leash socialization and exercise contributes to my dog being a well-adjusted and healthy dog. It is also personally important for me for my own physical and recreational activity to enjoy walking with my dog offleash. I know many other dog owners and others who agree with this. If my dog had to be leashed, none of these benefits would be the same for me.

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*Anna Linetsky*  
3/8/02

Anna Linetsky  
2325 - 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94116  
415/731-8817

03-19-02 11:39AM FROM BRKLEY LAW GROUP

TO 5614355

P004/006

4120-01-1D

3/8/02

SUSAN BERMAN  
91 HAZEL ROAD  
BERKELEY, CA 94705-2401  
510/849-0757

Via Fax: 415/561-4355

Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attention: Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Fort Mason,  
Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

In response to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's ("GGNRA") Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("ANPR") FR Doc. 02-568, filed January 10, 2002, I support the long-standing tradition of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

My dog Izzy is an important member of my family. Off-leash socialization and exercise contributes to my dog being a well-adjusted and healthy dog. It is also personally important for me for my own physical and recreational activity to enjoy walking with my dog offleash. I know many other dog owners and others who agree with this. If my dog had to be leashed, none of these benefits would be the same for me.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco transferred its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning" (16 U.S.C., section 460bb). GGNRA should not be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco. Continuing to make offleash recreation a primary use in areas of GGNRA is a good use of the land.

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*Susan Berman*

03-19-02 11:39AM FROM BRKLEY LAW GROUP

TO 5614355

P005/006

4121-01-10

*March 8, 2002*

Via Fax: 415/561-4355

RON BERMAN  
91 HAZEL ROAD  
BERKELEY, CA94705-2401  
*510/849-0757*Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attention: Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Fort Mason,  
Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

In response to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's ("GGNRA") Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("ANPR") FR Doc. 02-568, filed January 10, 2002, I support the long-standing tradition of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

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Off-leash dog-walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco transferred its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning" (16 U.S.C., section 460bb). GGNRA should not be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco. Continuing to make offleash recreation a primary use in areas of GGNRA is a good use of the land.

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*Ron Berman/SB*

03-19-02 11:39AM FROM BRKLEY LAW GROUP TO 5614355

P006/006

4122 - 01 - 1E

*March 8, 2002*

Courtney Berman

Via Fax: 415/561-4355

295 E. Evelyn, #115  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-3205

Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attention: Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Fort Mason,  
Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

In response to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's ("GGNRA") Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("ANPR") FR Doc. 02-568, filed January 10, 2002, I support the long-standing tradition of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

My dog Izzy is an important member of my family. Off-leash socialization and exercise contributes to my dog being a well-adjusted and healthy dog. It is also personally important for me for my own physical and recreational activity to enjoy walking with my dog offleash. I know many other dog owners and others who agree with this. If my dog had to be leashed, none of these benefits would be the same for me.

Off-leash dog walking was an intended recreational activity when San Francisco transferred its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA and when the GGNRA was established to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning" (16 U.S.C., section 460bb). GGNRA should not be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco. Continuing to make offleash recreation a primary use in areas of GGNRA is a good use of the land.

There is room for offleash activity in GGNRA's 75,000 acres. Traditionally, off-leash use has occurred in only 0.5% of this land. Off-leash activity can continue while respecting other park uses, including preservation of natural resources and other recreational uses.

I am a responsible dog owner. I pick up my dog's waste. I do not leave trash but leave the parks clean. I watch that my dog does not disturb people, wildlife, or plants. If GGNRA continues to permit off-leash access for people with dogs, I will support it as a community member in whatever way I can. Thank you for your attention to this.

*Courtney Berman/SB*

4123 - 01 - 1A



"Coffey, Kathryn"  
<kathryn.coffey@db.com>  
m>

To: "goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: In support of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA

03/19/2002 03:40 PM  
EST

To : GGNRA  
Re: ANPR

I am a San Francisco resident and dog owner. I am in support of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. I see on a daily basis the very effective integration of off-leash dogs and their guardians on the beaches and people walking and biking on the paths and beach. Families who are looking for a less crowded beach use the very large NO DOGS beach at the west end of Crissy Field.

I have noticed that dog owners are very responsible. They keep their dogs on close voice command and often make an effort to leave the beach cleaner than how they found it.

Off-leash recreation is an important part of maintaining a healthy, well-balanced and socialized dog population. It is also important for dog owners to be able to exercise and enjoy the parks with their pets. I am in support of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

Kathy

Kathryn E. Coffey  
Managing Director  
Equity Private Placements  
Deutsche Banc Alex. Brown

Tel : 415-617-2849

Fax : 415-617-3046

Email : kathryn.coffey@db.com <mailto:kathryn.coffey@db.com>

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2124-01-1A



GScott1066@aol.com  
03/19/2002 03:49 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc: GScott1066@aol.com  
Subject: Special Rule for Off-Leash Recreation

**I strongly support rule for off-leash recreation for dogs in Golden Gate National Park area. There should be some park land where our dogs can play off-leash. It is, after all, a public park, which ought to entitle owners and their pet dogs to have access for recreation also. Please consider my opinion in your decision making. Thank you.**

**Georgiana Scott  
514 Naples Street  
San Francisco, CA 94112**

"gaylemjs"  
<gaylemjs@prodigy.net>  
t>

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc: <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: Fw: Support of off-leash recreation areas

03/19/2002 12:35 PM  
PST

As a very responsible dog owner whose life is very enhanced by activities with my dog, I strongly support the maintenance of the very small percentage of area (0.5% of 75,000 acres) that currently exist in GGNRA for dogs to be off leash. I personally believe that the areas not only should be decreased but rather increased. Most dog owners using these spaces are very responsible. Penalties for those who are irresponsible should be great. People uncomfortable with dogs have multiple alternative spaces--which dog owners don't for their dogs to be unleashed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gayle Donsky  
Mill Valley

4126-01-3B

 Parklady@aol.com  
03/19/2002 03:08 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: OFF LEASH

I am in favor of off leash in parks for  
dogs and everywhere.

4127 - 01 - 1A



Ira Altschiller  
<iraa@mindspring.com>  
m>

03/19/2002 12:05 PM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: leash law feedback

feedback on the leash laws...

I love dogs.

Although many dog owners are responsible, a large enough minority are not, for leash laws to be required in the parks.

If dogs are to be unleashed, it must be in restricted areas with continual supervision by dog owners. The dogs must be tested to see if they respond to voice commands. The owners must be instructed to give those commands and to stay near their dogs.

I saw an older woman with a large dog entering the GGNRA the other day. The dog was running up to people while the owner stood looking out at the bay. The dog wasn't just sniffing and browsing, it was charging people.

The owner made no attempt to recall the dog, or even to supervise the dogs behavior. When a young mother asked that the owner leash the dog the owner simply walked further up the path. The dog was on its own and so was the public.

Please see to it that the public is protected. If you don't, sooner or later, someone will be attacked or maimed in a public space.

thank you,

T.H. McGrory  
San Francisco

4128-01-10



"valerie peck"  
<vpeck1@hotmail.com  
>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject:

03/19/2002 12:03 PM  
PST

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of the Bay Area (Oakland) who moved up here 6 years ago and was excited to find so many popular areas where my well trained, picked up after, dogs (2) could go off leash.

In fact, i choose to live in the Oakland Hills as so many recreational opportunities were available to us there. I live in a house now appraised at over \$800K and pay taxes accordingly.

I would like to make the point that i should be allowed (and encouraged) to recreate with my dogs in areas that historically have been dog friendly. In close in, urban parks and beaches we can and should expect high levels of recreation and use. I am a member of the national trust, sierra club and several other organizations which keep pristine wilderness just that. There IS a difference and we need to address that in a balance in this heavily congested area. Further, we need to allocate funding for all types of multi-use recreation and clearly educate and police misusers of all types.

I have been involved in a number of efforts over the past three years that have looked at all of the relevant facts around environment, multi-use facilities and dog nuisances to come to the conclusion that dogs themselves, off leash, do not harm the overall urban recreation areas. Rainfall, or the lack, human pollution and litter have far more affect on areas than dogs. That is even more true with educated and compliant owners.

Please keep the historically dog friendly areas of the GNRA intact for all of us.

valerie peck

---

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4129-01-38



"Amy Lennane"  
<aclenna@mindspring.com>

03/19/2002 12:04 PM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_ANPR@nps.gov>  
cc: <fortfunston@hotmail.com>, "Amy Lennane"  
<aclenna@mindspring.com>  
Subject: ANPR Comment: In Support of Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA

Dear GGNRA,

I am writing to support the efforts of off-leash dog walking in Fort Funston, and other areas of San Francisco. Fort Funston is a special place that has become a community of responsible dog lovers. I take my two Labrador Retrievers there every day, and I believe that one of the reasons they are as happy and healthy as they are, is because they get off-leash exercise in a safe environment that encourages socialization with other dogs. Whenever I have visitors in town, I always bring them to Fort Funston with me to walk the dogs, and they are always amazed at how wonderful "doggie heaven" is.

San Francisco and surrounding areas, especially Skyline Boulevard in such close proximity, have an enormous number of beautiful recreational areas and hiking trails that do not allow dogs. There are only a few recreational areas that allow dogs at all, and Fort Funston is one of only a select few that allow dogs off-leash. I don't understand the importance or relevance of changing the policy at Fort Funston to be on-leash only when there are so many other recreational areas that don't even allow dogs--it's not as if we are limited on recreational space in the Bay Area.

Please allow Fort Funston to remain an off-leash area. It's good for the well-being of the dogs and the owners, and is a great benefit of living in the city of San Francisco.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Lennane  
[aclenna@mindspring.com](mailto:aclenna@mindspring.com)



"Kathleen Connolly"  
<kconnolly@jsco.net>

03/19/2002 11:58 AM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Off Leash Rules

I am the owner of a twelve year old dog, Rosie. She is a Puli, an extremely friendly breed that likes people over other dogs. She is medium size, about 30 pounds. One of the pleasures of my week is to take her to Fort Funston for a relaxed walk and to enjoy the environment. We have done this for years. She is under voice control at all times. I urge you to consider rules that are moderate and to consider all aspects of stewardship of the natural resource we all treasure here in the Bay Area. Dogs need a place where they can roam leash-free. They cooperate with us in the City where they somehow know that they must be on a leash on city streets and around pedestrians and cars. But, dogs are eager to be off leash to play. I know of areas where dogs are no longer permitted and these areas have become deserted and unsafe because people go elsewhere with their pets. There is safety in numbers of people frequenting an area. Please work with dog owners to come up with an acceptable dog-friendly policy which also protects the environment.



Acksfo@aol.com

03/19/2002 02:21 PM  
EST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Off Leash Recreation

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support creating a special rule that would allow certain areas of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (in particular, Fort Funston in San Francisco) to be allocated as off-leash areas for dog walking.

Aaron Cooper  
San Francisco

4132 - 01 - 8



JACHeney@aol.com

03/19/2002 02:07 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov

cc:

Subject: Requesting the creation of an off leash policy in the GGNRA

goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov

Dear Chairperson:

This email is written to support the creation of a special rule for off leash recreation at the GGNRA from the Friends of the Alta Plaza Park (Pacific Heights, San Francisco).

The primary reason for this request is to relay the positive experience found by the positive absence from the presence of crime, both violent and petty, due in part to the constant, random presence of small groups of dog owners and dogs at the Alta Plaza Park in San Francisco.

There is no doubt from local neighborhoods that the Alta Plaza park area has experienced a drop off and shift in of violent crime from the Alta Plaza city (SF) park, including freedom drug dealing, violent crime and even petty crime because of the presence of dog owners and dogs. We have experienced both a general drop of crime especially in early mornings and evenings when in fact most off leash recreation occurs.

We expect a similar reduction in crime at GGNRA and continued reduction in crime by approving the request to the GGNRA to create a special rule allowing off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. And we support that a special rule be created to allowed in achieving this exemption at the ANPR (Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) process.

A risky alternative and unpredictably large fall off of the presence of dog owners and dogs at the GGNRA may occur if this special rule is not adopted.

This email is written to support the creation of a special rule for off leash recreation at the GGNRA from the Friends of the Alta Plaza Park (Pacific Heights).

Sincerely yours.

John Cheney  
Chairman  
Friends of Alta Plaza Park Association  
2914 Sacramento Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
415-693-1126

4133-01-1A



"Ost, Linda"  
<Linda.Ost@tmp.com>  
03/19/2002 12:46 PM  
CST

To: "goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Please save off leash recreation for people and dogs

I am writing to state my position in support of off leash recreation for dogs and people at Ocean Beach and other beaches where it has been traditionally allowed.

It is import to have a place where we can be free to run and play with our animals. We have traditionally been free to play with our dogs off leash on the beaches for years - please don't take this freedom from us.

Thank you,

Linda Ost  
27 - 28th St  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
415-282-6474  
linda.ost@tmp.com

4134-01-1A



Jennifer Bicket-Davis  
<jbicket@itsa.ucsf.edu  
>

To: goga\_pets\_ANPR@nps.gov  
cc: fortfunston@hotmail.com  
Subject: ANPR Comment: In Support of Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA

03/19/2002 10:20 AM  
PST

To whom it may concern:

I am in support of the off-lease dog walking in GGNRA, specifically Crissy Field and Fort Funston. With the excellent public transit service in San Francisco, many people do not have cars and therefore, the South San Francisco dog walking site is not an option.

Thank you!  
Jennifer Bicket  
San Francisco

4135-01-3B



"derek gotko"  
<d\_gotko@hotmail.co  
m>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject:

03/19/2002 10:15 AM  
PST

>>I am writing to tell you that I support creation of a special rule to  
>>allow off-leash recreation in portions of the GGNRA. The actions of a few  
>>bad dogs should not outweigh the fact that there are many San Francisco  
>>dog owners and dog walkers who take great care of their dogs.

Thank you for your understanding and fairness in making this decision.

Derek Gotko

---

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<http://www.hotmail.com>

4136-01-1A



Helen Nigg  
<helennigg@yahoo.com>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject:

03/19/2002 10:08 AM  
PST

Dear Sir/Madam:

As lifetime dog lovers and residents of San Francisco, we would urge you to open up some areas within the GGNR for off-leash dogs. It's a shame that, as avid hikers and runners, we are restricted from bringing our dogs into the park with us. They deserve a place to exercise as well!

Sincerely,

Helen Nigg, 4180 Cesar Chavez St, San Francisco, CA 94131

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Kim Knight  
<kimk@interpacific-gr  
oup.com>

03/19/2002 09:57 AM  
PST

To: "goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Off-leash recreation in the GGNRA

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of a special rule allowing off-leash dog recreation in parts of the GGNRA. I own a very high energy and extremely well socialized hunting dog. Not only do nice off-leash runs help him expend his energy in a fun and productive manner, it brings me great joy to see him racing down the beach to retrieve a ball or playing intense games of 'doggy chase'. This unfettered fun playtime has allowed him to quickly pick-up good dog manners and the repeated exposure to other dogs and their owners has taught him to be an excellent 'canine good citizen'.

I cannot over-emphasize the sheer pleasure I get out of watching my canine companion thoroughly enjoy his free romps at Funston and elsewhere. We have developed quite a social circle from this activity as well.

We are very conscientious about picking up doggy litter and steering clear of picnics, etc. We typically walk earlier in the day to allow picnickers and families (Crissy field and Baker Beach, specifically) their privacy.

However, when we do see families, children tend to gravitate toward me and my dog (more my snuggly-looking dog than me). This has given us wonderful opportunities to educate youngsters about how to approach dogs, responsibilities of pet ownership, and dog information in general. I have had more than one parent pull me aside and thank me for giving the children the 'reality' side of pet ownership. None of this would be possible if off-leash recreation in the GGNRA was not allowed - we would simply have to go elsewhere.

Thank you for taking the time to listen (read) my concerns - I believe we can come up with usage plan that will accommodate all park users, including off-leash recreation.

Patricia Knight  
InterPacific Group  
President - PIC Products  
(415) 781-7767, ext. 223

4138-01-13



Laurie Cohen  
<lcohen383@earthlink.net>

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc: <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: off-leash dogs

03/19/2002 09:56 AM  
PST

To whom it may concern:

I have had several dogs as pets (one at a time) over the 26 years I have lived in Mill Valley. My dogs have always been trained to voice control, and I have therefore been able to safely enjoy the off-leash trails which have been available to us in the Bay Area. The trails which are available are large enough and well-travelled enough by humans and dogs that we do not form a threat to wild-life. Please do not take the off-leash trails away from us!

Laurie Cohen

Sincerely,

4139-01-1A



Paul Lee  
<polx@pacbell.net>  
03/19/2002 10:00 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
CC:  
Subject: Dog walking off-lease.

I support creation of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some portions of the GGNRA, particularly Fort Funston & Ocean Beach.

Paul Lee  
1311 La Playa #5  
San Francisco, CA 94122

4140 - 01 - 1A



Katherine Madariaga  
<katherine@landispr.com>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Comment of Support

03/19/2002 09:51 AM  
PST

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to tell you that I support creation of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some portion of the GGNRA. My roommates and I are dog owners in the Presidio in San Francisco, and while I do acknowledge that there are a limited number of irresponsible dog owners, they do not, and could not, come close to the number of responsible, loving and caring dog owners in the city.

There is a huge amount of dog owners to take the time and consideration to train their pets, pick up after them and make sure that they act in a responsible way.

Please do not let the actions of a few bad seeds reflect the way that other dogs are treated. It is important that dogs have an area to run, stretch their legs and act like dogs.

Katherine Madariaga

Katherine Madariaga  
katherine@landispr.com  
(415) 561-0888  
1388 Sutter St. Suite 920  
San Francisco, CA 94109



Dave Bond  
<dbond@aztecsoft.co  
m>

03/19/2002 09:45 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Support for Off-Leash recreation in GGNRA

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support for off-leash recreation in a portion of the GGNRA. I live in the South Bay but frequently travel to SF to enjoy off-leash time with my dog at Fort Funston. It is one of the only places left in the Bay Area that allows a dog to run free and enjoy themselves.

If we continue on the course of restricting dog activities, dogs will have no opportunities to socialize and they will not learn appropriate behavior (dog to dog or dog to people). Dogs that are cooped up are the ones most likely to exhibit negative behaviors.

Please take the appropriate action to ensure our continued ability to use a portion of the GGNRA open space for off-leash dog recreation.

Thank you,

Dave Bond  
Dog and Freedom Lover  
Campbell, CA

4142-01-1A



Martha  
<martha@landispr.co  
m>

03/19/2002 09:49 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
CC:  
Subject: Create a rule to allow off-leash recreation!

I am writing in support of creation of an off-leash recreation law in some portion of the GGNRA.

The majority of dog owners in San Francisco are responsible care givers who indulge well-trained dogs in off-leash recreation in the many gorgeous settings that make San Francisco such a great city in which to own a dog. The actions of a few bad dogs should not outweigh the fact that most dogs are well-behaved. If laws regarding human behavior were made based on the actions of the most extremely misbehaved people, imagine the consequences. Don't punish dogs and their owners in an equally unjust way.

Thank you,

Martha Shaughnessy  
3376 A 21st Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110

Martha Shaughnessy  
Account Coordinator  
Landis Communications, Inc.  
ph. 415.561.0888  
f. 415.561.0778  
martha@landispr.com

4143-01-1A



Lauren Petersen  
<Lauren@landispr.com>

03/19/2002 09:42 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Off-leash dog recreation in GGNRA

To Whom It May Concern --

I support the development of a rule that allows off-leash dog recreation in some portion of the GGNRA. The actions of a handful of bad dogs / dog owners should not outweigh the fact that there are many San Francisco dog owners and dog walkers who take great care of their dogs.. and dogs who are obedient and well-trained.

Lauren Petersen

Lauren Petersen  
Senior Account Executive  
Landis Communications, Inc.  
San Francisco, California  
(Ph) 415.561.0888  
(F) 415.561.0778  
lauren@landispr.com

4144-01-10



Gregory Herek  
<ggnra@herek.net>  
03/19/2002 09:25 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_ANPR@nps.gov  
CC:  
Subject: Off-leash policy at GGNRA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge you to make provisions for off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area so that responsible dog owners can enjoy the GGNRA. I also strongly support efforts to persuade the National Park Service to end aggressive enforcement of leash rules in the areas of the GGNRA identified by the 1979 GGNRA Pet Policy as allowing off-leash recreation. Instead, I urge that the NPS give citations only for aggressive or destructive dogs.

Dog ownership is an important fact of life for residents of the Bay Area, and responsible dog owners need a place to exercise their pets in open space. Dog owners also have the right - like hikers, bicyclists, frisbee players, hang gliders, kite flyers, and other recreation enthusiasts - to enjoy the GGNRA as long as they behave in a responsible fashion and keep their dogs under control.

Sincerely,  
Gregory M. Herek

---

Greg Herek  
P.O. Box 11196  
Berkeley, CA 94712-2196 USA  
+1 (510) 841-6842 (voice)  
+1 (510) 841-8006 (fax; 8 am - 11 pm Pacific time)  
<<http://www.herek.net>>

4145-01-1A



SWeil46117@aol.com

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov

03/19/2002 12:24 PM  
EST

CC:  
Subject: re: yes, on off leash recreation area

Dear GGNRA,

I have been walking my dogs for the past 15 years out at Ft. Funston. I believe that 95% of the people who walk their dogs there are responsible pet owners. We have monthly organized cleanups to follow-up on that 5% of owners who aren't as responsible.

If we lived in Wyoming where there was tons of open space for dogs to run free we wouldn't need at Ft. Funston / beach off leash area. But, we live in an urban area and we still need for humans and dogs a touch of the outdoors and room to run.

I strongly support creation of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some portion of the GGNRA and especially Ft. Funston.

Thank You.

Sandy Weil 2083 - 28th Ave. SF, CA 94116

4146-01-3B



"G. Burk"  
<gburk@wpink.com>

03/19/2002 09:29 AM  
PST

Please respond to gburk

To: <goga\_pets\_ANPR@nps.gov>  
cc: <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: ANPR Comment: In Support of Off-leash Dog Walking in the GGNRA

I am not a dog owner but greatly enjoy my visits to fort funston. My wife and I have spent the day there many times, walking or sometimes laying on the beach. The fact that dogs can run free has never bothered us or in any way been a problem. In fact one of the primary reasons we go there is to see the companionship between owners and their canine friends. This is one of the last places available where people can have good fellowship with other dog owners, while enjoying watching their dogs play together in a safe environment. Those people who are determined to put an end to this privilege, I believe do not understand the dynamics of the bond between a dog and his owner, and the need to enjoy Gods creation together. To regulate them to a fenced in patch of dirt and call that off leash recreation would be a crime.

Sincerely,

Gary S Burk

4147-01-3B



"Michael Tino"  
<m.tino@lycos.com>

03/19/2002 09:26 AM  
PST

Please respond to m.tino

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: zero needs freedom!!!

...Please allow him this.  
my 9-lb miniature pinscher is harmless  
don't enforce something he cannot defend

I SUPPORT the creation of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some  
portion of the GGNRA.

sincerely,

Michael J Tino  
artist  
poet  
dog owner-8 years

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4148-01-3B



Gael Johnson  
<gjohnson@gelsons.com>

03/19/2002 09:13 AM  
PST

To: "goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: off leash support

I do not live in the area, but visit on a regular basis with my dogs, and I totally support creation of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some portion of the GGNRA. Dog owners need to have an area where there is a safe place for their dogs to run, we need support for these things.

We obviously do not want to take our dogs to places where it is illegal to let them run, so an area where this can be legally and safely done is very important!

-g-

Gael Johnson  
Systems Department Ext. 774

Visit Gelson's on the Web at [www.gelsons.com](http://www.gelsons.com)

4149-01-1A



Jaime King  
<JKing@eipassociates  
.com>

03/19/2002 09:08 AM  
PST

To: "goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Off- Leash Recreation

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to tell you that I support creation of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some portion of the GGNRA. I have been a dog owner in this City for many years and while I recognize that there are a few owners who do not control their dogs, **they are far outnumbered by the many responsible dog owners and dog walkers in San Francisco. There are a great many of us who take the time to train our dogs, pick up after them and keep them on leash when there are too many people/children around.**

Please do not take away our off leash recreation or I fear that you will find that many of us will leave our beloved City and add to the growing number of For Rent signs springing up around the City.

I support off leash areas in the GGNRA.

Thank you,

Jaime King  
1588 E Stillwell Road  
San Francisco, CA 94129  
415-387-2917



lvy.gif

4150-01-1A



"Robert Spagat"  
<rspagat@thelenreid.com>

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: off leash dog use at GGNRA

03/19/2002 09:04 AM  
PST

I am a San Francisco resident. I have a family, which includes a dog. My family and I frequently go to Fort Funston to walk our dog off leash. We occasionally walk our dog at Crissy Field. We strongly support off leash dog walking at GGNRA in general, and Fort Funston in particular.

We believe that Fort Funston is an important and highly used asset for the thousands of local residents with dogs. In a place where most people do not have a back yard big enough to accommodate dogs, it is critical that there be adequate off leash spaces. Please bear in mind that Fort Funston represents only a small fraction of GGNRA, and the available beaches along the San Francisco coast, almost all of which is completely off limits to dogs. Please allow off leash dog walking at Fort Funston and Crissy Field.

Bob Spagat

4151-01-3B



"Julie Hardgrove"  
<hcc@hardgrovecline.  
com>

03/19/2002 08:49 AM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Off-leash access in GGNRA

Good morning - I just wanted to send you an e-mail in support of creating a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some portions of the GGNRA. My husband and I and our Golden Retriever, June, love wandering through the doggy areas of GGNRA. We leash her when required and/or appropriate and we never allow her to run after the permanent inhabitants of the park. Being a retriever, she loves access to beaches and the ocean where she can play forever!

Thanks!

Julie Hardgrove  
Oakland, CA

4152-02-1A



"Sickles, Dale, Public  
Health, FHS"  
<DSickles@co.alamed  
a.ca.us>

To: "goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Dog walking rules at Crissy Field

03/19/2002 08:41 AM  
PST

I am writing in support of a rule banning all off-leash dogs from Crissy Field.

I live 1 block from the Presidio and have been walking at Crissy Field almost everyday for a long time. I also am a dog owner, who walks her dog in other parts of the Presidio, always on a leash. I have observed the damage to both the environment and the peaceful atmosphere of Crissy Field by dogs, large and small, freely running all over the area. These are the specific problems:

1. Off leash dogs chase birds. Crissy Field is attempting to become a wildlife habitat, attracting species of birds and other animals that previously were common to the area. More and more seabirds and shorebirds have come since the restoration. Dogs chase sea gulls and other birds while they are on land, and ducks, gulls, etc. when the dogs swim in the water. Such behavior frightens birds, discourages them from nesting in the area and from coming during spring and fall migration. The increasing variety of birds is a joy to bird-watchers, like myself, and others who just like to observe animals in their natural habitat.
2. Off leash dogs can frighten people. Large dogs often run up to strangers to sniff them or to encourage them to play. Having a dog at home, and probably carrying its scent on my clothes, these dogs often come very close to me and occasionally appear menacing. Little children, often toddlers barely able to walk, are side-swiped by fast running dogs whose owners are jogging or on bikes, skates, etc. Small children often learn to ride bikes at Crissy Field and while trying very hard to stay on the bike, are accosted by freely running dogs. These children are often very frightened by the dogs who approach them very close and as a result fall off the bike. The children may not have dogs at home and are not used to such close contact with them. Infants in carriages are approached by dogs, who attempt to check them out much too closely. Off-leash dogs often fight with each other, or play very roughly--a frightening spectacle to a person not familiar with canine behavior.
3. Off leash dogs are a menace to bikers, roller-skaters, joggers: Freely running dogs may chase fast moving persons, causing accidents and injuries. These dogs also cause collisions with bikers and skaters who may not see them come from behind or on the side. It should not take a serious incident or a death to finally place a ban off leash dogs.
4. Off leash dogs are a health hazard. Dog urine and feces contain organisms pathogenic to humans. Dogs are eliminating waste on the sand where children play or in the water where children bathe. In addition, the waste is injurious to plants. A great amount of effort and expense has been put into planting native flora at Crissy Field. Although the planting is fenced in, dogs do get through the fence, or at the very least can urinate on the border of the plantings, causing the chemicals in their urine to seep into the ground nurturing the plants. Many dog owners do clean up after their pets, but small remains of feces and all the urine remains on the ground. Having to watch where one steps, or even to have to look at occasional dog waste spoils the beauty and enjoyment of Crissy Field.
5. Off leash dogs prevent many pet owners from walking their dogs at Crissy Field because of fear of their dogs being attacked by freely running aggressive dogs. I can attest to this particular problem. I have to walk my dog separately from my Crissy Field outing everyday, in an area that I know will have no off leash dogs.

In summary, off leash dogs ruin the wonderful experience of walking, biking and jogging at, and bringing your children to Crissy Field. I have enjoyed Crissy Field from the time I moved to San Francisco in 1973 when only very little of it was open to the public. I have watched the development of its natural resources over the past 3 years with great pleasure. Off leash dogs are ruining this newly rejuvenated ecological

4152-02-1A

masterpiece. They should be banned from the entire area and given other areas of the Presidio to run freely.

Dale Sickles

4153-01-1A



Ginnelle Elliott  
<ginnelleelliott@yahoo.com>

03/19/2002 08:34 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov, Ginnelle Elliott  
<ginnelleelliott@yahoo.com>  
cc:  
Subject: Save off leash area in GGNRA

Ginnelle Elliott  
3237 Octavia Street #3  
San Francisco, Ca 94123  
(415)409-1179

March 19, 2002

To whom it may concern,

As a proud and responsible owner of two dogs, I desperately implore you to keep the off-leash areas in the GGNRA for use by all dogs under voice control. I take my Bichon Frise's daily to Crissy Field, where they love to run and interact with each other and the other dogs along the beach. It is not only the highlight of their day, but as well my own. We are also conscious of picking up after our dogs and filling in any holes dug up in play--this is a common practice amongst all dog owners that I have observed.

My husband and I donate our time and money to the GGNRA because we are so grateful of the pleasures it allows us and our dogs.

I am opposed to creating a fence in area for the dogs because as the owner of two small dogs, I have found in general that the dogs are intimidated by the large dogs in such a small area. Dogs need to be able to run free and in 0.5% of the 75,000 acres of park land---this should be allowed!!!

I agree that if any animals or land was in serious danger than precautions should be taken but the land that my dogs enjoy so much is a former military base that has been shaped by man for years.

Please save the off-leash areas for dogs and their owners alike to be able to enjoy and protect for future generations.

Thank you,  
Ginnelle Elliott

---

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<http://sports.yahoo.com/>

4154-01-1A



"Anna-Kajs Johnson"  
<annakajs@earthlink.net>

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc: "Fort Funston" <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: ANPR

03/19/2002 08:34 AM  
PST

Please respond to  
"Anna-Kajs Johnson"

At my asge - 76 yrs - it is essential to be able to have an area where my dog - 3 yrs - can get adequate exercise to remain healthy and be a support to me. Dogs perform so many helpful services to man that the very least we can do in return is give them the freedom to pursue what they like the most - a chance to run and romp with their fellow companion creatures. Give them a chance to enjoy life and continue to serve us so lovingly and unselfishly. Anna-Kajs Johnson 706 Douglass S.F. Ca 94114

4155-01-1A



mdg39  
<mdg39@mindspring.com>

03/19/2002 08:21 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Off Leash allowance in GGNRA

I am a responsible pet owner, and I support the off leash allowance in GGNRA

It is a small area, that pet owners are careful to maintain clean and pick up after their pets.....

Please keep this dog loving asset possible for SF residents.

Thank you

Marc D Glomb  
1542 15th street  
SF, CA 94103

--

Please note the following NEW information:  
E-Mail / USPS Mail / Home Telephone

Marc D Glomb  
1542 15th street  
SF, CA 94103

415-626-0451 Home  
415-999-7990 Mobile

Note my NEW MOBILE NUMBER

4156-01-3B



GRIFF1315@aol.com  
03/19/2002 11:07 AM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
CC:  
Subject: Off leash dogs at Fort Funston

Please allow us to use Fort Funston as a dog and family location with dogs allowed off leash. For the many many years my family has been taking our dogs to

Ft. Funston we have been very careful to clean up after ourselves, be responsible for anyone or anything we bring, and most of all to rejoice in the beauty and great community that exists there.  
Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Griffin family,

Ann, Sean, Patrick, Michael

canines Ranger and Doyle.

The

Michael,

and

4157-01-3B



"Dennis Dougherty"  
<dennis@cagwin.com  
>

03/19/2002 08:02 AM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>

cc: <khrysti@cagwin.com>, "Angela Jones" <Angela.Jones@cagwin.com>, "Kristen Giomi" <Kristen.Giomi@cagwin.com>, "Wendy Holohan" <Wendy.Holohan@cagwin.com>

Subject: GGNRA 1% - Keep it for the Dogs and their owners

I want you to know we are disappointed that it is being proposed that the 1% GGNRA lands that are reserved for dogs since the 70's are now being considered to be taken away.

When I am on walks with our dogs picking up pieces of glass, beer bottles and cans, plastic junk, and other discards... I always wonder why there is so much hostility to the few beings that don't litter, spray paint, break outdoor accommodations and disfigure signs, dispose of drug paraphernalia and dump bags of garbage from their cars.

Being a fourth generation native California and being around dogs all of my life... I have seen a complete transformation from where dogs could go just about anywhere to where they can't go anywhere at all.

It is shameful and arrogant that humans, as sloppy and inconsiderate as they can be, think they can impose their laws on all creatures great and small.

Dennis Dougherty

4158-01-1A



Ethan Ewing  
<ethanewing@yahoo.com>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Off Leash

03/19/2002 07:29 AM  
PST

Hello,

I am strongly in support of designating a portion of the GGNRA land as 'off-leash' for dog recreation. Thanks.

Ethan

=====

Ethan Ewing  
(415)846-9343 mobile  
(415)664-3618 home  
ethanewing@yahoo.com  
836 Clayton Street, Lower Unit  
San Francisco, CA 94117  
eFax (810)815-2779

---

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<http://sports.yahoo.com/>

4159-01-3B



"Janet M. Suzio"  
<janetmac@pacbell.net>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Create an off leash Law ...

03/19/2002 06:49 AM  
PST

Please create a new law to continue the off leash practice at Fort Funston. It has provided a social and community atmosphere in the confines of the concrete jungle. This kind of community is truly the spirit of old San Francisco.

Thank you,  
Janet McCormack Suzio and Sheba

4160-01-3B



"Dennis Dehne"  
<ddehne@hotmail.com  
>

03/19/2002 06:42 AM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: I support off-leash dog laws

I want to let you know that I support the off-leash dog rules.  
Please allow us to use Fort Funston without leashes.

Thanks

Dennis Dehne

---

Chat with friends online, try MSN Messenger: <http://messenger.msn.com>

4161-01-3B



"Irene McLaughlin"  
<imclaughlin@ytc.org>  
03/19/2002 09:10 AM  
EST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Keep Dogs Off-Leash

Dear Sir or Madam:

I want to express my support for retention of the off-leash recreational area in the Golden Gate National Recreation

Area. Behavioral problems in dogs arise when animals are not afforded opportunities to romp and play and socialize with other animals. When they are left without space to run, they are more likely to act out and exhibit the very behaviors you are trying to protect people who use your facilities from.

There has been tremendous negative press surrounding one or two incidents where irresponsible owners raising dogs to be vicious and have failed to regularly exercise their dogs have allowed their pets to go off-leash illegally in a confined area. Under these circumstances, it is no surprise that the dogs have behaved viciously. By contrast, the dog owners who use your facilities tend to be a responsible population, regularly exercise their dogs in an effort to stave off such behavior, and do not in any way resemble those exceptions whom the media would like to portray as the rule.

I understand that you want to keep people safe from animals that have behavioral problems. However, by removing off-leash areas, you will actually be exacerbating the behavior problems that you are hoping to minimize. Removing recreational spaces for animals does not merely inconvenience dog owners, it endangers everyone.

I am not a dog owner. I am a mother of a three-year-old girl. I was bitten by a dog when I was my daughter's age. The dog that bit me was on a leash. Leashes do not prevent dogs from biting -- responsible pet ownership, regular animal exercise and proper dog training does. As someone who survived a dog attack as a child, I urge you, please, do not remove the recreational areas in your facilities. You'll end up putting more children in danger.

Sincerely,  
Irene McLaughlin

4162-04-1B



"Bali Gardens"  
<baligardens@attbi.com>

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Support of off-leash recreation

03/19/2002 06:21 AM  
PST  
Please respond to "Bali  
Gardens"

Hello,

I am writing to express my support for off leash recreation for dogs. I live in Marin, and my dog and I take daily off leash hikes in the open space areas. I have taken extensive time to train her, private training for a year, and refreshers when needed. I think most dog owners take this approach; responsibility is the norm, not the exception. The exception is obnoxious owners with dogs. As the saying goes - one bad apple doesn't spoil the whole bunch! Please allow off leash recreation for dogs. I believe that responsible off-leash recreation can be accommodated in the GGNRA .

Thank you,

Jennifer Smuck (and Jenga)  
7 Melville Avenue  
San Anselmo  
CA 94960

415 482 7819



see attached photos!! :) hug.jpg kiss.jpg vineyard.jpg

1/4

4162-04-1B



2/4





4163 - 01 - 1A



"Julie Christenson"  
<jchristenson@ix.netcom.com>

03/19/2002 02:14 PM  
CET

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Yes for off-leash recreation

I support creation of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some portion of the GGNRA.

Julie Christenson  
1902 Steiner St #C  
SF, CA, 94115  
415-308-6838

4164-01-13



RWSommer@aol.com  
03/19/2002 03:38 AM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
CC:  
Subject: I support offleash special rule

Gentlemen,

I am writing you to express strong support for a special rule in the GGNRA for allowing offleash dog recreation.

Dogs do not need to be restrained everywhere, and dogs and their owners need some space to let dogs run free. I urge you to create this special rule.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rene Sommer  
161 Bayview Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94901

RWSommer@aol.com

4165-01-3B



"Allan Turpin III"  
<alturpin@worldnet.att  
.net>

03/19/2002 12:25 AM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: please

Hello-

San Francisco and the Bay Area are unique in the tolerance for furry companions. Please create a special rule allowing designated off-leash areas. The dog community here has responsibly enjoyed this privilege, and you will be destroying a loose-knit but tightly bonded group who do no harm if the privilege is taken away. Animal lovers overwhelmingly support the park system, and though I can only speak for myself, if some areas are deemed too ecologically sensitive to allow dogs, I would support a decision to restrict access. However, I urge you to keep our access to the vast majority of these areas, as they are few and far between already.

Thank you,

AI Turpin

4166-01-1D



David Cohen  
<cohenc@earthlink.net>

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc: lmckay@earthlink.net  
Subject: allow off-leash recreation in some portion of the GGNRA

03/19/2002 12:10 AM  
PST

please support creation of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation  
in some portion of the GGNRA

david cohen

oakland ca

4167-01-3B



Michael Bode  
<michael\_bode@yahoo.com>

03/18/2002 11:30 PM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Off leash area support

To have a dog, or any pet for that matter, and not want a full life for it, is as distressing as thwarting one's child from finding it's full potential.

I read where the NPS established it's dog policies in 1916. One need not belabor the differences pets play today in the everyday lives of their guardians, compared to 1916. Never the less, more humans today are interacting with animals as true companions, and as such, they actively seek resources to promote their animals well being. I believe older humans are sharing lives with animals and not being equiped to support long walks with their animals on leashes, they deprive the animal of many of it's rightful enjoyments.

All of society needs space, whether to walk alone or romp with their pets. The NPS provides ample space for individual movement and should also provide space for those individuals to exercise their pets in a responsible and joyful way.

Michael Bode

---

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4168 - 01 - 1D



GLPass@aol.com  
03/19/2002 12:32 AM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Dogs on the GGNRA

We support a special ruling allowing dogs to have a place on the GGNRA.

Gloria Pass and Johannes Sluis  
2223 Acton Street  
Berkeley, Ca., 94702

Mar 19 02 03:29p

DONALD B. KING

(415) 759-1461

p. 1

4169-01-1A

**VIRGINIA TENNESON KING**  
35 Rockwood Court  
San Francisco, CA 94127  
415-566-1024

March 19, 2002

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

I am writing to request that you continue your policy of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

It is one of the few places in the Bay Area that allow dogs and their owners freedom to enjoy the use of open space together. For twenty-three years this policy has been successful and one that visitors to Fort Funston feel make the park special.

Traditionally, off-leash dog walking was a designated activity when San Francisco gave its beaches and coastal bluffs to the GGNRA.

I feel there is no justifiable reason to discontinue a policy that has worked for many years, giving pleasure to the thousands of people who use this area.

Respectfully,

*Virginia Tenneson King*

Virginia Tenneson King

MAR. 19. 2002 6:11PM

CHIRON VAC FIN&amp;PLAN

NO. 3242 P. 1

FAX TO: 4170-01-3B

Mar. 19, 2002

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

Superintendent  
Golden Gate National  
Recreation Area

Attention: ANPR  
415-561-4733 OR  
4355

Dear GGNRA Superintendent,

As a professional dog trainer, I am particularly and directly involved in the proposed rulings concerning off-leash dogs in the parks here in the San Francisco Bay Area. Let me start by saying that it is impossible to have a fully trained dog, one that is truly under the owner's control by having the animal permanently bound to a leash. The full control of a dog depends on the *difference* of expected behavior both on and off the leash. This is to say that when a dog is on leash he or she is *tactilely* taught what is expected of them. By placing a dog on the leash, they know how to walk, heel, etc. by learning what the *feel* of the leash means. This all-important technique can only be learned if the set of behaviors that go along with the leash (walking and heeling correctly) stand in direct contrast to what it means to be off the leash. This is also the reason why you see so many irresponsible dog owners that do not have control over their dogs being dragged around like an idiot bundle. In each and every case fully 98% of the dogs that exist can change their behaviors if taught correctly. There are really less than 2% bad dogs out there, which represent the minute amounts of poor and inbred breeding. You might be thinking that this number is larger, but as a professional, I must ask you to look closely at these figures. You will invariably be lead to a poor owner's excusing his or her irresponsibility. In each and every cases of incident there are 100% bad owners.

4170-01-1A



"Carboy, Michael"  
<michael.carboy@db.com>

03/19/2002 04:48 PM  
EST

To: "goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc: "Coffey, Kathryn" <kathryn.coffey@db.com>  
Subject: In support of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA

To : GGNRA  
Re: ANPR

I am a San Francisco resident and dog owner. I am in support of off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. I see on a daily basis the very effective integration of off-leash dogs and their guardians on the beaches and people walking and biking on the paths and beach. Families who are looking for a less crowded beach use the very large NO DOGS beach at the west end of Crissy Field. We note that far more space has been allocated for dog-free areas than seems consistent with usage patterns. I challenge the NPS to demonstrate that more non-dog owners are users of the Crissy Field areas than dog-owners.

I have noticed that dog owners are very responsible. They keep their dogs on close voice command and often make an effort to leave the beach cleaner than how they found it - unlike so many families and their odious children.

Off-leash recreation is an important part of maintaining a healthy, well-balanced and socialized dog population. It is also important for dog owners to be able to exercise and enjoy the parks with their pets. As taxpayers, we VOTE and will also make painfully clear in the next election cycle - local, state and federal - our displeasure with knee-jerk "political" decisions to satisfy a noisy minority of tree and dune huggers. It is a sad thing that Senator Joe McCarthy is no longer around to pillory the foolish initiatives of the NPS. I am in support of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in the GGNRA.

Regards,  
Michael E. Carboy  
3957 Washington St  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
Email : mcarboy@pacbell.net

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4171-01-3B



"Kennedy, Stefan"  
<skennedy@mfmlaw.com>

03/19/2002 01:44 PM  
PST

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

To whom it may concern:

My friends and I absolutely love taking our dogs to Fort Funston. It is a magical place for the dogs to explore, run and play. Fort Funston should remain an off-lease park. To require owners to leash their dogs would destroy the magic of the park. Also, there is no reason to change the lease laws. I have never seen any problems there. The people that bring their dogs there are very consciencious. Further, there are so many other places that non-dog-loving people can go to if they don't want to be around dogs. San Francisco is known throughout the world as a wonderful place to live because of the city's politics and lifestyle. When you see the dogs running around with such happiness, Fort Funston represents all that is good in the Bay Area.

Stefan Kennedy

4172-01-3B



Maureen Shive  
<mshive@avistar.com>  
>

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

03/19/2002 01:34 PM  
PST

Ft. Funston is my park too! The park system is for everyone's use and should not be limited to specific groups of people.

I have been a responsible dog owner for the past 5 years. My dog is trained to come when I call her and I always clean up after her. I am never, never without plastic bags! One of my greatest joys, as well as my dogs, is to walk at Ft. Funston. Even when I was a child, my father and I use to walk our dog there (I grew up less than a mile from the park). Why should I not be able to walk my dog there now? I don't understand why my tax dollars go to the upkeep of the park and then I am unable to use it. Ft. Funston is one of the few places when my dog can get a good workout. This has always been a place for people to walk their dogs on and off leash so I don't understand what the deal is to make the change now.

I urge you to keep Ft. Funston a place where dogs can run. There are plenty of protected areas that they are not allowed. Let us have a small area for our dogs!!!

Thank you for your consideration.

Maureen Shive

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4173-01-1A



Martha Abbene  
<mabbene@doremussf  
.com>

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: I urge you to support off-leash recreation!!1

03/19/2002 01:53 PM  
PST

I live in the Sunset and my dog loves it there because he can freely, with his buddies, in off-leash areas.

PLEASE support and maintain OFF-LEASH Areas!!!!

Thank you!

Martha Abbene  
1545 47th Avenue  
SF, CA 94122

415-664-1860

4174 - 01 - 10



RWinslowS@aol.com  
03/19/2002 05:09 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
CC:  
Subject: Proposed Rule Changes

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am opposed to changing the current rules regarding off leash pets in National Park units. I am a dog owner who believes that the park units are for wildlife and visitors and that off leash pets interfere with both of these. If the door is opened for off leash pet use in GGNRA can Yosemite, etc. be far behind?

Two of my children are NPS Rangers, both dog owners, who see the need to keep the current policy in force. With budget constraints being what they are, the additional cost of managing off leash dogs in NPS units will only add to the shortage of money for maintaining and improving the parks.

Changing this rule will have many negative consequences, some of them as yet unforeseen. Please keep the on leash rules as they are.

Sincerely,

Robin Smith  
32 Maple Avenue,  
Atherton, CA 94027

4175-01-3B



Mark Winter  
<mark@hiredhands.net>  
t>

To: "goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov" <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: PLEASE ALLOW OFF\_LEASH RECREATION!!!

03/19/2002 02:26 PM  
PST

To Whom It May Concern...

Please continue to allow off leash recreation for those responsible pet owners, and our furry friends!!!

Mark Winter  
President  
HIRED HANDS INC.  
mark@hiredhands.net

4176-01-3B



Bonncox@aol.com  
03/19/2002 05:27 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Support Special Rule

To whom it may concern: This note is to let you know that I fully support the creation of a special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some portion of the GGNRA. Thank you, Bonnie Herman

4177 -01-1D



gsgoodman@ucdavis.  
edu  
03/19/2002 02:49 PM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc: soundcolor@yahoo.com  
Subject: dogs

Dear National Parks Service:

I am writing on behalf of dogs and dog owners, to encourage you to permit some portions of the parks where dogs may run without leashes, under owners' voice control.

I am not a dog owner, but I consider it cruel to animals to create a world where dogs must always be inside or restrained to the pace of their owners.

With appropriate regulations and fences, generous spaces can be permitted for dogs to run free without endangering or inconveniencing people. Owners obviously must be held responsible for their dogs' good behavior, for their peaceful coexistence with people and other dogs, and for the removal of any solid wastes the dogs produce on public lands. Fines and enforcement must back these regulations up.

But good dogs and responsible owners should not be restrained excessively out of fears that some dogs and owners would not be under good control.

Sincerely,

Gary Sue Goodman  
2044 Emerson St.  
Berkeley, Ca. 94703



James Fine  
<jdfine@lbl.gov>  
03/19/2002 03:22 PM  
PST

4178 - 01 - 1A  
To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Off-Leash Dog Policy

Dear National Park Service,

I am a San Francisco resident who supports allowing dogs off leash in the GGNRA. I offer one suggestion that I have not heard previously discussed.

It seems that the few poorly trained dogs are ruining things for well trained dogs (and responsible owners) who are the majority. Why not institute a dog/owner certification program? It would be relatively simple, involving the following steps:

1. Dog owners must demonstrate that their dogs are under voice control AND that they understand the rules and regulations for allowing dogs to run leash free.
2. Like a driving test, only simpler, dog owners and dogs have to pass a test demonstrating voice control. If they pass, the dog gets a small medallion that they affix to their collar.
3. Only dogs with the medallion are allowed to be off leash in the GGNRA.

In addition to rewarding well trained dogs, this program will provide accountability (owners and dogs must register) and operating funds (small fees may be charged for medallions). Furthermore, other park users will see the medallion as indication that the dog need not be feared.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Fine  
3309 Folsom Street  
SF, CA 94110  
jdfine@lbl.gov



Jane Milam  
<milamjc@yahoo.com>  
03/19/2002 03:46 PM  
PST

4179-01-3B

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Please Keep Off Leash Areas

Dogs who get lots of exercise and running time are happier more well adjusted dogs who won't cause trouble.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE AWAY ALL OF THE OFF LEASH SPACE IN CALIFORNIA PARKS.

Jane Milam  
415-636-3096 (work phone)

***"A rich person is not the person who has the most but the person who needs the least."***

**Do You Yahoo!?**  
Yahoo! Sports - live college hoops coverage

4180-01-3B



<sarahkaplan@mindspring.com>  
Sent by:  
sarahkaplan@mindspring.com

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Off leash, please

03/19/2002 07:15 PM  
EST

I strongly support allowing dogs off leash. Dogs must be allowed to run free. It is inhumane to keep them leashed. Thousands of dogs run off leash everyday with no incidents or harm to our parks.

Cats are not required to be leashed and their owners are not even asked to pick up after them.

Please allow dogs to run off leash.

Thank you,  
Sarah Kaplan



Mickyl@enet.com  
03/19/2002 05:30 PM  
PST

4181-01-1A

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Support off-leash recreation

I will mail the following letter to GGNRA, Fort Mason, SF, CA:

Maurice E. Lee III  
1341 Union Street, #12  
San Francisco, CA 94109-1950  
Voice 415.441.6276  
Email MickyLee@earthlink.net

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

GGNRA  
Fort Mason  
Bldg 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support the proposed special rule to allow off-leash recreation in some portion of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

I urge you to adopt this special rule.

Sincerely,

MAURICE E. LEE III

4182-01-3B



Abitschbarbie@aol.co  
m  
03/19/2002 07:48 PM  
EST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: (no subject)

Regarding pet management @ Crissy Field: I walk several times a week on the path at Crissy Field. I am disabled and walk with a cane. Many people ignore the leash signs and let their (usually big) dogs run wild. They have poor control over their pets. Sometimes they run up to me, and I have a fear of being knocked down or bitten. Also, they shit all over, and I have stepped in it. I am very conscious of big dogs now with this trial that is going on. Given the right circumstances, any dog will bite. Also, they can knock down the numerous toddlers who are around. Please do not rescind the leash law at Crissy Field. You are opening yourselves up for law suits. I have the right to walk in peace, just as much as the owners have to bring their dogs there.

Sincerely,  
Barbara

Abitsch

abitschbarbie@aol.com

4183-01-1A



"Scott Webb"  
<souley\_sdw@hotmail.com>

03/19/2002 04:29 PM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Off leash allowance in GGNRA

I am a responsible pet owner, and I support the off leash allowance in GGNRA

It is a small area, that pet owners are careful to maintain clean and pick up after their pets.....

Please keep this dog loving asset possible for SF residents.

Thank you

Scott Webb  
1540 15th St  
SF, CA 94103

4184-01-3B



"Adele  
DeCampli-Cirkelis"  
<adeledc@msn.com>

03/19/2002 09:21 PM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Fort Funston

I am so glad that you are considering special rules to allow dogs to go off-leash within the GGNRA. My little dog, Zippy Zeke, also thanks you. He loves the freedom and friendship prevalent at Fort Funston. Dog owners there are very considerate and generally have well behaved pets. It gives our furry friends a chance to socialize without the entanglement of leashes. Zippy can't vote, but he always walks ME to the polls. Thanks again.

Adele DeCampli-Cirkelis

4185 - 01 - 1A



"Laine Barbanell  
Schipper"  
<Lost-Arts@sbcglobal.net>

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
CC:  
Subject: More Support of proposed off-leash special rule

03/19/2002 08:11 PM  
PST

And, let's not forget that in many National Parks, all we need to do is get a gun and hunting license to KILL ANIMALS FOR FUN, and then our dog is welcomed along off-leash. How does that make any sense compared to having 1% of the GGNRA open to off-leash NON-KILLING recreation?

Joel & Laine Barbanell Schipper  
146 Swiss Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94131

4186-01-3B



"West Blithedale"  
<daisy@microweb.com  
>

To: <goga\_pets\_ANPR@nps.gov>  
cc: <fortfunstun@hotmail.com>  
Subject: erratum

03/19/2002 07:25 PM  
PST

Please respond to "West  
Blithedale"

I sent an e-mail dated March 18th, in which I erroneously stated that off-leash dogs are only allowed on 98% of MCOSD trails. Obviously, I meant NOT allowed. Sorry.  
I hope this reaches all the appropriate persons.

Regards,  
Sharon Salisbury

4187-01-3B



Chad Davie  
<chaddavie@yahoo.com>

03/19/2002 07:22 PM  
PST

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Off leash in San Francisco

To whom this may concern,

As a dog owner living in an urbanized Midwestern area of the U.S., I would like to take a moment to pledge my support for dog owners in San Francisco.

The ability to provide essential exercise for my dog while living within the confines of a city is something very valuable to me and my canine companion.

I have a large breed dog and must say that the behavior and overall health of my pet is at its best when she is allowed to run and play fetch. This is an activity that cannot be duplicated by on-leash walks.

In my opinion, as long as dog owners are given the option of allowing their pets to be off-leash they will be responsible. If this activity is prohibited, dog owners will search for alternatives. More than likely what they resort to will not be as safe as a regulated environment such as designated areas of parkland.

I truly hope that this important decision is given much thought and consideration on both sides of the issue.

Chad Davie

---

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<http://sports.yahoo.com/>



"Chuck Hodge"  
<hodgac@webperception.com>

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Leash regulations.

03/19/2002 07:11 PM  
PST

Message was returned. Am resending it.

-----Original Message-----

From: NTMail [mailto:tech@webperception.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2002 6:39 PM  
To: hodgac@webperception.com  
Subject: Failed mail

-----  
Re: Message to goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.com

This message has not been delivered after 48 hours.  
Therefore it is being returned to you.

-----  
Your message follows:

>Received: from [64.7.87.106] by email-cat.WebPerception.com (NTMail  
>3.03.0018/1a.aafk) with ESMTTP id ta127991 for <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.com>; Sun,  
>17 Mar 2002 17:54:51 -0800  
>From: "Chuck Hodge" <hodgac@webperception.com>  
>To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.com>  
>Subject: Leash Issue  
>Date: Sun, 17 Mar 2002 18:02:43 -0800  
>Message-ID: <LPBBJAKLHNJJPCKLGLCJGEPMCDA.hodgac@webperception.com>  
>MIME-Version: 1.0  
>Content-Type: text/plain;  
> charset="iso-8859-1"  
>Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit  
>X-Priority: 3 (Normal)  
>X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
>X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)  
>Importance: Normal  
>X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4522.1200  
>X-Info: Questions: Email Support@WebPerception.com  
>  
>TWIMC:  
>  
>As a resident who uses the parks almost every day with his dog and without  
>a  
>leash, I must take issue with the idea of requiring dog's to be leashed.  
>  
>This is, once again, an example of bureaucracy run amok, and the desires of  
>a very small minority to impose their misguided will on the majority in the  
>name of "safety"  
>  
>Bottom line, to impose a leash law creates a BIG negative for thousands of  
>Bay Area residents and their dogs. It diminishes the quality of life for  
>the vast majority of people who have dogs and use the parks.  
>  
>The benefits are miniscule to a very small number of people.  
>

4188-02-3B

>One way to view this is to quantify the pluses and minuses.

>

>First take all the people now and in the future who have dogs and walk them  
>in the parks without leashes. Figure the hours spent in this enjoyable  
>activity for the people, their families and the dogs.

>

>Now take all of the negative incidents that happen because a dog is not on  
a

>leash. Do it on a yearly basis and quantify the negative incident.  
Death,

>serious bodily harm, minor harm, annoyance.

>

>Calculate the amount of positive against the negative.

>

>Common sense and statistics tell us that there is an enormous amount of  
>positive and a very small amount of negative.

>

>If someone uses the argument --- which someone always does --- that if just  
>one person is saved from dog bite or harm it is all worth it--- they are  
>misguided.

4189 - 01 - 1A



"Laine Barbanell  
Schipper"  
<Lost-Arts@sbcglobal.  
net>

03/19/2002 06:14 PM  
PST

To: <goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov>  
cc: "Fort Funston" <fortfunston@hotmail.com>  
Subject: Comments in support of special rule for off-leash recreation in the  
GGNRA

Dear Park Service,

We understand that a special rule must now be created to allow off-leash recreation in the GGNRA. We believe that off-leash recreation can be accommodated in the GGNRA, and we view this as vital to our health and well being, as well as that of our dog, Ember. We respect the environment and wildlife -- often cleaning up trash from the beach when we visit the GGNRA with our dog -- and hope to continue the long standing tradition of responsible off-leash recreation there.

As "members for life" of the Sierra Club, we also oppose their stand against off-leash recreation, and have told them so.

Please create this special rule for us, and the 100,000 dogs in San Francisco.

Thank you for listening to our comments,

Joel & Laine Barbanell Schipper  
*and Ember*  
146 Swiss Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94131



ILSENCOHN@webtv.net  
(MARGARET  
SALFEN)

03/19/2002 10:06 PM  
PST

4190-01-1A

To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Off leash area for dogs.

Hi

My name is Margaret Salfen, and my dogs and I have been enjoying Fort Funston since the late 1970's. (always off leash and behaved) I have always called it Doggie Heaven, and it is people heaven as well. It brings peace to all who have the privilege to experience the beauty of the area, and it would be a crime to take it away from those who appreciate it the most.

I support a creation of a special rule to allow off leash privileges at Fort Funston.

Thank you.

Margaret Salfen



Bonnie Gratch  
<bgratch@ccsf.cc.ca.us>

03/19/2002 10:43 PM  
PST

4191-01-3B  
To: goga\_pets\_anpr@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Off-Leash at Golden Gate Natl. Rec. Area

I am writing as a long-time citizen and lover of our beautiful national, state and county parks. We have only owned a dog for 2 years but we have made the Fort Funston recreation area a regular part of our weekends.

I want to go on record emphasizing that the innumerable times we have been there (nearly a 100 times), we have never witnessed owners who did not pick up after their dogs, nor have we ever witnessed violent dogs or any dog fights. Once or twice, I have found dog excrement left by someone and have seen another person pick it up; and the other time, I picked it up. The point is, that the GREAT MAJORITY of the dog walkers are responsible; they do not bring vicious dogs there and they pick up after their dogs.

The one thing that I think you might want to regulate better (and give fines for) is enforcing where dogs and their owners can go. I do NOT support letting dogs and owners wander all over the area, possibly destroying plant life. There are trails and a paved walk-way that can be designated for walking the dogs.

I sincerely hope that you will NOT take away the long-standing privilege that we dog owners take seriously and responsibly: the joy of walking our dogs off-leash at an area as lovely as Fort Funston.

Respectfully,

Bonnie Gratch Lindauer, 415-587-8974, 311 Oak Court

4192 - 01 - 1A



Sherri Franklin

Vice Chair, Animal Control and Welfare Commission SF

1041 Kansas Street, San Francisco, CA 94107

February 21, 2002

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2002

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

ANPR, GGNRA

Building 201

Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear ANPR

I am writing to oppose the possible closures to off leash dogs at areas in the GGNRA that have been available for this recreation form for 20 years.

As a member of the Animal Control and Welfare Commission with 8 years experience of animal behavior, particularly with dogs, my concern is if these areas are not kept open for dogs to exercise and socialize there will be more incidents of dogs barking, biting, and creating a nuisance. It is a well known fact that this will happen and the outcome of that will be felt at our city animal shelters where dogs are dumped due to these kinds of behaviors.

We live in a small diverse city. I don't think the families with dogs are asking too much. The GGNRA has allotted only 0.5% of it's open space for off leash recreation. That leaves 99.5% of over 74,000 acres for other activities. Besides the GGNRA was created to maintain "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning" which includes some 125,000 dog owning families that want to walk, run, and play fetch with their fourlegged companions.

Please let us all look at other alternatives to these stringent and exclusionary policy changes.

Thank you,

415 641.1331

Sherri Franklin

Cc. The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Nancy Pelosi, Gale Norton, Tom Lantos, SF Board of Supervisors, Stanley T. Albright

4193-03-1A

2518 Buchanan Street  
San Francisco, California 94115

March 16, 2002

The Golden Gate Nat'l Rec. Area  
Attn: ANPR  
Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

CHIEF OF POLICE

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write this letter in support of off lead dog walking at Chrissy Field. On a personal level, we have two small dogs. Walking at Chrissy field is a pleasurable & important part of their lives & ours. All of our experiences in these walks have been very pleasurable. We see friends, walk, take the air & our dogs see other dogs, run about, & take their exercise. The other dogs are friendly, well behaved, cleaned up after & kept under voice command. The experience adds a great deal to city life.

On a moral & philosophical level, society has decided for its amusement & for the societies mental health that dogs should be permitted to be kept

as pets. This decision having been made by society, it is society's duty to encourage the proper care of pet dogs & their mental & physical health. To be healthy dogs need fresh air, exercise & socialization. Exercise & socialization are best achieved by off lead walking & running with other dogs.

Crissy field is one of the few areas in SF where citizens have traditionally congregated to socialize with their dogs. The area is ideal because it is contained & of a large enough size for exercise, it is known as "off lead" so this is expected & it is an area which greatly appeals to dogs & encourages them to run about chasing each other or the waves, & it appeals to pet owners so they avail themselves of the area.

The experience of walking ones dog with friends at Crissy Field is one that makes San Francisco the livable city. To remove this activity

would be to diminish human pleasure, the livability of our city & would inhibit the proper care & health of our pets.

I urge you to find a way to alter the "regulations" so that off lead dog walking is permitted at Chissy Field.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Whitman,  
Rosie & Buddy  
Lai Shang Ho  
Suo Ying Li

4194 - 01 - 1A

Dear ANPR,

My wife and I, SF residents, strongly disagree with the latest attempt to ban off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National park areas. The lands were originally set aside for "needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning." To exclude the thousands (hundreds of thousands?) of SF and Bay Area citizens who own pets (pets that absolutely need to run to keep from being disobedient and potentially destructive) is to ignore this mandate for needed open space for our urban use. There are far too many people who need this use to ban it.

Having said that, off-leash activity should only take place in these areas, and laws should be enforced protecting on-leash areas.

Thank you,

Arthur and Raquel Edwards  
2211 California Street, #407  
San Francisco, CA 94115

RECEIVED

MAR 10 2002

SUPERVISOR OF

03/04/02

4195-01-1A

Dear GGNRA,

I am writing this letter in hopes that dogs will be allowed to run off-leash at Crissy Field. Without an area for the dogs to play, their social development will be adversely impaired. It is vital that our dogs be allowed to release their energy and socialize with other dogs. It is necessary not only for the dogs but for the owners as well. If our companions don't get the exercise they need, their pent up energy gets redirected into negative venues such as furniture chewing and incessant barking. As well as aggression. Crissy Field is an ideal place for dogs to swim, run and play. There are few spaces big enough to accommodate play activities for a dog. With the beach and water, Crissy Field offers the necessary ingredients to keep the dogs and the owners both physically and mentally healthy. Dogs and their owners have coexisted at Crissy Field with other recreational users for many years without conflict. I see no reason why we can't continue to do so. Please allow the dogs to run free at Crissy Field.

Sincerely,

Joseph Shaw  
2455 JACKSON #5  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2002

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

4196-01-1A

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

Name: Mirra Zaspitsky (printed)

Address: 1353-7th Ave SF CA 94122

(street) (city) (state) (zip)

RECEIVED  
 MAR 10 2002  
 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Mirra Zaspitsky Date 3/19/02 (optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex M  F Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_)

Version 2.2 March 9, 2002  
GGNRA013588

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

4197-01-1A

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

Name: Yuzik Linetsky (printed)

Address: 1251 Turk Street SF CA 94115  
 (street) (city) (state) (zip)

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Yuzik Linetsky Date 3/18/02 (optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  M  F Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Version 2.2

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

4198-01-1A

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

Name: Abram Zaspitsky (printed)

Address: 1353-7th Ave SF CA 94122

(street) (city) (state) (zip)

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Here are some ideas for your letter:

- What parts of the GGNRA should remain (or become) off-leash areas?
- The Park Service says that the elderly, racial and cultural minorities, families with children and people with disabilities may avoid areas with off-leash dogs. Can you give personal examples where the opposite is true – that these groups seek off-leash areas for recreation?
- How important to you are the social and physical aspects of off-leash recreation? How would these be different if all the dogs are leashed?
- Since the early 1900's, off-leash dog recreation has been a primary use of areas now within the GGNRA. **Do you think that continuing to make off-leash recreation available in these areas is a good use of this land?** How can the GGNRA make off-leash areas more enjoyable for everyone?
- San Francisco transferred its beaches and parks to the GGNRA with the understanding that existing activities, including off-leash recreation, would continue. Do you think the GGNRA should be allowed to renege on this part of its agreement with San Francisco?

Signed: Abram Date 3/19/02 (optional: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  M  F Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_)

Version 2.2 GGNRA 013390 March 9, 2002

Gregory M. Herek, Ph.D. 4199-01-1D

P.O. Box 11196  
Berkeley, CA 94712-2196 USA

March 19, 2002

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

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

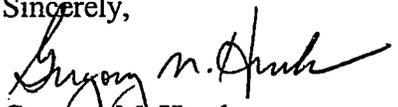
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge you to make provisions for off-leash recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area so that responsible dog owners can enjoy the GGNRA. I also strongly support efforts to persuade the National Park Service to end aggressive enforcement of leash rules in the areas of the GGNRA identified by the 1979 GGNRA Pet Policy as allowing off-leash recreation. Instead, I urge that the NPS give citations only for aggressive or destructive dogs.

Dog ownership is an important fact of life for residents of the Bay Area, and responsible dog owners need a place to exercise their pets in open space. Dog owners also have the right – like hikers, bicyclists, frisbee players, hang gliders, kite flyers, and other recreation enthusiasts – to enjoy the GGNRA as long as they behave in a responsible fashion and keep their dogs under control.

Sincerely,

  
Gregory M. Herek

cc: SFD0G, PO Box 31071, San Francisco, CA 94131-0071

**GGNRA  
ANPR**

**PUBLIC  
COMMENTS  
No. 4201 - 4750**

**NAU Copy**

**Book 12  
2002**

4201-01-1A

Paul Hernandez  
674 - 43rd Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94121

17 March 2002

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

RECEIVED  
MAR 19 2002  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Subject: Pet Management GGNRA

The present GGNRA Pet Management program is a good one, please keep it.

If you are forced to allow dogs to run unleashed ensure that it is in a totally fenced in area with secure gates.

Large aggressive dogs should not even be allowed in the GGNRA.

I am an ordinary citizen who frequents the bay area GGNRA parks especially the Presidio.

*Paul Hernandez*

March 13 '02

Dear GGNRA: #4202-01-1A

Please don't change the rules  
to allow loose dogs.

Cities and City Parks are built  
for people. Dogs are  
secondary.

Dogs are charming when  
controlled. Loose dogs can  
sometimes be frightening  
and destructive.

I like the idea of setting  
aside fenced sections  
for loose dogs.

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Patricia Van Aggelen  
652 Teresita  
SF 94127

4203-01-1A

March 12, 2002

GG NRA.

Surely space can be found for unleashed dogs to run and exercise.

How about some of the land SF donated?

This is an issue that must be decided in favor of areas in favor of unleashed dogs.

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MAR 19 2002

COMPLIMENTARY IS OFFERED

Arlene Valencia  
875 North Point  
S.F. 94109

4204-01-1B

19 March 2002

Haydn and Zuhra Reiss  
126 Meadowcroft Drive  
San Anselmo, CA. 94960

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MAR 19 2002

COMPLAINTS SECTION

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

To whom it may concern:

Yesterday, Sunday February 2, my wife and I and our two year old daughter went to Muir Beach. Despite the prominent sign at the entrance saying "Dogs Must Be On Leash", there were at least a dozen dogs running wild. Shortly thereafter a ranger arrived and walked down the beach and talked with some of these owners. Perhaps he wrote a ticket or two. He was on the beach for maybe 20 minutes and then left. We did not see him return before we left an hour later.

Even before the ranger left it was clear that his presence was not going to make a dent in the loose dogs - dogowners simply put their dogs on leash while he was around and immediately let them off when he left. His presence, and ticket writing, was like a mosquito on an elephant's back. When we left there were 10-15 dogs running up and down the beach. We got tired of dogs running up to our two year old and their owners shouting out all friendly like "Don't worry, he loves kids!" That is neither comforting, nor accurate. Owners cannot predict what dogs will do. Is GGNRA going to wait until there's a tragedy before it takes REAL action to enforce the leash law or ban dogs all together (our choice)?

The current inconsequential level of enforcement makes it nearly meaningless - dogowners don't abide by it. Why should say, it is a rarity. And forget about people like us "asking" them to please leash their dogs. We have asked and have been ignored.

What we ask you to consider is to acknowledge that dogowners are not going to voluntarily respect the leash law. It's like asking people to voluntarily pay their taxes. It's naive. Either have substantial enforcement, which could certainly pay for itself as we see no trouble for a ranger writing 10-20 tickets a day (a gross of \$500-1000), or make official what is now true by default: dogs can run free.

And, yes, it would be nice if there was an area given to off-leash dogs, as many dogowners have demanded, but that wouldn't stop them from using Muir.

Sincerely,



Haydn and Zuhra Reiss

4205-01-18

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

Name: Ginny Gaffney (optional: Age: 62 Sex M F Ethnicity C)  
Address: 42 Edwards Ave Sausalito CA 94965  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

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

Walk every morning down into Ft Baker

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

I enjoy the dogs being off-leash. I feel more secure and the dogs have an opportunity to exercise

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

In my walking, I have met many new people through their dogs, even though I don't own one myself.

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

Yes, continue to make off-leash available

11

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

No, they should not be allowed to renege

Signed: Ginny Gaffney

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MAR 19 2002

Date 3/19/02

4206-01-1A

Golden Gate national Recreation Area  
Fort Mason  
Building 201  
San Francisco Ca 94123

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

COMPLETION OFFICE

ATTN: ANPR

To Whom it May Concern:

I am in favor of off-leash dog walking in Crissy Field, on Baker Beach, and in other select areas of the GGNRA.

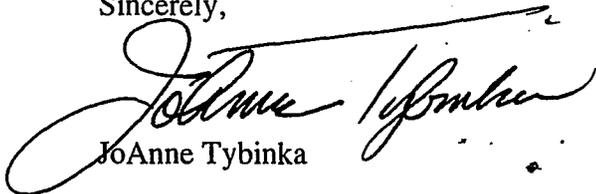
I do not currently have a dog but I get great joy out of watching the dogs on the beach. I find that the beaches are clean and well-kept by the dog guardians. I am delighted and amazed each day that I walk on the beach to see what a great job the dog-guardians do.

Crissy Field and other areas in the GGNRA where off-leash dog walking has been permitted in the past are appropriate places for dogs to be safely off-leash.

At Crissy Field, off-leash recreation was specifically provided for and approved by the National park Service in the design and plan for the Crissy Field renovation. The plan reflected extensive public comment.

Please give this matter your immediate attention.

Sincerely,



JoAnne Tybinka