

Brian O'Neill
August 4, 2000
Page 3

project is approved. Again, "notice must be of such a nature as reasonably to convey the required information." *Mullane* 339 U.S. at 314.

2. Public Access to Documents

The Document is silent on public inspection of the documents relied on for the closure. Three pages of reference material is cited at the end of the report, including "personal communications" with twelve individuals. Without access to this information, the public can't provide meaningful comment. Please make these documents available for public review during the comment period and advise the public where they can reviewed. With respect to the "personal communications" please provide access to minutes, tape recordings, summaries, raw notes, and any other memorialization of the communications. In addition, please provide the dates of the communications, who was present, what was discussed, conclusions reached, and the basis for those conclusions. We also ask you to extend the deadline for comment until these defects are cured.

3. Public Access to Areas Closed in March, 2,000

Since March public access has been denied to the entire fenced off area. After the bank swallows leave this month, the court ordered injunction requires NPS to open gates to the seasonal closure and provide access to the beach near the nesting sites. We ask you to include the Sand Spur Trail and the beach access trail adjacent to the 1995 closure, pending final determination of the new proposal. Public access to these areas were wrongfully denied during the original closure and inspection of the area is necessary to provide meaningful evaluation of the project.

4. Status of Battery Davis Closure and Other Designated Native Plant Areas

The justification for the "Proposed Habitat Protection Closure" does not address the status of other so-called native plant closures and projects at Fort Funston. Under various pretexts, GGNRA has removed recreational land from public use in several areas of the park in violation of its statutory mandate and NPS regulations requiring comprehensive park planning and development pursuant to public review.

In addition to the ten acre closure that resulted in the lawsuit, the following areas have had a substantial impact on recreational access to the park. Under the pretext of erosion control, nine acres adjacent to Battery Davis was fenced off in 1995, a temporary five year closure for native plant restoration which is still closed. The entire coastal bluff area below the hang glider platform was closed in 1998 for native plant revegetation. Last year, safety was used to rationalize the destruction of a paved "disability trail" and closure of several acres along the Sunset Trail adjacent to the former Battery Davis

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closure.^{1/} Documents from 1992 and 1996 show various proposals to convert that area to a native plant habitat. Recently other native plant projects have been initiated, one near the paved road leading down to Lake Merced, another in front of the Fort Funston Visitor Center. These projects destroy "exotic" trees, bushes, and ice plants and result in further reduction of recreational access to parkland.

All projects were initiated without public review in violation of the statutory mandate requiring land use planning.^{2/} Even more significant, NPS regulations mandate "management plans" for the destruction of exotic plants with "provisions for public review and comment". (Management Policies Biological Resources Section 4:12-13; Natural Resources Management Guidelines NPS- 77, pg. 289.) These regulations were promulgated to deal with a typical national park where an invasive exotic species is impacting a native plant ecology. Just the opposite situation exists at Fort Funston, NPS is destroying an exotic plant ecology and developing a native plant ecology. Public input is mandated where development plans destroy park resources. Consider also that over twenty per cent of Funston has been closed to recreational access in areas where this activity is most concentrated without coordinated park planning, environmental impact analysis, or public input. Instead of addressing a situation that is clearly out of control, NPS embarks on federal rule-making limited to a very controversial parcel of land without adequate notice or an opportunity to develop meaningful public input.

Finally, retaliatory actions in response to the lawsuit have been initiated by GGNRA in the last few weeks. Our client has asked us to evaluate the removal of voice control signs at Fort Funston and Crissy Field.

Sincerely yours.

HANCOCK ROTHERT AND BUNSHOFT, LLP



Kenneth D. Ayers

cc: Edwin J. Sayres, President, The San Francisco SPCA

^{1/} Without public review or prior notice, GGNRA sent a bulldozer out to Funston in December, 1999 and began ripping up a substantial section of the only "disability trail" at Funston. NPS Management Policies on Accessibility for Disabled Persons require NPS to make "every reasonable effort ..to make facilities ...accessible to and usable ..for the disabled... The determination of what is reasonable will be made after consultation with disabled persons or their representatives." NPS Management Policies, Visitor Use Section, pg. 4; 43 CFR 17

^{2/} After the lawsuit was filed, the Sunset Trail area was reopened to the public and native plant habitat signs were removed from Battery Davis fences and the south coastal bluffs.

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2000
COURT REPORTING OFFICE

Name: PETER STEIN
Address: 76 SANTA MARINA ST.
S.F. CA 94110
Date: 8/4/00

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

IT IS TIME TO RECOGNIZE THAT FT. FUNSTON IS AN URBAN NATURAL SETTING AND MUST BE OPERATED WITH THE INHERENT PARADOXES OF SUCH A HYBRID SPACE. CLOSING THE PARK TO OFF-LEASH DOGS IS A NARROW-MINDED AND BIASED ACTION THAT IS INCONSISTENT WITH ITS RECREATIONAL FUNCTION.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,


FOFUAR02325

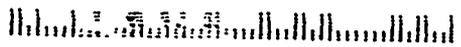
GGNRA008501



Peter L. Stein
76 Santa Marina St
San Francisco CA 94110-5433



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

94123/1301 

FOFUAR02326

A Tremmond
318 Foote Ave
SAN Francisco, Ca 94112

Dear GGNRA,

Count this vote against your
defying court orders, against increasing the
closed off space and against permanent
barriers at Ft Funston. I also believe you should
rethink this "native" plant program which has
increased the erosion in the area.

I'm thinking of joining the Ft Funston
Dog Walkers/owners association and I only have
a cat.

A Tremmond

FOFUAR02327

GGNRA008503

RECEIVED

AUG 07 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

August 3, 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Streets
Building 201 Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

I am a Member of SF Dog. I'm sure I don't need to tell you how much the situation at Fort Funston has affected all the dogs and their devoted owners in the area. You've heard our voices. There are thousands of us "dog people" who have informally become friends and a community not unlike all the like-minded communities that comprise our great city. A major reason I moved to San Francisco 13 years ago was its well-known dog friendliness, especially at places like Fort Funston, truly a diamond in the rough.

There have always been places for me to safely let my dogs run free. Those places are dwindling. In Precita Park for instance, one couple nearby has evidently made anti-dog efforts their mission, and now I am forced to walk my dog at night at unlit Bernal Hill, which is extremely unsafe.

Speaking for the many responsible dog owners in this city, KEEP ALL OF FORT FUNSTON OPEN, and help us include our furry friends in the mix that is San Francisco. If you've read this far, thanks for listening.

Annie E. Sammis
81 Bradford Street
S.F., CA 94110
Ph. (h) 415.643.8871
Email (h) asammis@pacbell.net



FOFUAR02328

GGNRA008504

cy: O'Neill

RECEIVED
AUG 07 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Name: KATHRYN MASSIE
Address: 3610 QUINTARA
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
94116
Date: 8/3/2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Massie

PLEASE SAVE FORT FUNSTON

FOFUAR02329
GGNRA008505

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT STREET, SUITE 2000
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
 VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200



RECEIVED
 AUG 04 2000
 SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

August 3, 2000

S. Sheen
 Cy: B. O'Neill
 M. Scott

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

Re: Federal Register Notice on proposed year-round closure at Fort Funston

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced Federal Register notice. In that notice, the National Park Service proposes a year-round closure of approximately 12 acres of Fort Funston to off-trail recreation use by the public. The purpose of this letter is to inform the National Park Service that that activity may affect resources and uses of the coastal zone and may require a consistency determination pursuant to the requirements of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).¹ Specifically, the National Park Service's proposal would restrict recreation use of the Fort Funston area and may affect public access to the shoreline and public recreational use of the coastal zone. Therefore, the Commission staff believes that the proposed project triggers a requirement for a consistency determination pursuant to the CZMA² and its implementing regulations.³

A consistency determination is an evaluation of the proposed activity's effects on coastal resources or uses and its consistency with the mandatory enforceable policies of the California Coastal Management Program and includes the necessary information to support the federal agency's conclusion.⁴ A consistency determination must be submitted to the Commission 90 days prior to final federal approval of the activity, unless the state and the federal agencies agree to an alternate schedule.⁵ If the federal agency determines that this activity does not affect coastal uses or

¹ 16 USC § 1450 *et seq.*

² 16 USC § 1456(c)(1).

³ 15 CFR § 930.34(a).

⁴ See 15 CFR § 930.39 for a list of necessary data and information.

⁵ 16 USC § 1456(c)(1) and 15 CFR § 930.41(c).

FOFUAR02330

GGNRA008506

resources, it must submit a negative determination 90 days before final federal approval of the activity.⁶

If you have any questions or need assistance preparing a consistency determination, please contact me at (415) 904-5292. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



James R. Raives
Federal Consistency Coordinator

cc: North Central District

⁶ 15 CFR § 930.35(d).

O'Neill

Aug 2, 2000

Brian O'Neill, Supd.
GGNRA

Delphia P. Scully
408 Melrose Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94127

I urge you to keep off-leash/voice control dog walking as one of the recreational activities at Ft. Funston. At the rate the NPS/GGNRA is acting re: restricting/selecting recreational activities at Ft. Funston, dog owners, a.k.a. taxpayers and "threatened" will be driven out of the area and become an unprotected "endangered species."

Multi-use recreational spaces in the Bay Area are rapidly diminishing due to population pressures and specialized "interest" organizations competing for the same area, even if their purposes/missions are diametrically opposed to each other. We must share! Do not deprive us individual dog owners/walkers) of our share. As a minority, we ~~we~~ need protection from other specialized encroachments.

As an individual dog owner/walker, who has always enjoyed the open space of Ft. Funston for 20+ years, and the policy of off-leash/voice control for my dog, I do believe in sharing, plus common courtesy. Surely, the NPS/GGNRA can administer this area with the same
(cont) ~~(over)~~

FOFUAR02332

GGNRA008508

concepts of sharing re: off-leash/voice control dog
walking as a recreational activity.

Sincerely,

Delphia P. Scully

Delphia P. Scully
408 Melrose Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94127

P.S. I'm also a dues paying member of GSNPOSSA

FOFUAR02333

GGNRA008509

RECEIVED

AUG 04 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

August 2, 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201 Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sir,

I am very much against the latest closures proposed for Fort Funston. There seems to be no scientific rationale for the closure. Instead, it seems to be a land grab to turn a former military base (hardly a pristine wilderness) into a nature exhibit.

It doesn't make sense to take a fantastic piece of recreational area out of use in a dense urban area with the dubious goal to restore it to "natural" condition. Off-leash dogwalking has been an acceptable recreational activity at Fort Funston for almost 40 years. Congress recognized dogwalking as a recreational activity in its enabling legislation when GGNRA was established. In conformity with this, GGNRA similarly has recognized off-leash dog walking as an acceptable recreational activity

I am a regular user of Fort Funston, along with my two dogs, and have been going there several times a week for the past three years. I have never seen dogs chase or harass wildlife at Fort Funston. The idea that people and dogs strolling along the trails threatens the bank swallows is absurd. Many dogwalkers have observed the swallows peacefully coexisting with the dogs-- actually following them around in the ice plant, eating the insects that are disturbed by them (scientists say that bank swallows eat all kinds of insects). The major threat to bank swallows, a river-dwelling species, is flood control and bank protection projects near farmland in the Central Valley, says the California Department of Fish & Game.

I urge you to desist from this misguided plan and return Fort Funston to its long-time use as open space, for the enjoyment of all.

Sincerely,



John Brobst
5705 Diamond Heights Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94131

cc:

Fort Funston Dog Walkers
c/o Linda McKay
241 Tocoloma Avenue
San Francisco CA 94134

SFDOG (San Francisco Dog Owners Group)
P.O. Box 31071
San Francisco CA 94131

FOFUAR02334

GGNRA008510

cy: O'Neill

August 1, 2000

RECEIVED

AUG 07 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Mr. Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

As a fourth generation San Franciscan, Fort Funston has always had a special place in my heart. Over the years I have spent many hours walking my dogs in the park. The proposed closure of yet more acreage at Fort Funston forces me to write this letter and express my outrage.

The stated reasons for the closure is the need to protect the bank swallow and the restoration of native plants. Without facts to support this closure and without comments and presentations by all parties effected, the proceedings will be a sham. Therefore, it is imperative that the Fort Funston Dog Walkers be able to participate in the proceedings.

The Audubon Society and the Native Plant Society are very large, political organizations that have a lot of power in the country. A small local grassroots organization like the Fort Funston Dog Walkers is not only dwarfed in the number of members, but also political clout and financing. But, that should not give them more of a say in what happens in our community.

Please consider the views and comments of all users of the park to come up with creative solutions to address these concerns.

Best regards,


Michael Casassa

409 Mississippi Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

FOFUAR02335

GGNRA008511

Frank and Karen Schulkin
300 Urbano Dr.
San Francisco, CA
94127

RECEIVED

AUG 01 2000

August 1, 2000

SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets, Building 201
Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent,

As a daily user of Fort Funston, we would like to voice our concerns about the recent closure and proposed future closure of even more trails. We use these areas for our exercise as well as the exercising of our dogs. The closure has cut part of our walk short and while we realize the importance of protecting endangered birds, it must be done with public comment and our presentations must be considered. The ultimate decision must reflect the needs of the whole community and with all factors taken into consideration.

Thank you for giving your serious attention to this matter.



Frank and Karen Schulkin

FOFUAR02336

GGNRA008512

August 1, 2000

RECEIVED

S. Sheen
CY: O'Neill

AUG 07 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Mr. Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

As a daily visitor to Fort Funston, I am dismayed that you are again attempting to close off more of the park to public access.

Since I retired from full-time employment five years ago, Fort Funston has become a very important part of my life. Fort Funston provides a wonderful place for me to exercise myself and my dogs that cannot be achieved at city parks. I have made many friends on my daily walks, many elderly who come to Fort Funston because they know it's a safe place for them to walk.

The reasons you state for the closure is the need to protect the bank swallow and the restoration of native plants. This closure must be supported by facts, not because of pressure for the omnipotent Audubon Society and Native Plant Society. Comments and presentations from the Fort Funston Dog Walkers must be considered, because without input from all users of the park the entire process will be a sham.

There has been no disagreement that the bank swallow's nesting area needs to be protected. But, the vast acreage you have already closed off and are proposing to add to, has not been proven necessary. Creative solutions need to be used to protect the cliffs. Dogs are not the enemy of the bank swallow as the Audubon Society claims. The birds are thriving all over the city from the Olympic Club to the new Pacific Bell Park.

As to the need for additional acreage for native plant restoration, currently 23 acres are already closed for such a purpose, not including the area west of the Battery Davis "Y" which for years has been closed for plant restoration and now appears to be closed for safety. This is a substantial portion of the usable acreage on the park already off limits to the public.

Please allow all groups effected by the proposed changes to express their views.

Best regards,


Cory Casassa

FOFUAR02337

407 Mississippi Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

GGNRA008513

Cy: O'Neill

RECEIVED

August 1, 2000

AUG 07 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201 Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Sir,

I am most alarmed to learn of the latest closures proposed at Fort Funston. There seems to be no scientific rationale for the closure. Instead, it seems to be a land grab to turn a former military base (hardly a pristine wilderness) into a nature exhibit.

I am an environmentalist and animal lover, and would never want to harm wildlife. Furthermore, I am a native plant fan, and my yard has been landscaped with native plants. But it doesn't make sense to take a fantastic piece of recreational area out of use in a dense urban area with the dubious goal to restore it to "natural" condition. What's the next step -- "restore" all of the GGNRA to its original windswept sand dunes? The Presidio was nothing but sand dunes and a little scrub brush before some misguided person decided to plant trees there. Do you propose to pull out all the trees to restore it to its natural condition? It's the Golden Gate National **Recreation Area**, not the Golden Gate National Wilderness Park!

Off-leash dogwalking has been an acceptable recreational activity at Fort Funston for almost 40 years. Congress recognized dogwalking as a recreational activity in its enabling legislation when GGNRA was established. In conformity with this, GGNRA similarly has recognized off-leash dog walking as an acceptable recreational activity

The idea that people and dogs strolling along the cliffside walk threatens the bank swallows is absurd. Many dogwalkers have observed the swallows peacefully coexisting with the dogs--actually following them around in the ice plant, eating the insects that are disturbed by them (scientists say that bank swallows eat all kinds of insects). The major threat to bank swallows, as determined by the California Department of Fish & Game, is flood control and bank protection projects near farmland in the Central Valley.

I am a regular user of Fort Funston, along with my two dogs, and have been going there several times a week for the past three years. Here are some of the things I have observed, and NOT observed:

- * I have never seen dogs chase or harass wildlife at Fort Funston (in fact, I have observed a rabbit living unharmed near one of the main trails for months on end)
- * I have never seen any dogfights or dog aggression that threatened any dogs or people using the park

FOFUAR02338

GGNRA008514

* I have seen hundreds of people and dogs using the park on countless different days, but never have witnessed a person or dog go off the cliff edge (if you want to prevent this, simply put up fences at the cliff edge, in front of the path--nobody could possibly object to this)

* The vast majority of Fort Funston visitors are with dogs--thus the argument that off-leash dogwalking serves only a small group of park visitors is spurious

* There is remarkably little incidence of dog litter, considering the hundreds, if not thousands, of dog visits every day--most of the dog people are conscientious

* Day after day, hundreds of people enjoy the wonderful views and fresh air and the beauties of our area, while exercising their dogs (by definition, responsible dog-owners!). The heavy usage by dog people guarantees a safe environment (parks that ban dogs have more crime) and encourages community development--the informal contacts that develop here go a long way towards counteracting urban stress and alienation.

I urge you to desist from this misguided plan and return Fort Funston to its long-time use as open space, for the enjoyment of all. It's worth noting that 25% of the residents of San Francisco have dogs--we pay plenty of taxes, yet receive second-class treatment in access to public facilities.

Sincerely,



Anne Ryder
5705 Diamond Heights Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94131

cc: Fort Funston Dog Walkers
San Francisco Dog Owners Group

Mayor Willie Brown
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Rep. Nancy Pelosi
Rep. Tom Lantos
Supervisor Mabel Teng
Supervisor Mark Leno
Supervisor Gavin Newsom
Supervisor Leland Yee

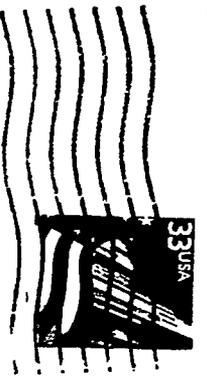
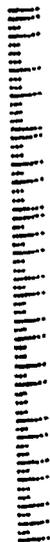
FOFUAR02339

GGNRA008515

Ms. Anne M. Ryder
5705 Diamond Hills Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94131

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

94123/9999



FOFUAR02340

August 1, 2000

RECEIVED
AUG 04 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Mr. Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

As a frequent visitor to Fort Funston I realize how lucky I am to live in San Francisco with access to such a beautiful place. Yet, once again you are trying to close off part of the park to public access.

Your reasons for the closure is the need to protect the bank swallow and the restoration of native plants. This closure must be supported by facts, not because of pressure from such powerful national organizations as the Audubon Society and Native Plant Society. Comments and presentations from the Fort Funston Dog Walkers must be considered as dog walkers are such avid users of the park.

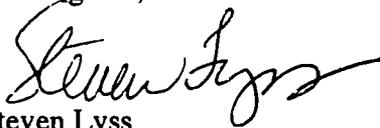
Everyone agrees that the bank swallow's nesting area needs to be protected. But, closing off a large portion of the park is short-sighted and lacks creativity. There are no facts that back up the need for such a large closure.

As to the issue of native plant restoration, currently 23 acres are closed, not including the approximate 20 acres west of the Battery Davis "Y" which has recently been signed as "closed for safety".

This is an attempt by two very powerful national organizations to yet again further their own causes without considering the other users of the park.

Please do the right thing and don't cave in to the views of only these two groups. Let all groups effected by the proposed changes express their views.

Best regards,


Steven Lyss

407 Mississippi Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

FOFUAR02341

GGNRA008517

RECEIVED

AUG 02 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Eva Nicolait
1542 32nd Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
415/566-2605
E-mail: chiesa@itsa.ucsf.edu

August 1, 2000

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

Re: Fort Funston (GGNRA) closures.

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

Please reconsider your current misguided policy of turning Fort Funston into a botanical preserve. Your proposed closures far exceed what is needed to protect the bank swallow and deprives hundreds of people the opportunity to enjoy the park. Why not allow the existing, hardy, use-appropriate ice plant to remain in the heavily used areas of the park and plant the more delicate "native plants", which, by the way, are also less effective at erosion control, in the little-used areas flanking the eastern side of the park.

Your misguided policy is at odds with the vast majority of users at the Fort, dog walkers, who rely on this last remaining off-leash area. We believe that this heavily-used and much needed unique urban park should receive a different managerial perspective than that applied to the rural wilderness.

Sincerely,



Eva Nicolait
Member, Fort Funston Dog Walkers Association

Cc: The Honorable Diane Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Tom Lantos
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Willie Brown

FOFUAR02342

GGNRA008518

RECEIVED

AUG 02 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

2484 21st Ave
San Francisco, CA 94116

1 August 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Streets
Ft Mason, San Francisco 94123

RE: Comments on Proposed Closure at Fort Funston

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

GGNRA states that closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston to off-trail recreational use "is necessary to protect habitat for the California threatened bank swallows." This statement is not supported by any evidence or rational argument--it's almost certainly false.

Your proposal describes a growth in the number of bank swallow burrows from 84 in 1954 to 550 in 1989. This growth occurred without the closures you propose. After you closed the area north of the current proposed area, the number of burrows plummeted to 140 in 1998, and the swallows completely abandoned the protected area for an unprotected area. One could just as reasonably argue that GGNRA protection threatens bank swallows more than off-trail walkers. More realistically, the drop was caused by natural storm destruction of cliff faces and other unidentified changes, probably even changes in the swallows' wintering grounds in South America. For the NPS to "determine" that recreational users have an adverse impact on the swallows is "junk science," a political statement made with no scientific evidence.

The area you propose to close is not bank swallow habitat. The birds nest on the cliff faces and feed on aquatic insects on Lake Merced. Further, they have found plenty of nesting material when the nearby dunes are covered with ice plant.

As you state, your bluff-top fence collapsed "within just a few months" due to natural wind and sea erosion. Yet in the preceding sentence of your proposal, you blame increased erosion on visitor use. In fact, any insignificant erosion of the cliff edges caused by walkers is quickly obliterated by natural erosion of wind and sea.

The GGNRA should stop trying to evict long-time, legitimate recreational users from our urban park. You should work cooperatively with those users to implement any genuinely needed protection for the bank swallows.

Sincerely,



Keith McAllister
Long-time member of the National Audubon Society and its Golden Gate Chapter

FOFUAR02343

GGNRA008519

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AUG 02 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Nancy Chiesa
1542 32nd Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
415/566-2605
E-mail: chiesa@itsa.ucsf.edu

August 1, 2000

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

Re: Fort Funston (GGNRA) closures.

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

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Your misguided policy is at odds with the vast majority of users at the Fort, dog walkers, who rely on this last remaining off-leash area. We believe that this heavily-used and much needed unique urban park should receive a different managerial perspective than that applied to the rural wilderness.

Sincerely,



Nancy Chiesa
Member, Fort Funston Dog Walkers Association

Cc: The Honorable Diane Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Tom Lantos
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Willie Brown

FOFUAR02344

GGNRA008520

RECEIVED

2484 21st Ave
San Francisco, CA 94116

AUG 02 2000

1 August 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Streets
Ft Mason, San Francisco 94123

RE: Comments on Proposed Year-Round Closure at Fort Funston

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I understand that the Golden Gate National Recreation Area was established in 1972 as a recreation area, not as a nature preserve. Changes made by GGNRA at Fort Funston since 1972 have consistently diminished its recreational use. This proposal is yet another example of the violation of the original commitment to recreational use.

The GGNRA's stated objective of restoring native plants is specious. San Francisco was primarily a "sand waste" prior to the arrival of Europeans. Attached is an early photograph of the west side of San Francisco, illustrating that the "sand dune flora" which GGNRA is attempting to restore, was 90% sand. The GGNRA does not have any photographs of Fort Funston prior to the planting of iceplant by the military that would prove otherwise.

As Pete Holloran (President of the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society and expert on sand dune flora) said at his recent lecture to the CNPS about sand dunes in San Francisco on July 7, 2000, sand dunes are inherently unstable. Sand dunes that have been temporarily stabilized by native flora can be "blown out" at any time by heavy winds. Therefore, planting native plants at Fort Funston is inconsistent with GGNRA's other stated objectives of stabilizing the cliff surfaces to protect cliff swallows and preserving "geological history in California".

As the GGNRA acknowledges in its proposal, native dune vegetation is "not adapted to heavy foot traffic". Therefore, it is inappropriately used in a recreational area. Nor is blowing sand that would result from unstable dunes, consistent with recreational use. Native dune vegetation is primarily of historical interest and belongs in an arboretum where visitors expect to be restricted to trails.

Sincerely,



Mary McAllister
Member of Strybing Arboretum

Attachment

FOFUAR02345

GGNRA008521



Sand Dunes, Early San Francisco, Calif.

H. Blair

FOFUAR02346

GGNRA008522

Superintendent:

I am writing because of concern for the bank swallow colony, native plants, wildlife and geologic formations in the Fort Funston area. I support the closure of a 12 acre area to protect the Northwest section, allowing protection of the swallow habitat, bluffs, etc. I believe this closure is essential for environmental safety.

I also have a question as to why dogs are allowed off-leash here, when off leash dog walking is forbidden by law on all NPS land.

RECEIVED

AUG 01 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jessie D. Jolin

8031 Danette Ct
Spring, TX 77379

FOFUAR02347

GGNRA008523

JOYCE DINSLAGE

2255-18TH AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116

Phone (415) 681-0850

RECEIVED

AUG 04 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

July 31, 2000

Brian O'Neill, Superintendent GGNRA
201 Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I am writing this letter to you to state my concerns over the use of my favorite dog walking sites, Fort Funston in San Francisco and the Thornton Beach area in San Mateo County. I have been a resident of San Francisco my whole life (50+years) and have watched many changes to these wonderful areas over the years. I am torn between the emotions of the current controversy surrounding these parks due to the fact that I am a long-time member of the California Native Plant Society, the Audobon Society, and a dog enthusiast with two energetic, happy-go-lucky Golden Retrievers. I am also currently employed by the Park Department of San Francisco and work on occasion at the beach, as well as in Golden Gate Park. As a person who is involved with all aspects of the arguments on all sides of the problems surrounding these areas, I would like to voice my opinions.

First, I think that the restoration projects at Fort Funston are a great idea; however, they should be limited to the fringes of the property, i.e. the entrance, hillsides along Skyline Blvd., in front of the Visitor Center, and entrances to the paths, leaving the open space of the property for the responsible dog-owners that would like to give their pets some much-needed exercise off leash. These people have shown their concerns for the land with scheduled clean-up days and pretty much police each other as to the behavior of each other's pets. Dog owner's are a special breed of people, love their dogs, nature and the outdoors. To take this away from them would be doing a great disservice to the animals and people of San Francisco - where would they go?

On to my next great concern, that regarding the NUMBERS of dogs per person. I have seen "dog walkers" with 10-12 dogs, all running loose and out of control. There is no way one person can monitor or clean up after this many dogs at once. If they must exercise this many dogs, they need to do so by two's or three's at a time. My dogs and I have been charged by these herds, only to have the "walker" yell, "they're friendly", well, how does he know my dogs aren't aggressive to this behavior? This is a situation that is an accident just waiting to happen, and must be addressed as soon as possible. It's not fair to those of us who are using this space for recreational purposes with our pets to be subjected to this devil-may-care attitude of these "professional" folks. If they want to "walk" this many dogs off leash, they need to buy their own property - it's called a "business expense"!

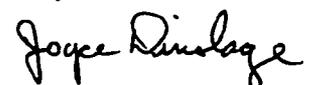
As far as the dogs disturbing the birds in the area, this is not a problem, its an excuse to fence off areas from the dogs. Quite frankly, the dogs are having far too much fun romping after tennis balls, frisbees and each other than to be concerned with a tiny bird.

In conclusion, I would like to put in a good word for your Rangers Bob Halloway and Roger Scott at Fort Funston who were very helpful and pleasant to me and my dogs.

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Willie Brown, Mayor of San Francisco
The Honorable Tom Lantos
The Honorable Barbara Boxer

FOFUAR02348

Sincerely,
Joyce Dinsalge



GGNRA008524

RECEIVED

July 31, 2000

AUG 02 2000

Superintendent SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
Golden Gate National Recreational Area
Bay and Franklin Streets, Building 201
Ft. Mason, San Francisco, Ca. 94123

Subj: Proposed Habitat Protection Closure
Fort Funston, GGNRA

Fort Funston is one of the major recreational areas in San Francisco, enjoyed by thousands of citizens daily. It is not a distant rural area that must be reached by long travel. Therefore, the needs of the people should be of paramount importance in deciding any closures. Your proposal puts forth opinions of environmental groups, but does not include any scientific and factual data from dog walker groups. They wish to present their own evidence, and equal weight should be given to it before any new closures take place

It is hoped that the additional two acres and reclassification of areas from seasonal to permanent was not done as a result of the May 16th court order. I can not help but wonder why this was added after the original closures.

It is requested that off-leash dog walking be recognized as a legitimate recreational activity, as stated in the 1979 dog policy for Ft. Funston. Please consider our points along with those of other groups in setting future policy.



Fred Beall
249 Grattan St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94117

Member, Ft. Funston Dog Walkers

FOFUAR02349

GGNRA008525

KAREN SLISSMAN

RECEIVED

2017 TARAVAL STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116

Phone (415) 661-8000
Fax (415) 681-5811

AUG 02 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Brian O' Neill,
Superintendent, GGNRA
201 Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 941223

July 31, 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I am a native resident of San Francisco and property owner and I would like to voice my concerns over the recent dog-bird-native plant problems surrounding the Fort Funston area. I would be the first to be concerned over the proper use of the area, as I have lived and played at the Fort for 55 years. It is unique in that there are very few places where one could take their dogs to let them play and exercise in a safe and healthy environment as any good dog owner knows is essential. I believe that San Francisco's dogs (plus the surrounding area's dogs) really need to be able to keep this beautiful area as an off leash area. Dog owners have shown their interest in keeping the land clean by having clean-up days and by posting signs to remind new-comers to clean up after their dogs. If any dogs get out of hand, they are quickly reprimanded to put their dog(s) on leash - so I believe we are all trying to do our part to keep it a clean and safe place to go with our "best friends". Dog parks have been set up in different areas for exercising dogs but, if you visit these areas, you will find a different atmosphere of dog behavior. These dogs are within a fenced area that is too confining and usually not large enough for the numbers of occupants, and you will note that many of these dogs will become territorial and fight amongst themselves. The owners can be found standing or sitting around talking (and not exercising themselves!). On the other hand, if you visit the Fort's dog population, owners and dogs are walking and running and playing and dogs are NOT fighting, for they do not "own" a space, but are instead busy exploring the Fort!

I feel though, that the problems facing the Fort are due to the person(s) taking out herds of dogs for exercise without a thought about clean-up or control. I have been charged by masses of uncontrollable animals, and I, as a dog person, find this difficult to handle, even with the non-aggressive dogs that I own. The dog walkers with the uncontrollable numbers of dogs seem to be oblivious of this problem. The numbers of dogs per handler needs to be limited to 2-3! These "professionals" need to take out only a few dogs at a time to exercise, not 10-15 at a time as they are now doing.

The bank swallows, as I see them, are not jeopardized by the dogs in the area, but instead by the natural erosion of the cliffs in the area, especially over the past 10 years. I have never seen dogs harrasing the birds, but only running and playing with their friends in the sand and ice plant. I feel that the fencing off of parts of the Fort will create more problems of overuse of the free areas. I also feel that there needs to be an easier and safer access created to the vast beach area below for dogs and their people to run off as much steam as they need, which would, in turn relieve more of the dog congestion on the upper Fort Funston property.

The native plant restoration at the Fort is coming along very beautifully, but I believe that the dogs and owners and the plants should be able to co-exist. This can be done by planting the entrances to the Park and along Skyline Blvd. and at the hang glider lookout areas and entrance; but the broader expanses need to be saved for our best friends and their (and our) needs for healthy exercise! Leave the ice plant in these areas, for it is what is saving the cliffs form further erosion!

In conclusion, I would like to compliment your Rangers Bob Halloway and Roger Scott for being the type of people our Natonal Parks need to show them off!

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter,

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Willie Brown, Mayor of San Francisco
The Honorable Tom Lantos
The Honorable Barbara Boxer

Karen Slissman



FOFUAR02350

GGNRA008526

July 31, 2000

RECEIVED
JUL 31 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Street
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

SUBJECT: Comment re Notice of Proposed Year-Round Closure at Ft. Funston

I'm a citizen who has visited Ft. Funston daily, rain or shine, for over 40 years. I have enjoyed many a sunset and have met hundreds of wonderful people who love the park as much as I. I have treasured its diverse plant and wildlife and agree that reasonable efforts must be made to preserve them.

The statutes and authorities cited in your Proposal apply to the management of *national* parks. Fort Funston is a *recreational* park.

The past closures, planned future closures, destruction of paved paths, removal of benches, and repeated attempts to impose dog leash requirements appears to violate the statutes creating GGNRA in 1972. At that time, legislation enabling the Federal government to take control of Ft. Funston (H.R. Rep. No. 1391, 92nd Cong., 2nd Session [1972]) stated that it be ceded to NPS with the understanding that it be preserved as an open *recreational* area. A 1975 Agreement between the City and County of San Francisco and the United States, and the deed transferring Fort Funston to the United States confirmed this.

Even the passage of the Organic Act did not change this — the Act itself, the rewritten regulations, and the courts all have made it *very* clear that the enabling legislation controls. Yes, all parks were to be treated similarly, but not in contravention of the enabling legislation.

NPS/GGNRA has not conducted environmental studies. It has not presented compelling scientific data to support the past and proposed closures and the necessity to restore native vegetation or create wildlife habitat. It offers numerous references in support of its Proposal, but I'm not convinced all individuals and studies referenced are applicable and/or impartial (see #1, below).

It is in NPS/GGNRA's best interests to explore more moderate approaches to accomplish the protection of the threatened bank swallows in order to avoid mutually costly confrontations such as this one.

For example, has NPS/GGNRA done any study of why the population has declined so dramatically since efforts were begun to destroy the adjacent habitat?

Because Fort Funston is a *recreational* area, I do not agree that non-native plants and trees should be removed and replaced with "native" plants, especially when there is no evidence that

FOFUAR02351

GGNRA008527

the plants being cultivated are "native." In addition, the enabling legislation requires maintaining the park in its natural setting, not creating something that was never there in the first place.

Regrettably, I must question the stated purposes and reasons given in the Proposal for permanently closing off even more areas of Fort Funston. NPS/GGNRA has destroyed its credibility with FFDW and other citizens who use its parks. NPS/GGNRA is perceived as having acted in bad faith

Although NPS/GGNRA has asked for public comment, past actions call into doubt its willingness to consider opinions that differ from its own. It seems resolved to move forward with a pre-conceived agenda, regardless of the reasonable number of reasonable arguments that are put forth in opposition.

Here's why I say that.

1. Having consulted with selected individuals and environmental groups like the California Native Plant Society and the Audubon Society, while conspiring to withhold information and deny input from others, NPS/GGNRA then moved with uncharacteristic speed, and without public review and comment, to close off more areas of Ft. Funston. (This was revealed through documentation produced by the government as part of the discovery process in FFDW's lawsuit against NPS/GGNRA.)

U. S. District Judge William Alsup found the hasty closures to be "highly controversial" and determined that there was " . . . an intent on the part of the NPS to railroad through the closure, to maintain secrecy, to unleash the fencing with lightening speed, and to establish a fait accompli."

Judge Alsup goes on to say at a hearing, "It sort of sounds like the Park Service is afraid to let the public have input," after saying that, "There was some evidence that would support the proposition that the officials in the Park Service recognized that the dog walkers would not be happy with the decision and wanted to run it through as quickly as possible. It sounds like as soon as the D-day boats are launched, they want them on the cliffs immediately so there won't be any time for opposition."

On May 16, Judge Alsup declared the hasty "emergency" closure of a large area of the Fort "a complete end-run around this lawsuit."

2. Citing safety concerns, the Sunset Trail, heavily used by tourists, disabled individuals, seniors, families with children, joggers, and bikers, as well as dog walkers, was summarily and without explanation or notice, ripped out. Benches were removed and one of the most scenic, best loved paths in the park was cordoned off and permanently closed. This, in spite of the fact that on December 3, 1999, Fort Funston Dog Walkers suggested that the safety issue could effectively be addressed by diverting a small section of the path.

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GGNRA008528

The Sunset Trail has been re-opened, but NPS/GGNRA alleges that it cannot afford to re-pave it. Seniors, bikers, and disabled people can no longer use it. These individuals have had something precious taken from them.

3. It was FFDW's understanding that areas closed in 1995 for the purpose of native plant restoration (which never happened) were to be re-opened after five years. Under the mistaken impression that it had an agreement with NPS/GGNRA, FFDW did not pursue the matter further. Five years later, and the closed areas have not been re-opened, nor have native plants been restored. This duplicity represents a breach of trust, if not technically a lie, on the part of NPS/GGNRA.

4. In 1992, without public hearings, NPS/GGNRA attempted to rescind the 1979 Pet Policy. After a huge public outcry and intervention by then U. S. Senators John Seymour and Alan Cranston, assurances were made that the Pet Policy would be untouched.

5. In 1997, NPS/GGNRA revoked the dog policy from the 1996 Compendium. This was done in secret despite tremendous public outrage over previous closures. (This fact was only revealed through documentation produced by the government as part of the discovery process in the lawsuit.)

6. NPS/GGNRA has reneged upon written and spoken agreements it had with the San Francisco SPCA (July 13, 2000 letter from Edwin J. Sayres, President SPCA to Chris Powell, GGNRA) and San Francisco Animal Control concerning use of San Francisco recreational areas under its jurisdiction.

I'd also like to point out that the repercussions of the restrictions that have already been imposed, and additional closures that are proposed, on the use of GGNRA managed parks, will adversely impact the City of San Francisco and its citizens in a number of ways that I can think of; there are probably others:

<< Increased use of City parks and resulting dissension among individuals who have conflicting interests;

<< Higher incidences of dog behavior problems (excrement in parks and on public streets, stray dogs wandering the streets and parks, dog fights, bites, etc.);

<< Increased owner abandonment of dogs due to behavior problems associated with poor socialization and lack of exercise and higher numbers of dog euthanasia;

<< Need for higher staffing levels in Animal Control to cope with increased workload.

Officials of San Francisco will inevitably become more aware of this cause and effect and the City may have no choice but to *exercise its reversionary interest in Fort Funston.*

FOFUAR02353

GGNRA008529

Legal expenses for FFDW and SFDog already total into the tens of thousands of dollars and are expected to run into tens of thousands more. Individuals of moderate means, like myself, are shouldering this burden. It's not right that it should be so costly for common people to protect their rights against the capriciousness and callousness of a small number of bureaucrats who can call upon the full weight and resources of the U. S. government.



Alberta Romanini
52 Northgate Avenue
Daly City, CA 94015

FOFUAR02354

GGNRA008530

LYDIA BOESCH
Attorney at Law

110 MAYWOOD DRIVE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94127
(415) 841-1060
(415) 841-0437 FAX
Lydiaowen@aol.com

July 30, 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent, GGNRA
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201 Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

RECEIVED
AUG 02 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Brian:

Enclosed are two letters from park users of Fort Funston regarding how the closure at Fort Funston has affected them. I am forwarding them to you to be included in the comments solicited in the rulemaking process.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Warmest regards.

Very truly yours,



Lydia Boesch

Enclosures (2)

FOFUAR02355

GGNRA008531

July 17, 2000

Lydia Boesch
110 Maywood Drive
San Francisco Ca 94127

Dear Ms. Boesch,

The closure of ten acres at Fort Funston has negatively impacted my family. My wife and I used to go to Fort Funston as children. We both grew up in San Francisco. Now we take our child to Fort Funston. But now that the Park Service has closed off the very areas we played on as children. We cannot enjoy the fulfillment of an afternoon at Fort Funston due to the closure. The access trails that were so educational to our daughter have been taken away and in their place we have the concrete trails. Our visits to the old fort have diminished over the last few months.

Then we have our two dogs. Their exercise regiment has been seriously cut back due to less trail acres. The hills were great exercise for our 12 year old German Shepard. Those hills are what keeps him looking five years his junior. Another casualty has been the sight of my daughter interacting with her dogs and being comfortable around dogs and nature. These experiences are very important for a child in an urban setting.

One of the most galling aspects of this entire affair is the way it was handled by the Park Service. The secretive nature in which there was no public input is arrogance at its worst. Instead of working with RESPONSIBLE dog owners that have used the park for decades, they chose to fight tooth and nail to keep access restricted. This is not responsible public policy or behavior for a government agency charge with serving the people who fund it.

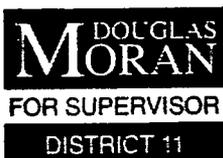
Our family is opposed to the closure and want it reopened soon. It is the reasonable thing to do. Open the acreage to the public!

Respectfully,



Douglas Moran
San Francisco

FOFUAR02356

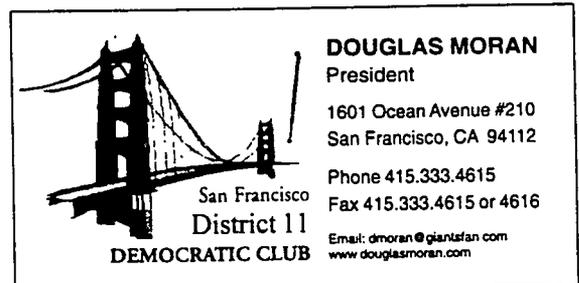


*"He'll Make
A Difference!"*

DOUGLAS MORAN
Candidate for San Francisco
Board of Supervisors
DISTRICT 11

1601 Ocean Avenue #210
San Francisco, CA 94112
Phone 415.333.4615
Fax 415.333.4615 or 4616

www.douglasmoran.com



GGNRA008532

July 17, 2000

Lydia Boesch
110 Maywood Drive
San Francisco Ca 94127

Dear Ms. Boesch,

The closure of ten acres at Fort Funston has negatively impacted my family. My husband and I used to go to Fort Funston as children. We both grew up in San Francisco. Now we take our child to Fort Funston. But now that the Park Service has closed off the very areas we played on as children. We cannot enjoy the fulfillment of an afternoon at Fort Funston due to the closure. The access trails that were so educational to our daughter have been taken away and in their place we have the concrete trails. Our visits to the old fort have diminished over the last few months.

Then we have our two dogs. Their exercise regiment has been seriously cut back due to less trail acres. The hills were great exercise for our 12 year old German Shepard . Those hills are what keeps him looking five years his junior. Another casualty has been the sight of my daughter interacting with her dogs and being comfortable around dogs and nature. These experiences are very important for a child in an urban setting.

One of the most galling aspects of this entire affair is the way it was handled by the Park Service. The secretive nature in which there was no public input is arrogance at its worst. Instead of working with RESPONSIBLE dog owners that have used the park for decades, they chose to fight tooth and nail to keep access restricted. This is not responsible public policy or behavior for a government agency charge with serving the people who fund it.

Our family is opposed to the closure and want it reopened soon. It is the reasonable thing to do. Open the acreage to the public!

Respectfully,



Maria Elena Camposeco
San Francisco

FOFUAR02357

GGNRA008533

DANIEL H. BROWN
Attorney at Law

3300 Powell St., Suite 103
Emeryville, CA 94608

RECEIVED
JUL 31 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Phone: (510) 428-1158
Fax: (510) 428-2021
e-mail: danielncf@aol.com

July 28, 2000

Brian O'Neil
General Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent O'Neil,

re: Fort Funston Proposed Area
Closure

According to the GGNRA statement supporting the closure:

“A wide array of disturbances to the swallows at Fort Funston have been observed and recorded during monitoring, and/or photo-documented. While bank swallows are known to be quite tolerant to some disturbance, few colonies are subjected to the intense recreational pressure at Fort Funston. **Documented disturbance events at Fort Funston include:** cliff-climbing by people and dogs; rescue operations of people and dogs stuck on the cliff face; people and dogs on the bluff edge or in close proximity to active burrows; graffiti carving in the cliff face; **aircraft and hang-glider over-flights;** and discharge of fireworks within the colony.” Emphasis supplied.

As president of the Fort Funston hang gliding association, Fellow Feathers, and a pilot who has been hang gliding at Fort Funston for over twenty two years, I have never observed hang gliders disturbing the bank swallows nor have there been reports from other hang glider pilots of disturbances. The fact that bank swallows successfully nested in the area before it was closed to hang gliding indicates that hang gliders do not disturb the bank swallows.

I am surprised by the claim that there are “disturbance events” by “aircraft and hang-glider over-flights” and that the “disturbance events” are “documented”. It is obvious that discharging fireworks near a nest is disturbing but there appears to be no basis for claiming a hang glider flying 100' above the cliff creates a disturbance. To the best of my knowledge, there are no scientific studies showing that hang gliders disturb bank swallow nesting.

I plan on attending the August 29, 2000 hearing and request that you identify the documents referred to in the statement and that you provide the location at which they may be inspected.

FOFUAR02358

GGNRA008534

Very truly yours,



Daniel H. Brown

President Fellow Feathers

hanggliding1108 lettertoO'neilrebank swallows

FOFUAR02359

Suzanne Brown
1740 Sanchez St.
San Francisco, California 94131

RECEIVED

AUG 01 2000

July 27, 2000 SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

PROPOSED FORT FUNSTON CLOSURE

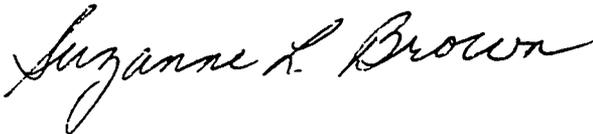
Today's mail brought a disturbing notice. It is a notice of a meeting regarding further closures at Fort Funston in San Francisco.

Fort Funston was chartered as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. There have been previous "temporary" closures for protection of migratory bank swallows and to reintroduce native plants. None of these areas have been reopened for public use. Now, there is a proposal to enlarge a currently closed area from ten to twelve acres. Additionally, the proposal is to close the area permanently, even when no birds are present. Fort Funston is being incrementally denied to the public for recreational use.

Hikers, dog walkers, bike riders, joggers, fishermen, hanggliders, families on a picnic all use Fort Funston for its main purpose...RECREATION. It was not chartered as a botanical garden or bird sanctuary. Denial of access to the tax-paying public (the actual owners) is wrong. There is room for all to enjoy the outdoors in their own way.

Please support the users of Fort Funston in our efforts to retain our recreational area.

Suzanne L. Brown



FOFUAR02360

GGNRA008536

Luehrmann
PMB 294
223 N. Guadalupe St.
Santa Fe, NM 87501-1850

July 27, 2000
PMB 294
223 N. Guadalupe St.
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RECEIVED
AUG 01 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Sts., Building 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to express my support for the permanent closure of a 12-acre area of the northwest section of Fort Funston in order to protect the bank swallow habitat, enhance significant native plant communities, improve public safety and reduce human-induced impacts to the coastal bluffs and dunes.

Although no longer a resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, I have had many pleasant times enjoying the beauty of the GGNRA. When I visit the area, as I did a couple weeks ago, I usually visit some part of the GGNRA. I was pleased to read recently that land and property at the northern end of the Golden Gate Bridge would also join the GGNRA. There is plenty of area within the GGNRA for enjoying many types of recreation in addition to enjoying the natural beauty. Closure of a 12-acre area, in my opinion, can hardly be considered a major inconvenience.

I was surprised to learn that dogs are actually allowed off-leash since it is forbidden by law on all NPS land. I am a dog lover but feel they should not be allowed to run free anywhere their owners want to let them do so. Too many dogs who run off-leash are not adequately controlled by their owners. I hope that off-leash dog walking can be stopped in the GGNRA.

I imagine you have many challenges in managing a National Recreation Area that many probably consider to be a wonderful city park. But the fact remains that the GGNRA is NPS land and should rightfully be managed as such.

Sincerely,



Donna Luehrmann

FOFUAR02361

GGNRA008537

1375 45th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
415 731 1474

RECEIVED

July 27, 2000

JUL 28 2000

Superintendent
GGNRA
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent:

Re: NOTICE OF PROPOSED YEAR-ROUND CLOSURE AT FORT
FUNSTON

I am writing to emphatically **OPPOSE** the year-round closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. The reasons given for this closure are nothing short of fantastic - and I don't mean in the sense of wonderful.

First of all, you state that the Fort is used by "beachcombers, walkers, hang gliders, paragliders and horseback riders, and other recreational users." Aren't you forgetting the number one user of the area? Dogs and the humans who walk them; to not mention this in an official document is clearly an attempt to disenfranchise those who utilize Fort Funston the most. Beachcombers don't use the Fort but the beach below; hang gliders and paragliders use the sky above (and the small area where they take off from). In addition you declare that "approximately three-quarters of a million visitors enjoy Fort Funston annually." I have been going to this area for 10 years and I have to say I don't see how 750,000 people could possibly go there each year. Perhaps you are counting and recounting all those dog owners who go several times a week or even daily (or more). How convenient to count them in the total but to discount them in describing who uses the park. In fact, I have never seen anyone counting park users either there or anywhere else in the GGNRA. Where do your numbers come from?

FOFUAR02362

GGNRA008538

Below I respond to your comments in Section III.

- A. You note the numbers of swallows for many years. During the years with the highest counts, people and dogs walked along the burrows, apparently without disturbing the birds. As you correctly note, bird numbers went down after the storms that caused cliff loss. So there's your answer. The birds left because their habitat was changed BY NATURE. Unfortunately these things happen - note the NPS policy on fires which are allowed to burn, although they no doubt kill countless animals and destroy habitat. There is no need to fence off this area. All the disturbances you list were happening in the years when the population was high. It is my understanding that these birds nest in a multitude of places that have high human and other activity. The birds will come back when they are ready to.
- B,C. The severe storms we had caused much of the erosion. Additionally, it seems to me that your conservation of the dune habitat is the further cause of the erosion in the cliffs. It wasn't until you started to pull up the iceplant that the cliffs started to deteriorate. There is a reason why the Army planted iceplant (and why the City of San Francisco planted it along Ocean Beach): It stops the sand from blowing around! While this iceplant may affect native insects and wildlife, it has been around for so many years that it is de facto native. If we take this trend to its natural conclusion, Golden Gate Park and all other parks in the City will be demolished and turned back into sand and whatever natural flora would thrive on it.

You blame heavy off-leash dog use for the deterioration of the dune communities because of canine trampling, urination and feces. Dogs have been running around this area for years and somehow the dunes were fine until recently, until, in fact, the native plant restoration started.

- D. Sadly, people and dogs have fallen down the cliffs. The cliffs are terribly dangerous. But so are the cliffs off of Land's End and the Cliff House, and the surf along Ocean Beach. You have not closed these areas down, despite the fact that there have been many more fatalities and rescues in these areas through the years than at the

Fort. Perhaps you could place signs pointing out the danger - just as you have throughout the GGNRA - rather than closing this area down.

Frankly, I believe your attempt to permanently close down this acreage is a covert attempt to curtail all off-leash dog activities in the GGNRA. I urge you to be careful what you wish for. If dogs are banned, your annual visitation will go down significantly (no matter how you come up with those numbers). If that happens, it would be hard to justify your current budget when it comes up for renewal.

I urge you to reconsider this closure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Selleck". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'D' being particularly large and stylized.

Denise Selleck

RECEIVED

JUL 28 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

320 Hazelwood
San Francisco, CA 94127
July 27, 2000

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

Mr. O'Neill:

I am concerned about current plans for and the future uses of Fort Funston.

In your consideration of the GGNRA's "Notice of Proposed Year-Round Closure at Fort Funston and Request for Comments", it is necessary to seriously take into account the needs, history and concerns of the many citizens of San Francisco who walk their dogs daily in this urban park.

When the Fort became a part of the GGNRA, it was with a Congressional mandate to use this land for "open recreational space." Off-leash dog walking has been a legitimate open space recreational activity at Fort Funston for nearly forty years, and the people who use this park to walk their dogs daily are currently the largest users of Fort Funston.

In this urban area, it is absolutely essential that the long-established off-leash dog walking areas of Fort Funston be kept, and not further closed and fenced off.

Sincerely,



Linda Schurer

FOFUAR02365

GGNRA008541

RECEIVED

JUL 28 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

320 Hazelwood
San Francisco, CA 94127
July 27, 2000

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

Mr. O'Neill:

I am concerned about current plans for and the future uses of Fort Funston.

In your consideration of the GGNRA's "Notice of Proposed Year-Round Closure at Fort Funston and Request for Comments", it is necessary to seriously take into account the needs, history and concerns of the many citizens of San Francisco who walk their dogs daily in this urban park.

When the Fort became a part of the GGNRA, it was with a Congressional mandate to use this land for "open recreational space." Off-leash dog walking has been a legitimate open space recreational activity at Fort Funston for nearly forty years, and the people who use this park to walk their dogs daily are currently the largest users of Fort Funston.

In this urban area, it is absolutely essential that the long-established off-leash dog walking areas of Fort Funston be kept, and not further closed and fenced off.

Sincerely,



Margaret Ryder

FOFUAR02366

GGNRA008542

RECEIVED
AUG 04 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

July 26, 2000
146 Swiss Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94131

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201
Fort Mason,
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent,

Thank you for responding in the past to our comments concerning the pending closures at Fort Funston. We are writing now as part of the public comment on the GGNRA proposed year round closure of 12 acres.

We walk our dog, Ember, most days at Fort Funston. We use the paved and prepared paths, the sandy paths through the woods, and the beaches. This is the best possible exercise for our dog, as she can run freely through the sandy terrain, giving her young legs and heart the workout she needs as a Border Collie. It's also good for us, getting us out into the fresh air, giving us a chance to meet other dog walkers.

The areas that are currently closed on a seasonal basis represent some of the most interesting terrain at the Fort. There are stunning sunset views on the left side; fantastic sand dunes in the middle, and a great beach entrance on the right. There is a sheer joy in climbing up and down these dunes, marveling at how nature is constantly reshaping them.

We can appreciate that the Park Service wants to preserve this land. But we also are painfully aware of how little land there is for people and dogs to roam "wild" in the urban setting that is the San Francisco Bay Area. Fort Funston serves a vital purpose in providing an outlet for thousands of people and their dogs. Cutting back on the useable park space – when there is no replacement space anywhere nearby -- just doesn't make sense.

We hope you will place great importance on the recreational needs of thousands of people and their dogs who rely upon Fort Funston as a vitally important place to experience the outdoors, without a leash, in and around the city of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Laine and Joel Barbanell Schipper,
and Ember



FOFUAR02367

GGNRA008543

July 26, 2000

Mr. Richard Bartke, Chair, GGNRA Advisory Committee
Ft. Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. Bartke:

This letter concerns recent and proposed closures in the Fort Funston Recreational Park, located in San Francisco, CA.

In 1972, Congress passed legislation enabling the Federal government to take control of Ft. Funston on the condition that it be maintained as a recreational park. At that time, Mayor Brown spoke eloquently in support.

Esteemed board members, this is a case of a few individuals in a regional office of a Federal agency taking and proposing actions which circumvent the intent of Congress. *Should these individuals be able to undo what it took legislative action to achieve?*

Since I last wrote, U. S. District Judge William Alsup supported our contention that NPS had acted in bad faith when it made extensive changes to the use and accessibility of the Fort Funston Recreational Park. As a result, NPS has been compelled to publish a notice of intended closures and ask for public comment.

Unfortunately, this concession was won at a considerable financial cost. San Francisco's citizens have had to go to Federal court to challenge NPS/GGNRA. Legal expenses already total into the tens of thousands of dollars and are expected to run into tens of thousands more before this struggle is over. Individuals of moderate means, like myself, are shouldering this burden. It's not right that it should be so costly for common people to protect their rights against the capriciousness and callousness of a few bureaucrats who can call upon the full weight and resources of the U. S. government.

The citizens of San Francisco, who rely on the Advisory Committee to act in their best interests, ask for your support. **Please** take a moment to read my letter to the Superintendent of GGNRA (enclosed) in response to its Notice of Proposed Year-Round Closure at Fort Funston. It sets forth some of our arguments and concerns in detail.

You will see that NPS/GGNRA has abused the public trust in this matter and that although NPS was forced to ask for public comment, its past actions call into doubt its willingness to consider opinions that differ from its own. And you will see that the repercussions of the restrictions that have already been imposed, and additional closures that are proposed, on the use of GGNRA

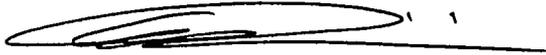
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managed parks, will adversely impact the City of San Francisco and its citizens.

I am hopeful you will conclude that by adopting a more moderate approach to managing this **recreational** park, NPS/GGNRA can, with public review and input, achieve reasonable environmental goals and protect the threatened bank swallow without compromising the diverse interests of the park's users (i.e. hiking, biking, off-leash dog walking, sight-seeing, bird watching, etc.).

Sincerely,



ALBERTA ROMANINI
52 Northgate Avenue
Daly City, CA 94015

FOFUAR02369

GGNRA008545

July 19, 2000

RECEIVED

JUL 24 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, Building 201
Bay and Franklin Streets
San Francisco, CA 94131

BNO'
S. Sheen
Cc: B. O'Neill
M. Scott

RE: Proposed Closure of Twelve Acres of Fort Funston

To Whom It May Concern:

Several months ago I visited Fort Funston with my Yellow Labrador, Chance. I was shocked to find that a large portion of the park was fenced off. I have recently been told that the GGNRA proposes to take two more acres and further restrict access.

Chance and I do not live in San Francisco, however, we do come regularly to visit. Fort Funston and Ocean Beach are two of our favorite haunts. Living in Chico, Chance only gets to go surfing when we visit one of these two sites – something he and I both love to do.

It's my understanding that National Recreation Areas were created to provide a number of outdoor experiences for both residents and tourists. While I don't deny the importance of maintaining a natural environment, I don't understand why GGNRA officials consistently trample the rights of dog owners. Walking and playing with a dog are healthy and appropriate uses of recreation areas. Dogs play an important role in family life today and they need exercise as much as their human counterparts. Fort Funston and Ocean Beach have provided my dog and myself with exercise and entertainment for several years. I probably would not have visited either place if I didn't have a dog.

Please give the people, and their dogs, the twelve acres that are proposed for closure. There are very few places in San Francisco where dogs and people can play. Fort Funston is considered the Disneyland of the canine world. Can you imagine what it would feel like if Disneyland no longer allowed children to visit?

Thank you for considering my letter.

Sincerely,



Erin Brown (and Chance)
1110 Arbutus Avenue
Chico, CA 94131

FOFUAR02370

GGNRA008546

RECEIVED

AUG 01 2000 Mr. Morton S. Gensberg
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE 205 Elsie St
San Francisco CA 94110-5507

B. O'Neill
G: M. Scott
D. Mammel
C. Powell
R. Scott
L. Sheen

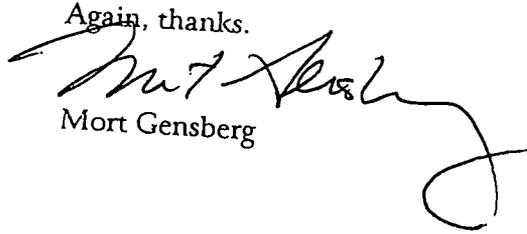
July 26, 2000

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

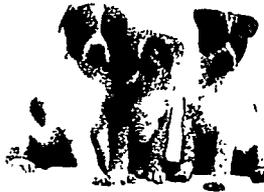
Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I'd like to thank you for the new drinking fountain recently installed at Fort Funston. It's become a very popular meeting spot.

Again, thanks.



Mort Gensberg



2000 Member
The Humane Society of the United States

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RECEIVED

JUL 27 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

July 25, 2000

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

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I do not often write letters regarding political matters due to the fact that I work in the field and understand the simple fact that money is the only thing that truly matters in political discussions. However I find the continued closures at Fort Funston to be of such a personal nature that I have no choice but to voice my opinion.

About a year ago I rescued a puppy from the side of the road by one of the other National Parks in Oregon (a park where gasoline powered dune buggies are allowed despite noise and air pollution as well as a tremendous amount of erosion). She has become a source of great joy in my life and an integral part of my family. I have lived in the City of San Francisco for over 12 years and had only visited Fort Funston ONCE prior to taking on the responsibility of caring for a dog – it is not an easily accessible nor extraordinarily hospitable place for the average resident of the Bay Area or visitor. Now that has changed dramatically. We visit Fort Funston in the GGNRA with great frequency. I read that Fort Funston has about 750,000 visits a year – I did a little math to discover that I visit at least two times a day and my dog visits about three times a day to come to a total of 750 to 1000 visits annually. We are there each weekday morning at 6:30 am and then in the evening at 6:00 pm. My dog also visits Fort Funston with friends on weekdays while I am working. We, as frequent park users, believe our interests and needs are not being listened to with any seriousness by you or anyone within the National Park Service.

There are three main points that I'd like to address in this letter how the continued closures at Fort Funston have a negative impact on my life:

1. **Stress relief.** I suffer from moderately high blood pressure due to the extremely stressful nature of my profession. My doctor has applauded my efforts to walk for over 2 hours a day at Fort Funston with my heart rate over 120 beats per minute as a method to ensure I do not have a heart attack. By participating in recreational activities with my canine companion at Fort Funston, I've noticed a dramatic change in my fitness and mood. If I lose access to this park, I will be forced to walk for several hours in my neighborhood a day with my dog which leads to my second concern;
2. **Safety.** As such a remote and inhospitable place to the average Bay Area resident, I've found Fort Funston to be tremendously safe for both me as a woman and my

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companion. Each morning and evening I see a series of friends and acquaintances who keep an eye out for both me and my dog. There is also the issue of traffic – the likelihood of my canine companion to be hit by a car while taking our daily walks at Fort Funston is minimal unlike having to walk her in my neighborhood. Even on leash she is at risk as much as I am to being hit by a car or being harassed. If Fort Funston is declared off limits to dogs and my dog or I am hurt in some way due to having to walk in other areas I will hold you and the Park Service personally responsible. Initially I took my canine companion to Ocean Beach for her off leash recreation but found it to be tremendously dirty and unsafe (I have found soiled diapers, broken bottles, fishhooks and used IV needles on the beach). Being able to go to Fort Funston gives me the feeling of security because of the community that has developed in the 40 years that people have been able to walk with their canine companions;

- 3. Loss of Housing.** I, like the vast majority of residents of the Bay Area, have concerns regarding my housing situation. My rental housing providers have been very kind by allowing me to live with my dog. However part of my job as a responsible tenant is to maintain cleanliness and quiet enjoyment of the entire building. By exercising my companion with great frequency, I find that she behaves very well when she stays at home. Maintaining a harmonious relationship with my housing provider and neighbors is one of the overlooked positive benefits of being able to freely access Fort Funston.

I respect the need for preserving the environment and safety of all visitors at Fort Funston, but taking draconian measures to insure that no one but a select group of contributors to the GGNRA be able to access public land is an abhorrent use of public land. Many people have declared that the dog walkers are selfish and do not care about the environment. This is a falsehood beyond words – I live with a member of the environment and care for her in the way that is best for her species. We also have a fundamental responsibility to care for the animals we, as humans, help domesticate a hundred thousand years ago. To deny an entire species that is dependent on humans for love, food, shelter and activity is truly cruel and shortsighted.

Thank you for your attention.



Jennifer M. Finlay
1614 26th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
415-665-0475

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JUL 27 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

July 25, 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay + Franklin Streets, Bldg 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

I whole heartedly support your effort to preserve the swallow colony + native plants, wildlife and geology of the Fort Funston area.

I definitely ? why dogs should be allowed to run at large in this area - they should be on leashes.

I support you in every effort.

Sincerely,

Dorothy E. O'Connell



Ms. Dorothy E. O'Connell
P.O. Box 217
Fairplay, CO 80440

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GGNRA008550

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JUL 27 2000

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

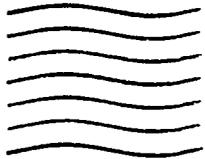
July 25, 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets, Building 201, Ft. Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123.

As a frequent visitor to Fort Funston, I fully support the National Park Service proposal to close year-round approximately 12 acres of Fort Funston to off-trail recreational use by the public. The protection of habitat for native species should take priority over human recreational use, given that there are numerous other beach recreational opportunities nearby. Thank you for protecting threatened species and native ecosystems.

Jeff Miller
Berkeley

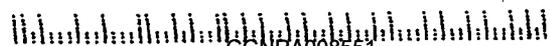
J. Miller
2325 A Cavleton St.
Berkeley, CA 94704



FOFUAR02375

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Streets, Building 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

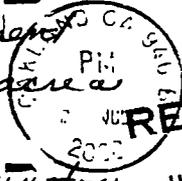
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GCNRA008551

S. Sheen
cc: B. O'Neill
M. Scott
N. Walthall
V. Ruan
M. [unclear]
T. Thomas

I support a permanent
closure of the 12-acre
area of the NW
section of Fort Funston
to protect the bank
swallow habitat from
dogs & people. We
must protect the bank
swallow colony & other
animals, plants & formations.
Thank you. Jean King



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JUL 25 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE



Superintendent
Golden Gate Nat. Rec Area
Bay & Franklin St
Bld 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco CA 94123



Jeanette King
4205 Colgate Way

Daly City, CA 94014

FOFUAR02376

GGNRA008552

RECEIVED
JUL 31 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

2809 Ponteverde Lane
Davis, CA 95616
July 24, 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Sts., Building 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent,

I'm writing in support of the proposal to close the 12 acre section of Fort Funston to protect habitat for the bank swallow. These remnant coastal bluffs and dunes and all their associated plant and animal life need added protection now before further degradation occurs.

As a lifetime dog-owner and someone who was born and raised in California and wants to see its natural heritage protected, I believe protection of a rare native ecosystem has to take priority over the preferences of a few vocal pet owners. Further, I question whether it is appropriate to allow dogs off-leash on National Park Service land. Please continue to follow the NPS mandate to preserve our increasingly rare natural resources so that future generations will be able to enjoy them as we have.

Sincerely,



Chris Clifford

FOFUAR02377

GGNRA008553

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

5605 Vantage Point Road
Columbia, MD 21044
July 24, 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Sts., Building 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

As I understand it, on July 14, the National Park Service officially proposed in the Federal Register a permanent closure of a 12-acre area of the northwest section of Fort Funston to protect the bank swallow habitat, "enhance significant native plant communities, improve public safety and reduce human-induced impacts to the coastal bluffs and dunes, a significant geological feature." This official listing followed previous management efforts by the park which were opposed by an organized group of dog-walkers who sued. The judge sided with the dog-walkers, requiring the NPS to perform a full public process before protecting this resource.

I believe that this closure is essential to protecting the swallows and other valuable remnants of the habitats that once covered this area of the coast. In addition to the swallows, Fort Funston is one of only three sites in San Francisco where California quail still survive, along with burrowing owls, brush rabbits and other native wildlife.

I also would like to express my concern about why dogs are allowed off-leash here, when off-leash dog walking is forbidden by law on all NPS land.

Sincerely,


Bruce Blum

FOFUAR02378

GGNRA008554

July 24, 2000

Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201
Ft. Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

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JUL 28 2000

Re: Proposed Habitat Protection Closure **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

I have read and looked at the map of the Proposed Habitat Protection Closure plan for Fort Funston. It seems to me that the proposed plan has been carefully considered and planned by the professional staff of the National Park Service (NPS) personnel. Protection of the bank swallow and the restoration of the native plants is a small area of the Fort Funston Park and it would be a small inconvenience for to some of the park users. Considering the greater good of protecting the bank swallow and restoration of the dunes the small inconvenience to some of the users should not interfere with the greater good for the protection of the bank swallow and restoration of the dunes.

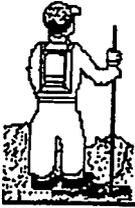
I support the plans of the NPS and feel that they should not be altered and if necessary enforcement of the proposed habitat protection.

Thanks for letting me comment on the plan.

W. R. Commins
William R. Commins
595 John Muir Dr. C703
San Francisco, CA 94132
(415) 841-9196

FOFUAR02379

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JUL 27 2000

SUPERINTENDENT

FROM THE DESK OF THE BAY AREA OUTBACKER -TERESA A. NEMETH

July 24, 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Sts., Building 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sir,

I hope that you are doing well today. This is the first time I am writing to you concerning about the issues that are taking place at the Fort Funston within the **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**.

As an environmental activist and resident of the Bay Area, I have been doing volunteer work on local, state and national environmental issues for the past several years.

The **National Parks and Conservation Association** has sent information to me concerning the proposal of protecting the remaining bank swallow colony. I understand that they are listed as a threaten species under the California Endangered Species Act.

In addition, I understand that a study on the possible causes of the erosion was done recently on the sandstone cliffs in question. This has included human activities such as cliff climbing, illegal graffiti, and rescues in a sensitive habitat area. Pet owners also bring the their animals into the area, with most of dogs running off-leash.

On July 14, the **NPS** officially proposed in the Federal Register a permanent closure of a 12-acre area of the northwest section of Fort Funston to protect the bank swallow colony, the wildlife, and the habitat.

Sir, I am in strong support of this closure. We need to take care of this area and restore it back to near natural conditions. The public and the tourists who come into this area needs to be educate on the ongoing conditions that are affecting this critical and sensitive section within Fort Funston.

I tried to do some research dealing with the dogleash laws at the National Park Service Website. I have not found any information posted for the Fort Funston area. As a suggestion, I would like to see it added to the **GGNRA Home Webpage**.

Please place my name on your mailing list. I would like to keep inform on the ongoing issues that are taking place within the **GGNRA** of the National Parks..

Thank you for reading this letter.

Helping to maintain a sustainable society and a restored environment.

Respectfully

Teresa Nemeth
1189 Harrison St. Apt.2
Santa Clara, CA 95050
408-296-5821

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7/23/00

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JUL 27 2000

STATE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

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

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am writing to object to the permanent 12-acre closure proposed for Fort Funston. I believe that the closure, and the rationale expressed for it, are misguided and unfair to the hundreds of citizens that use that park recreationally each week.

Your department's proposal states that the closure is necessary to:

- 1) preserve the waning colony of bank swallows that nest in the area each year
- 2) enhance public safety
- 3) prevent unnatural erosion of the bluffs
- 4) facilitate the restoration of native habitat to benefit the swallows and other species.

Objectives 1, 2 and 3 could easily be accomplished by a fence positioned along the edge of the bluff, far enough in to ensure the three-foot deep burrows of the swallows would be protected from cave-ins (and that the fence would not have to be replaced annually due to the natural erosion of the cliffs). Native coastal scrub could be planted along the fenceline, to obscure the unnatural-looking fence and provide further erosion control.

Objective 4 is especially misguided, given that the swallows relocated after iceplant and other non-native vegetation was removed from their previous colony site at the Fort. I am concerned that the same plan is about to be put into effect again in this new location, especially as there is no scientific evidence to support the assertion that native plants are preferable to the bank swallows. In fact, Fish & Game scientist Barry Garrison states the following in his extremely thorough California Partners in Flight Riparian Bird Conservation Plan:

"There appears to be no selection for specific vegetation communities at most nest sites as selection is directed at the nesting bank or bluff itself where soil type, height, and slope are the primary factors determining whether the site will be used for nesting (Garrison 1989).

Throughout California, colonies are mostly located amidst lowland vegetation types including riparian forests dominated by willows (*Salix* spp.) and Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*). Many colonies along the Sacramento and Feather rivers occur under cultivated crops including deciduous orchards, irrigated row crops, and dryland grain crops."

Based on the available scientific materials, there seems to be no reason why a zone of native vegetation need be plunked down in the middle of a much-loved and highly trafficked recreation area, especially if that vegetation is as fragile as the Native Plant Society claims it is. Why not establish native habitat in any of the dozens of acres that visitors to the Fort do not walk through? There, the plants would not require costly and unattractive fencing to protect them, and any animals that should decide to

FOFUAR02381

GGNRA008557

take up residence among them could do so peacefully and without attracting birds of prey to the bank swallow nesting site.

Finally, I object to this closure on the grounds that it is flagrantly and arrogantly disregards the enabling statute under which the GGNRA was formed. These lands were given to the NPS by the city of San Francisco for the express purpose of providing *recreational* open space for local citizens, in *perpetuity*...not just as long as the GGNRA didn't have other plans for them.

As a tax-paying citizen of San Francisco and a dedicated visitor to Fort Funston, I urge you to scrap this poorly conceived plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Cavaluzzo
156 Henry Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
laurac@slip.net

cc: The Honorable Diane Feinstein
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Tom Lantos
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable John Burton
Mayor Willie Brown

FOFUAR02382

GGNRA008558

22 July 2000

RECEIVED
JUL 21 2000
SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Sts., Building 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

I am writing to support the proposed closure of a 12-acre area of the northwest section of Fort Funston to protect the bank swallow habitat and other native species. I also think that dog-owners should be reminded that the leash law on park lands is an important part of the park's preservation policy.

With my best wishes,

Diane McColley

Diane McColley
310 Oaklawn Avenue
South Pasadena, California 91030



Diane McColley
1151 Oxford Rd.
San Marino, CA 91108



*Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123*

FOFUAR02383

94123/3333

7-16-00

Brian O'Neill,

Please include "FT FUNSTON DOG
WALKERS" IN THE PLANNING PROCESS.
WE HAVE BEEN A LEGITIMATE RE-
CREATIONAL USER OF FT. FUNSTON FOR
ALMOST 40 YEARS. THE QUALITY OF
LEGISLATION CONGRESS MANAGED
GARDEN LAWS IS
"OPEN RECREATIONAL SPACE"

Marlene Stoner

Proud Supporter of Wildlife Land Trust

Ms. Marlene Stoner
353 Wawona St.
San Francisco, CA 94127



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

Re: Fort Funston (GGNRA) closure

FOFUAR02384

4123+1300

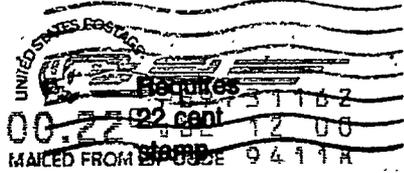


GGNRA008560

Dear Mr. O'Neill
 Since Congress mandated
 that the GGNRA lands be
 set aside as open recrea-
 tional space - help us to
 keep Fort Funston open so
 everyone can enjoy this
 natural beauty. We
 do much less damage
 than people! Sincerely
 Kaaren Staschow



Kaaren Staschow
 1621 Lake St.
 San Francisco, CA 94121



cc: Scott
 Y. Puan
 T. Thomas
 S. Farrell
 M. Aguilar
 C. Powell
 N. Walthall

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

7/16/2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

Please include the considerations of dog walkers in the planning process of the GGNRA for management.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Leslie T. Zamarripa

Leslie T. Zamarripa
51 Country Club Drive
San Francisco, CA
94132-1126

Leslie T. Zamarripa
51 Country Club Drive
San Francisco, CA
94132-1126



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

Re: Fort Funston (GGNRA) closure

FOFUAR02386

GGNRA008562

94123/3333

Re: Fort Funston (GNRA) closure

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



2001

WESTCRAFT
STEPHEN COCKRELL
165 MISSISSIPPI STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107

MR. O'NEILL:

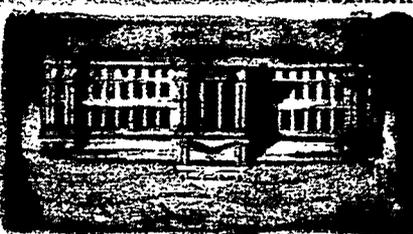
AS A MEMBER OF THE
FORT FUNSTON DOG WALKERS, THE
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY,
AND THE AUDUBON SOCIETY, I
URGENTLY REQUEST THAT YOU
SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS TO
DECIDE THE
FUTURE OF FORT FUNSTON.

SRC

FOFUAR02387

94123/1301

6100 D. M. Hill
6500 1st St
San Francisco, CA 94123



Hui-Kranda
334 San Leandro Way
San Francisco, CA 94127-1918

Der Superintendent O'Neill, 7/14/02
Please keep Fort Funston available for off-leash
dog recreation.

It would be a shame if the
recreational and natural resources
Dog walkers are legitimate park users. They
are the majority park user, there everyday
rain or shine. Let the Audubon Society
& Calif. Native Plant Society create a
nature reserve in a less-frequented part of
the 66NRA.

Sincerely,
Karin Hui, 334 San Leandro
SF, CA 94127

FOFUAR02388

GGNRA008564

2525 Moraga Street
San Francisco, CA 94122
(415) 664-9744

RECEIVED
JUL 19 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

CY: Scott
Ruan
T. Thomas
S. Farrell
R. Scott
H. Walthell
H. Aguilar

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

July 14, 2000

Dear Supt. O'Neill:

As someone who has a great fondness for both dogs as well as wildlife, I am writing to encourage you to keep the six acres of dunes *closed* to protect the bank swallow colony.

I sympathize with urban owners of dogs who have few areas of dog-friendly open space, but it seems to me that the bank swallows have suffered—and continue to suffer—more. To say that bank swallows must lose their nests so that dogs can romp through the area in passing—as transitory recreationists like their owners—seems to be an unfair situation for wildlife.

Fort Funston's precious remnant of native vegetation and wildlife is too precious to lose. It is one of the last remaining areas of native dune flora in the city, and the restoration going on there, as you know, is an excellent collaboration between volunteers and park employees.

Please protect the swallows and increase efforts to restore Fort Funston's degraded vegetation with ecologically diverse indigenous flora.

Thanks for the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

Christine Colasurdo

FOFUAR02389

GGNRA008565

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

MICHAEL JACOB
379 ELWOOD AVENUE
OAKLAND, CA 94610
510 444-2701

July 24, 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets, Building 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

S. Shear
Cc: B. O'Neill
M. Scott
N. Walcott
Y. Ruan
T. Thomas

RE: Please do not close off more of Fort Funston

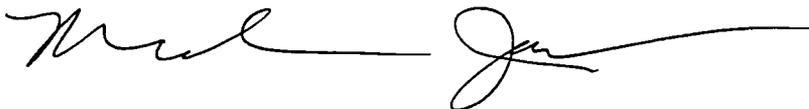
Please do not close off acreage at Fort Funston to people or dogs. Please remember that your charge is for a recreation area, not to return land to some unachievable pristine condition.

I believe that there is misguided movement in some places today that involves the attempt to launch struggles against human use in inappropriate places such as those few urban places where people and their dogs can enjoy the beauty and freedom of an off-leash walk.

The earth and the land need conserving and restoring; there is no question about that. However, it strikes a blow against sound environmental policies when you limit and punish city dwellers who have come to use and cherish tiny little pieces of beautiful land on the coast.

This does nothing but alienate people and create enemies of environmental efforts who would otherwise be friends. In cities, you would be better served to create and enhance beautiful areas that people and their dogs can use. They would then come to cherish your work and support you in the larger effort.

Respectfully,



Michael Jacob

FOFUAR02390

GGNRA008566

July 24, 2000

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

D. Sheen
cc: B. O'Neill
M. Scott
N. Walthall
J. Ruan
T. Thomas

Dear Superintendent:

I am a voting member of the San Francisco population who is proud of her city, parks, citizens, and canine companion.

I am writing to tell you about my discomfort in the closures at Fort Funston for dog owners. This renowned park with exceptional access to the beach and sand dunes is a small slice of heaven for dog and people lovers in a city that shares its diversity and warm with millions of people each year. My cocker spaniel, Toby, and I have shared this park at least three to four days a week for the past six years (after bringing Toby home from the SPCA). After working in Oakland all day, I hurry home so we can experience the utopia that belongs to all of us.

I have never met such gracious dog companions, not only do they keep the park up but they always seem willing to help out each other - which you know doesn't always happen in large urban areas. Toby is a great animal and people dog, many times we have stopped to share his love with children and the elderly who visit the park without animals. The joy they receive is a small fraction of what we receive from having this experience together.

To think that the harsh realities of life can be forgotten for a few minutes a day at this majestic setting is a blessing only San Francisco and the National Park Service can give. By continuing to limit space (lately changed from 10 to 12 acres), the National Park Service who represents all of the citizens is taking away inch by inch the few places left at which we can enjoy nature in an atmosphere of peace.

I do hope you will consider carefully the space issues brought to your attention by the Fort Funston Dog Walkers Association. The rumor at the park is that this is a first step to take away all off leash privileges. If the rumor is the National Park Service's real intention we are all in a great deal of trouble. What is the National Park Service for - if not for the privilege to be in a protected area with nature. Please don't lower your standards as what has occurred with the State Park System in their unfriendly attitude towards dogs.

Sincerely,



Nancy Collins
122 Clinton Park
San Francisco, CA 94103

FOFUAR02391

GGNRA008567

Cy: S. Sheen, M. Scott

Author: GOGA WR Information at NP-GOGA
Date: 7/24/00 8:43 AM
Normal

TO: Brian O'Neill Subject: Fort Funston ----- Message Co
ntents

Brian - this was emailed to the PWR Information Office - the senders email address is rutkowski@terraworld.net.

craig glassner

Forward Header

Subject: Fort Funston
Author: "Robert E. Rutkowski" <rutkowski@terraworld.net> at np--internet
Date: 7/22/00 1:44 PM

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Sts., Building 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

"...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks ..which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." National Park Service Organic Act, 16 U.S.C.1.

The quote above from the act which established the National Park Service (NPS) in 1916 applies to every unit of the park system, whether it is designated park, monument, recreation area or seashore. This story regards an effort be the park service to uphold its mission, and the opposition it has garnered from a group of park users. Your help is needed to protect a threatened resource.

As you know, the controversy over management of the Fort Funston area in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Fort Funston's 230 acres include one of the best continuous exposures of a sandstone formation revealing the last 2 million years of California geologic history and the largest remnant of the San Francisco dune complex, of which only 5% still exists.

FOFUAR02392

It is my understanding GGNRA over the past several years has engaged in numerous efforts to protect and restore the dune ecosystems (which face threats primarily from invasive exotic plant species and trampling from humans and animals) It is also working on plans to protect a colony of rare bank swallows. The migratory birds, as their name suggests, build nests in burrowed holes in suitable banks along rivers and beaches. There is a colony in the Fort Funston that is threatened by continuing erosion of the coastal bluffs they nest in. The Funston bank swallow colony is one of only two remaining on the California coast (most California bank swallows breed in the Sacramento River Valley and are declining there). They are a listed

threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act.

The park has studied both the causes of the erosion and ways to prevent it. Some of the most serious threats are activities such as off-leash dog running and cliff climbing. Others include graffiti-carving in the soft sandstone, fireworks set off on the beach below the bluffs, rescues of people and dogs trapped on the bluffs and overflights of hang-gliders. The number of visitors to Fort Funston has increased dramatically in the last five years.

On July 14, the NPS officially proposed in the Federal Register a permanent closure of a 12-acre area of the northwest section of Fort Funston to protect the bank swallow habitat, "enhance significant native plant communities, improve public safety and reduce human-induced impacts to the coastal bluffs and dunes, a significant geological feature." This official listing followed previous management efforts by the park which were opposed by an organized group of dog-walkers who sued. The judge sided with the dog-walkers, requiring the NPS to perform a full public process before protecting this resource.

I believe that this closure is essential to protecting the swallows and other valuable remnants of the habitats that once covered this area of the coast. In addition to the swallows, Fort Funston is one of only three sites in San Francisco where California quail still survive, along with burrowing owls, brush rabbits and other native wildlife.

I write in support of this proposal. I express concerns about preserving the bank swallow colony and other native plants, wildlife and geologic formations. I also suggest you question why dogs are allowed off-leash here, when off leash dog walking is forbidden by law on all NPS land.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring these remarks to your attention.

Yours sincerely,
Robert E. Rutkowski, Esq.

cc: Bob Stanton

2527 Faxon Court
Topeka, Kansas 66605-2086
Fax: 1 785 379-9671
E-mail: r_e_rutkowski@hotmail.com

FOFUAR02393

GGNRA008569

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2000

SUPERINTENDENT

2221 15th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116
July 24, 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sir:

We feel such sadness about the entire situation at Ft. Funston. It appears that those of us who have tried to make our feelings known about the fences and closure at Ft. Funston are being punished by the GGNRA, in particular, and our elected representatives, in general, by their lack of understanding and help. It seems that the more we try to explain our needs and unhappiness, the worse we are punished. It makes us think that if we had not tried to work with the GGNRA, we would have had fewer problems. That doesn't sound like workings of a democracy to us. It's almost as if we are being shown that GGNRA has the absolute and unyielding power and we have no opportunity for input regardless of Ft. Funston's traditional uses before being taken over by the NPS.

We have two dogs that we care for as if they were family members, which we believe they are. We feed them, love them, exercise them, train them, and clean up after them just as anyone would do for family members they love. We also pay taxes and vote. So far, we're not sure we're being represented by anyone we voted for. It has gotten to the point that we're afraid to say what we think and how we feel for fear that things will get worse instead of better. Certainly there seems to be an iron curtain erected by the NPS and, perhaps by our elected representatives, to exclude us, but not other groups who clearly have the ear of the NPS.

My family cares about the bank swallows and about the native plants. We live in a very densely populated city that has only so much space for everyone to live. We must share this space. We must care about each other. Are we to believe that the GGNRA is omnipotent and is interested in responding only to certain groups? Why are tax-paying and law-abiding citizens of San Francisco being treated as if GGNRA can do whatever they want to us and if we dare to say anything, we will be punished. We are very sorry for all of us because we're so at odds with each other. There's no reason for such hostility. We do hope that this letter stating our feelings doesn't cause you to permanently fence off even more acreage at Ft. Funston.

Yours truly,


Lee & Patrick Noakes

cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable John Burton
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
The Honorable Tom Lantos
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Mayor Willie Brown
Supervisor Gavin Newsom
Supervisor Mabel Teng

FOFUAR02394

GGNRA008570

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 11 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Hague

Return address: _____

640 Faxon Ave.

SF, CA 94112

FOFUAR02395

GGNRA008571



Ms. Karen S. Hague
 640 Faxon Ave.
 San Francisco, CA 94112



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

94123/1301



FOFUAR02396

GGNRA008572

RECEIVED

SEP 11 2000

DEAR MR. O'NEILL,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I HAVE BEEN WALKING MY DOGS AND MYSELF AT FORT FUNSTON FOR ABOUT 8 YEARS, 5 TIMES A WEEK. IT IS THE BEST REASON I CAN THINK OF TO GET UP IN THE MORNING. HAVING HEARD THAT YOU MAY BE CONSIDERING A CHANGE IN OFF LEASH POLICY HAS BEEN VERY UPSETTING.

I KNOW MANY DOGWALKERS AND ENCOUNTER MANY MORE ON MY DAILY WALKS. THEY BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY-AND BELIEVE ME I WOULD NOTICE AS SOMEONE WITH AN AVOCATION IN DOG BEHAVIOR I AM A STICKLER FOR DOGGY MANNERS.

I AM ALSO A FOSTER MOM FOR RESCUED 'ABUSED' DOGS. I WORK WITH THEM IN MY HOME AND WHEN THEY ARE READY THEIR FIRST OFF LEASH EXPERIENCE IS AT F.F. 'WINSTON' HAD LIVED HIS ENTIRE LIFE(4 YEARS) IN A DARK CAGE AT A PUPPY MILL, HE HAD TO LEARN TO WALK, PERIOD. AT FUNSTON HE RAN FOR THE FIRST TIME.....I CRIED. PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS SMALL SLICE OF PARADISE AWAY!

THANKS,

SHERRI FRANKLIN



Sherri Franklin
1041 Kansas St
S.F. Ca 94107

FOFUAR02397

GGNRA008573

RECEIVED

SEP 13 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

327 Hedge Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
September 11, 2000

Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 210, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

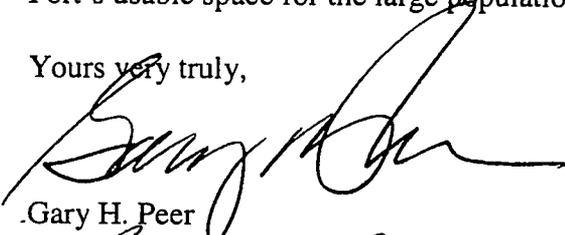
We object to the recent closures at Fort Funston.

The newly erected fences result in decreasing the already limited area used by park visitors and dog walkers.

If fences are shown to be of use in the protection of the bank swallows, these should be placed near the cliffs that are essentially off limits for public use anyway.

We hope you can come to a resolution on this matter without further reduction of the Fort's usable space for the large population (human and canine) that it serves.

Yours very truly,



Gary H. Peer



Beth M. Peer

FOFUAR02398

GGNRA008574

9/11/00

Supt. Brian O'Neill ~

GGNRA
SF, CA. 94123

RECEIVED
SEP 12 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Supt. O'Neill -

I Am writing to Strongly Protest the
Closing of 12 acres at Fort Funston.

Please reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,


CRAZE S. BRADLEY

September 11, 2000

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2000

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

As a daily visitor to Fort Funston, I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of the park. I agree with the need to protect the bank swallows; however, I believe that the closure of so much land is unnecessary. The California Department of Fish and Game has advised that closure of only the cliff face and the tops of the cliffs is necessary to protect the bank swallows. Off-leash dogs have already been forced off of Ocean Beach and vilified as predators of bank swallows. With off-leash land shrinking, please consider the rights of dog owners to run their dogs off-leash in one of the last off-leash areas of San Francisco, Ft. Funston.

Ft. Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Ft. Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. I take my three dogs there every day, and like the vast majority of dog owners, I clean up after my dogs and leave no scars on the beautiful landscape. In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter,

Sincerely,


Rebecca Thompson
550 Judson Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112

FOFUAR02400

GGNRA008576

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

116 Eugenia Avenue
San Francisco, Ca. 94110
September 11, 2000

Brian O'Neill, Superintendent, and
Members of the Advisory Commission
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, Ca. 94123

Dear Superintendent O'Neill and Committee Members:

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston is a natural treasure within the city limits of San Francisco. When the city entrusted Fort Funston to the National Park Service for stewardship, it was with the stipulation that the park be maintained for "recreational open space". Speaking as someone who has enjoyed Fort Funston for at least 40 years, I despair when I see the unsightly and ever encroaching fences closing off large areas traditionally enjoyed by hikers, hang gliders, dog walkers, horesback riders, picnics and those who are refreshed by a quiet time on the bluffs.

I understand the fences are intended to stabilize the cliffs, protect bank swallows and new plantings of "native" flora following removal of ice plant. It is clear that the Park Service considers off leash dogs antithetical to these purposes. The Park Service complains there are too many dogs, yet, the concentration of dogs at Fort Funston is a direct result of GGNRA policy of restricting dogs in properties under its management. With each successive closure (from Point Reyes, Fort Cronkhite, Land's End and portions of Ocean Beach in SF) GGNRA has invited dog walkers to come to Fort Funston, which is now nationally known as "dog heaven."

It is disingenuous at the very least for the Park Service to say on the one hand there are too many dogs at Fort Funston and on the other to say dog walkers are so few that we are not to be included in discussions of park usage and changes. As a daily dog walker, I can testify that dog walkers are by far the majority users of the park and on a cold, blustery day, the only users. I appreciate the opportunity to make public comment on the issue of closures at Fort Funston, but it is very disappointing that it took a lawsuit and a Federal court to make this happen.

....2

FOFUAR02401

GGNRA008577

The cliffs

Dogs are not de-stabilizing the cliffs. The causes of cliff erosion are Mother Nature and man's ineptitude in dealing with her. The forces that have shaped continents for eons continue their work. Wind, water, time and tide are beyond the reach of even the GGNRA. The cliffs will continue to erode and the area will eventually return to sand and grasses. Removing ice plant and sturdy trees will only hasten the process.

Plants

Whether plants are native or non-native, the presence of dogs seems to make little impact. Dogs typically stay near their owners on the trails. I frequently walk along the horse trail on the far east side of Fort Funston. This is an area where dogs run free and it is also an area where ice plant was planted by the military. Many plant species are thriving among the iceplant. Since they are there due to perfectly natural processes I would consider them native. By contrast, the west side of Fort Funston is naturally sand dunes. Iceplant may not be "native" but it is doing a job of slowing down erosion and many people appreciate the beauty of its ever changing colors. (Ironically, a US stamp has just been issued showing an iceplant covered ocean bluff.)

The argument of native vs. non-native is far from settled. How far back in time do you go? Most of us are non-natives. Shall we be rooted out? Poet and environmentalist, Gary Snyder, writes about the "trap of pristinity" in the Winter 2000 Edition of California Wild:

"Thinking of wild land as unmanipulated natural habitat drags you toward the trap of pristinity. Wilderness does not have to be pristine. Nothing is ever pristine. Nature, natural habitats, and natural lands have gone through endless changes and disturbances over millions of years. If a little mountain range was clearcut 500 years ago, and has now totally grown back, does that mean it's not wild because at one time it was clearcut? Of course not. It is the presence of the wild process of restoring and going about its ways, bringing back a combination of plant species, being reinhabited by an appropriate wildlife--that is the nature of the wild. We just have to leave it alone and let it come back."

Bank Swallows

I walk my dogs every morning at Fort Funston/Ocean Beach. It is my observation that bank swallows, along with many other species of birds, are unperturbed by the presence of dogs. Indeed, WWII fortifications and activities failed to deter them. The bank swallows move as the configuration of the cliffs change.

It is not dogs that vandalize cliffs and disturb the swallows. However, with protection of bank swallows being a high priority for the Park Service, it is shocking there were apparently no rangers on duty during Fourth of July celebrations. Firecrackers were set off at Ocean Beach directly below bank swallow habitat, and on July 5th I noted Fort Funston was littered with spent firecrackers.

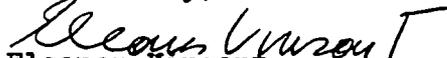
People/Dogs

Being in direct contact with the forces of nature is something that is missing from our stressed urban lives. For many of us Fort Funston is sacred, a place for us to feel that connection so essential for emotional and spiritual well-being. To walk in this beautiful place with our dogs running free is a joy that sustains us.

The human/canine bond is very ancient and I might say, it has benefitted humans more than dogs. Dogs have given so much in the service of man and are certainly entitled to a decent quality of life. Restricting off leash dogs at Fort Funston will not accomplish the GGNRA stated goals, but will punish dogs and responsible dog owners.

The GGNRA must fulfil its agreement with the City of San Francisco and maintain Fort Funston as open recreational space. To paraphrase Ronald Reagan's famous plea to Mikhael Gorbachov about the Berlin Wall: "please GGNRA, take down the fences" and turn the eyesore you have created back to the beautiful, tranquil, wild place it is, to be enjoyed by everyone.

Yours truly,


Eleanor Vinsant

cc: The Hon. Dianne Feinstein
The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
The Hon. Tom Lantos
The Hon. Barbara Boxer
The Hon. Willie Brown

FOFUAR02403

GGNRA008579

Name: KATHLEEN M. WYSPIANSKI
Address: 2244 SANTIAGO ST.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116

Date: SEPT. 10, 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED
SEP 13 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wyspianski

FOFUAR02404

GGNRA008580

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

FOFUAR02405

GGNRA008581

Name: KATHLEEN M. WYSPIANSKI
Address: 2244 SANTIAGO ST.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116

Date: SEPT. 10, 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

RECEIVED
SEP 13 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wyspianski

FOFUAR02404

GGNRA008582

RECEIVED

SEP 13 2000

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

9.10.00

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



Return address: _____

Elizabeth Cunningham
1175 Clayton St., #6
San Francisco, CA 94117

FOFUAR02406

Please help us reach a solution
Thank you.

GGNRA008583

RECEIVED

SEP 13 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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

9.10.00

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I object to the recent closures at Fort Funston.

The newly erected fences keep people from enjoying what is the most scenic area of the Fort.

If fences are shown to be needed to protect the bank swallows, these should be near the cliff face, above the burrows; this solution would address public safety as well. The Park Service has shown it can erect fences even on dunes.

We are anxious to find a solution that allows all park visitors to enjoy their recreational activities including off-leash dog walking, hiking, bird and whale watching, or just sitting to admire the view. This can be done while also protecting existing park resources.

Sincerely,



Return address: _____

Elizabeth Cunningham
1175 Clayton St., #6
San Francisco, CA 94117

Thank you for your help in
this matter.

FOFUAR02407

GGNRA008584

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Turner Hopwood
9.10.2000

Return address: _____

FOFUAR02408

GGNRA008585

Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the INRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Turner Hopo
9.10.2000

Return address: _____

FOFUAR02408

RECEIVED

SEP 14 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Name: ELIAS LEVY
Address: 1704 22nd AV.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94122

Date: SEPT, 10 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elias Levy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

FOFUAR02409

GGNRA008587

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

FOFUAR02410

GGNRA008588

9/10/2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Joe Span

Return address: _____

1964 Pacific Ave #2
S.F. CA 94109
415-885-4361

FOFUAR02411

GGNRA008589

**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

FOFUAR02412

GGNRA008590

I took my kids and my dogs to Fort Funston since they were little. Now I'm a grandmother & plan to take my grandchildren and my dogs to FF. Please don't take away this wonderful place where we can enjoy watching all the dogs run free & play among the dunes. It is truly a wonderful sight & much needed in this crowded Bay Area.

Name: Carolyn Bower
Address: 73 Rossi Ave
San Francisco CA 94118

Date: Sept 10, 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Bower

FOFUAR02413

GGNRA008591

C Bower
73 Rossi Ave
SF 94118



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

94123/1301 

FOFUAR02414

GGNRA008592

Name:
Address:



Eric Bower
73 Rossi Ave
San Francisco, CA 94118-4217

RECEIVED

Date: 9/10/00

SEP 12 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Eric Bower

Whenever my wife and I have visitors we always include Fort Funston as one of the sightseeing wonders of the SF area. The pleasure of seeing hundreds of dogs running, playing, socializing (and never any fights) while we walk along the paths and cliffs is exceptionally unique and special. It would be a SHAME to lose this. As an employer and taxpayer, I find GGNRA's position and actions objectionable.

FOFUAR02415

GGNRA008593



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

94123/1301 

FOFUAR02416

Sept 10, 2003

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED
SEP 12 2003
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Please take a moment to consider this!

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Ada Mau & Jason Kundell

FOFUAR02417

GGNRA008595



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

94123/1301



FOFUAR02418

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Joshua Swink
2818 22nd Street
San Francisco, California 94110

September 9, 2000

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

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to close twelve acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority (as its very name implies).

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They have gone to Fort Funston since 1961 to enjoy its tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



FOFUAR02419

GGNRA008597

RECEIVED

SEP 13 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
GGNRA
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

September 9, 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

Every morning for many years I have begun my day by walking along the beach or the bluffs at Ft. Funston. I have considered myself so lucky to be able to start my days with this exercise/prayer/meditation. When Ocean Beach was closed to off leash dog walking, I spent much more time south of Sloat Blvd, as did so many other people with dogs. My favorite walk for several years has been along bluffs at the north end of Ft. Funston. It is a quiet and powerful place in the early morning; a place to take a moment and give thanks and marvel at the wonders of creation and fill your lungs with the salty air.

When the fences went up, I felt like I was cut off from an essential part of myself. I can still get to the beach and I can still look out at the vast Pacific, but it's not the same. I spent most of the summer walking in other areas.

Last week I went back out to Ft. Funston for the first time in a while and the gates were open and I was able to get back up to the bluffs. I am writing to let you know that I was elated to be back up there.

Mr. O'Neill, like many of the people who are fighting the closures, I am a nature lover, a bird watcher, a gardener, a "Greenie". I walk with plastic bags and pick up trash as I go. I always have and I will continue to do so. At least I will if there is any place left where I will be allowed to walk.

Let me close by saying that I was born and raised on 47th Avenue, where I still live. I've spent my life on Ocean Beach and it's odd to be prohibited from doing something that has been a way of life.

Sincerely,



Ellen D. Scanlan



Ellen D. Scanlan
2543 47th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94116

National Campaign for Tolerance

FOFUAR02420

GGNRA008598

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2000

131 Mendosa Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116
September 9, 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Erian O'Neill, General Superintendent
and
Members of the Citizen's Advisory Commission
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill and Commissioners,

After attending the meeting about Fort Funston on August 29th, I have a few thoughts I would like to send on to you.

As you know I vigorously oppose the new fencing and the impending closure of twelve more acres. Except for a narrow beach access trail this closes off the entire northwestern section of the park to all people. Walking the trails in this area was most pleasurable. It is nice to feel a part of this area rather than being a far-off spectator. I believe one of your rangers stated that one reason for the closure is to preserve the natural environment for the benefit of future generations. How are future generations going to enjoy it if it is all fenced off?

I have seen the change and erosion in the last twenty-four years that I have been walking here. But in my opinion the erosion caused by dogs and people has been very, very minimal compared to the erosion by wind and storms. I used to love to sit on the bench that sat on the dunes at the very north end. It had to be removed due to wind erosion. Why didn't you move it to another spot in the dunes? It was a wonderful place to sit with a thermos of coffee. Maybe in a few years you would have to move it again but so be it! That would be nothing compared to ripping out asphalt paths and building wire mesh and plastic fences all over the sand.

The park service has stated that the reason for the fence is protection for the bank swallows. The swallows came to these cliffs when people and dogs were walking above the cliffs and long before any fences were built. Temporary fencing along the top of the bluffs would be plenty of protection for the birds.

Alan H opkins of the Audubon Society said he can't bird without being surrounded by twenty dogs. Where does he bird? I am a birder and often go out with my binoculars. There are many places on the western side, now the southwestern side, where one can see the gulls, pelicans, cormorants, sooty shearwaters, etc. without dogs around. The areas around the horse trail provide much privacy for viewing land birds. I see white-crowned sparrows, doves, swallows, towhees, finches, ravens, red-tailed hawks, northern harriers and even an occasional owl. Dogs do not have to be a problem for Mr. Hopkins. I am glad there will be dog walking at Crissy Field. But I live on the south end of the city and would not often go to Crissy Field.

In closing I want to say that I am happy to see some footprints and pawprints in the sand once again. That's the way it should be. Let's take down the fences and carefully enjoy that twelve acres!!!

FOFUAR02421

Sincerely,
Marion Cardinal
(Mrs.) Marion Cardinal

GGNRA008599

9/1/00

RECEIVED

SEP 10 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

SUPERINTENDENT

It has come to my attention that the GGNRA is electing to fence off more land at Fort Funston because of bank swallows. It is my understanding the majority of environmental scientists fail to concur with your assessment of the plight of the bank swallows. As a dog owner and frequent visitor to Fort Funston, I urge you to reevaluate your claims. We live in an urban area and this type of open recreational area is critical to our quality of life. Many of us opt to have canines instead of children. I sit that the way to go in an over-populated planet.

I object to the recent closures at Fort Funston.

The newly erected fences keep people from enjoying what is the most scenic area of the Fort.

If fences are shown to be needed to protect the bank swallows, these should be near the cliff face, above the burrows; this solution would address public safety as well. The Park Service has shown it can erect fences even on dunes.

We are anxious to find a solution that allows all park visitors to enjoy their recreational activities including off-leash dog walking, hiking, bird and whale watching, or just sitting to admire the view. This can be done while also protecting existing park resources.

Sincerely,

Caroline M. Blau
Film Professor, CCSF

Return address:

673 Andover St.
SF, Ca 94110

FOFUAR02422

GGNRA008600

**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

FOFUAR02423

September 9, 2000

RECEIVED

SEP 11 2000

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am writing to urge you ~~SUPERINTENDENT~~ to close more of the Fort Funston recreational area. I enjoy going there with my family and my dog, and I am impressed by the care that other park users take in maintaining the beauty and cleanliness of the park.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. San Francisco is an incredibly crowded place, an incredibly stressful place to live. Living with pets has been shown to have benefits for both physical and mental health. It is crucial to preserve Fort Funston so that responsible pet owners can enjoy it and improve the quality of their lives and of life in the city in general.

Fort Funston is my favorite part of San Francisco. For my birthday, my

FOFUAR02424

GGNRA008602

husband and friends take me ~~there~~
there with our dogs for a hike.

Fort Funston was given to the
National Park Service by San Francisco
for recreational use. The GGNRA was
created by Congress with a mandate to
promote urban recreation. Please, honor
your past agreements by keeping
Fort Funston open to off-leash dog
walkers. Lets work to reverse
the past 10 years of acrimony and
distrust that have sprung up between
GGNRA and dog-lovers organizations.

Sincerely,

Margaret H. Yoder

Margaret H. H. Yoder
2818 22nd Street
San Francisco, California 94110

FOFUAR02425

GGNRA008603

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Streets
Bldg 201, Ft. Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

9/9/2000

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Vaughan Johnson

Return address: _____

— Vaughan Johnson —
59 Rosewood Drive
— San Francisco, CA 94127-2011 —

The California Dept of Fish & Game
has advised that closure of only the
cliff face & the top of the cliffs
is necessary to protect the
bank swallows.

cc: Mayor Bram
Sen. Boxer
Sen. Feinstein
Rep. Pelosi
Rep. Lantos

FOFUAR02426

GGNRA008604



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

FOFUAR02427

GGNRA008605

RECEIVED 9/8/00

SEP 11 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am against the GGNRA proposal to permanently close 12 acres at Fort Funston. Fort Funston was deeded to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use. Congress additionally specified that "urban recreation" is a priority for the GGNRA.

I do support the protection of the bank swallows, but there is no evidence that the proposed closure is required or likely to accomplish this. According to Fish + Game, it is only necessary to fence an area directly above the nesting area, and the 12 acre proposal is not required for the proposed purpose.

Additionally, if these 12 acres are closed to the public, this along with previous closures will have shut off 20% of the park.

Please reconsider, and act to protect the bank swallows by fencing the appropriate areas without reducing public access by the 12 acre acres currently proposed.

Sincerely,

Sharon Donovan

FOFUAR02428

GGNRA008606



RECEIVED
SEP 08 2000

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

Re: Fort Funston (GGNRA) closure

23+1300

FOFUAR02429

Dear Mr O'Neil

Please stop the closing of trails
at Fort Funston.

Keep off beach laws in Truck
Restore

FOFUAR02430

GGNRA008608

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
GGNRA
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



John E. Cranshaw, M.D.
1677 17th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122

*This issue will not go away.
Would you please help reach
a comprehensive solution?*

FOFUAR02431

GGNRA008609

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



Return address: 1025 GRANDA DR
PACIFICA, CA 94044

FOFUAR02432

GGNRA008610

**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

FOFUAR02433

GGNRA008611

--- M. Aguilar Cy: B. O'Neill *copy*

Author: Michael_Morlin@ci.sf.ca.us at np--internet
Date: 9/8/00 5:05 PM
Normal

TO: Brian O'Neill at NP-GOGASubject: support----- Messa
ge Contents

Superintendent O'Neill - boy, from what I've been reading, this dog thing at Fort Funston has been very much blown out of proportion. As a City parks Asst. Superintendent, I have been dealing with these folks for a while. Please add me to the list of supporters for protecting habitat there (although I expect that your calls and letters will be 85-15% pro dog). I find it extremely absurd that there's been a lawsuit ovet the small percentage of total land that is fenced off. Mike Morlin

FOFUAR02434

GGNRA008612

Veronica Ong

545 Bright Street, San Francisco, CA 94132

RECEIVED

SEP 20 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

September 8, 2000

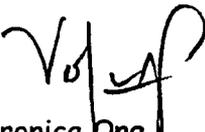
Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am opposed to the proposed closure of 12 acres at Fort Funston. The majority of Ft. Funston visitors are San Franciscans and their canine companions. Off-leash parks such as Ft. Funston promotes good canine behavior by simply providing a place where they can be socialized. The proposed permanent closure area is one of the visitors' favorite spot to play with their companions, away from the main trail.

Ft. Funston is a highly cherished park to the dog owner's community. Rain or shine, you'll always find someone enjoying the park with their beloved companion. Some even commute to the park. I therefore, sincerely request that Fort Funston to be left as it is. Thank-you.

Sincerely,


Veronica Ong

FOFUAR02435

GGNRA008613

September 8, 2000

Jeremy Chiew
927 Plymouth Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112

RECEIVED

SEP 20 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am opposed to the proposed closure of 12 acres at Fort Funston. As you may have known, most of the daily users are dog owners and their canine companions. This group of users diligently abide to the park's rules and regulations to ensure that it will always be available as an off-leash area.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chiew", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

FOFUAR02436

GGNRA008614

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

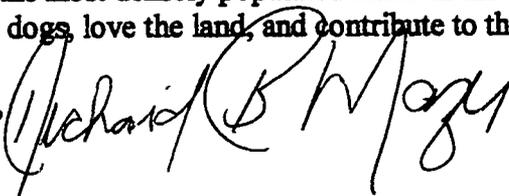
CALIFORNIA STATE GOVT

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



Return address:

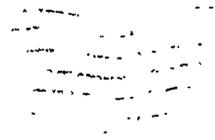
99 DIVISADENO 54

SF CA 94117

FOFUAR02437

GGNRA008615

1848



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

FOFUAR02438

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill: Subject:

I am a new California resident and have absolutely fallen in love with this place. By closing off the proposed 12 acres not only does it go against the Federal agreement it will close off an incredible location where dogs come together. If anything more land should be made accesible

I object to the recent closures at Fort Funston.

The newly erected fences keep people from enjoying what is the most scenic area of the Fort.

If fences are shown to be needed to protect the bank swallows, these should be near the cliff face, above the burrows; this solution would address public safety as well. The Park Service has shown it can erect fences even on dunes.

We are anxious to find a solution that allows all park visitors to enjoy their recreational activities including off-leash dog walking, hiking, bird and whale watching, or just sitting to admire the view. This can be done while also protecting existing park resources.

Sincerely,



BRADFORD L. MEYER

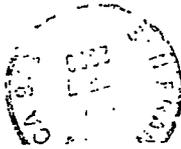
110 MONTEREY RD #6

PACIFICA, CA 94044

FOFUAR02439

GGNRA008617

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



FOFUAR02440

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Fort Funston has always been a valuable part of my childhood - dog and I would be very disappointed if there were a closure.

Please do not close any part of this San Francisco Museum.

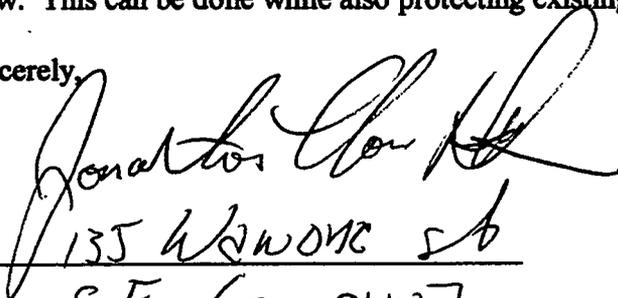
I object to the recent closures at Fort Funston.

The newly erected fences keep people from enjoying what is the most scenic area of the Fort.

If fences are shown to be needed to protect the bank swallows, these should be near the cliff face, above the burrows; this solution would address public safety as well. The Park Service has shown it can erect fences even on dunes.

We are anxious to find a solution that allows all park visitors to enjoy their recreational activities including off-leash dog walking, hiking, bird and whale watching, or just sitting to admire the view. This can be done while also protecting existing park resources.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Chen
135 WILSON ST
S.F. CA 94127

FOFUAR02441

GGNRA008619



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02442

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED
SEP 08 2000
U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES

I object to the recent closures at Fort Funston.

The newly erected fences keep people from enjoying what is the most scenic area of the Fort.

If fences are shown to be needed to protect the bank swallows, these should be near the cliff face, above the burrows; this solution would address public safety as well. The Park Service has shown it can erect fences even on dunes.

We are anxious to find a solution that allows all park visitors to enjoy their recreational activities including off-leash dog walking, hiking, bird and whale watching, or just sitting to admire the view. This can be done while also protecting existing park resources.

Sincerely,

Kimiko B. O'Neil
74 Lundy's Lane
SF CA 94110

FOFUAR02443

GGNRA008621

SEP 11 1993



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02444

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

PLEASE FIND A SOLUTION THAT ALLOWS ALL USERS OF
FORT FUNSTON THE ABILITY TO ENJOY ALL OF THE LAND,

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2003

SUPERINTENDENT

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



Return address: _____

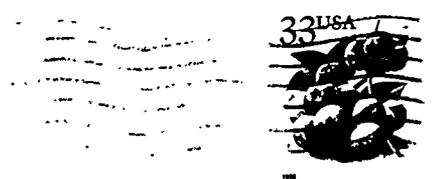
ANDY STEPHON

141 BROOKLAWN AVE

DALY CITY, CA 94015

FOFUAR02445

GGNRA008623



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02446

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

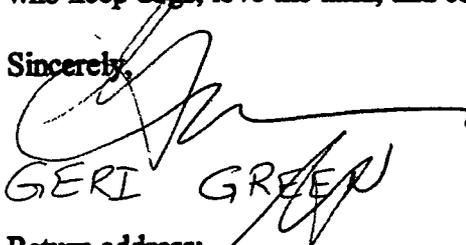
SEP 08 2000

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,



GERI GREEN

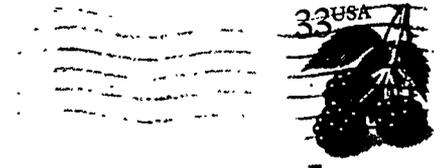
Return address:

4443 25th St.

San Francisco 94114

FOFUAR02447

GGNRA008625



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123/9999



FOFUAR02448

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Our dog Sam thinks Ft. Funston is paradise for dogs and humans alike. Please consider the happiness of tax-paying Californians and their need for free space.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



Return address: PMS 116

530 Showers Dr., #7

Mountain View, CA

94040

FOFUAR02449

GGNRA008627



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02450

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

SUPERINTENDING

This is one of the only places where I can walk my dogs off-leash and we all have a wonderful experience. Please stop taking away Fort Funston from us piece-by-piece. Thank you.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Gig Kenderne

Return address:

4118 21st St.

San Francisco, CA

94114

FOFUAR02451

GGNRA008629



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02452

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2001

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Please check out how the park service is being managed. I haven't had a reason to disagree with the decisions they closed areas. I have a problem with them stating their plan and then doing something different. I also would like to see them do more active rounds to clean the beach of dead seals & birds. Please, I have asked with no results.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

sent copys to: Barbara Boxer

Tom Lantos

Willie Brown, JR.

Dianne Feinstein

Nancy Pelosi

FFDW

Return address: Graydon Naughten
403 Piccadilly Pl Apt 3
San Bruno CA 94066-2010

FOFUAR02453

GGNRA008631

This is my dog. If she didn't have the area out front
Funston to socialize and play, she would be on this little

Perch Me



Maggie

8/20/08

FOFUAR02454

GGNRA008632

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

SUPERINTENDENT

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA GILLESPIE-O' DONNELL

1209 NDE ST

SF

CA. 94114

FOFUAR02455

GGNRA008633

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

FOFUAR02456

GGNRA008634

SEP 03 2000

SEP 03 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I would like to see the asphalt that was removed from the trail replaced so that handicapped peoples & mothers with strollers can use the area.

Ken Crizer

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Ken Crizer

Return address: _____

KENNETH R. CRIZER
551 VICTORIA ST.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132

FOFUAR02457

GGNRA008635

**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

FOFUAR02458

GGNRA008636

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED
SEP 09 2000
SUPERINTENDENT

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,

DAVE O' DONNELL
1209 NOE ST
S.F
CA 94114

FOFUAR02459

GGNRA008637

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

FOFUAR02460

GGNRA008638

RECEIVED
JUL 0 2003

Name: *Landman*
Address: *4176 25th St*
Date: *S.F.*
54114

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

As an avid user of Fort Funston I would greatly appreciate its being kept dog friendly. We, (dog owners) are running out of places to bring our dogs. It's unclear on the side of the dogs

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



FOFUAR02461

GGNRA008639

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

FOFUAR02462

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

With so few places open to dogs to be off leash I am totally opposed to the closure of Fort Funston.

RECEIVED

0 1 2003

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,

Return address: James Glau

2309A - 34th Ave

SF CA 94116

FOFUAR02463

GGNRA008641



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02464

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

*This is an excellent Park for dogs, please
keep it open.*

RECEIVED

0 8 2000

San Francisco, CA

*Thanks
Thomas Murray*

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Return address: Thomas D. Murray
1775 Haight st.
S.F. CA 94117

FOFUAR02465

GGNRA008643



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

FOFUAR02466

GGNRA008644

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Gray Altenburg

Return address: _____

555 Kelmore St.
Mass Beach, CA
94038

FOFUAR02467

Fort Funston is the best park on the Peninsula. Please keep all of it open for our dogs and ourselves.

GGNRA008645



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02468

GGNRA008646

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

SEP 08 2000

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Return address: J.C. WALKER, JR.
1943 CARROLL AVE.
SAN FRANCISCO CA.
94124

FOFUAR02469

GGNRA008647



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123+1304



FOFUAR02470

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I HAVE BEEN COMING HERE FOR 15 YEARS NOW, ALONG THAT TIME I HAVE HAD FOUR DOGS. FORT FUNSTON TO ME IS A WONDERFULL PLACE FOR ME & MY DOGS. EVERYONE HERE HAS NON VIOLENT FUN LOVING DOGS. 95% OF THE PEOPLE PICK UP AFTER THE DOGS. IT'S HARD FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND WHY EVERY YEAR US DOG WALKERS MUST FIGHT TOOTH & NAIL TO KEEP THIS PARK ONE OF THE LAST OFF LEASH PARKS. I KNOW ONE OF THE REASONS IS SOME SEASONAL WALLOWS THAT NEST IN CERTAIN AREAS, I THINK GOLDEN GATE REC.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

NEEDS TO LOSE THE EGO. & LET US WALK OUR DOGS IN PEACE.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely, MASON LAROSA
MASAKO, KOBE, SHOGUN

Return address: 654 ATHENS

S.F. Ca. 94112

FOFUAR02471

GGNRA008649



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02472

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Please consider all of our 4 legged friends. It is already so difficult for us to find places to live, please let us have a place to play. Thank you!!



I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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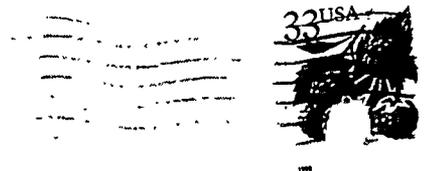
In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Return address: Andrea Pfeffer
3517 19th St.
SF, CA 94110

FOFUAR02473

GGNRA008651



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02474

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW ANY MORE CLOSURE OF FORT FUNSTON. THERE'S BARELY ENOUGH TRAILS TO SHARE WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF DOG WALKERS. I WALK AT FORT FUNSTON DAILY & ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF THE OCEAN & THE SERENITY AT TIMES HERE. IT'S THE ONLY LARGE OPEN SPACE LEFT IN S.F. TO WALK DOGS OFF LEASH & NOT WORRY ABOUT AUTO TRAFFIC. THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

I object to the recent closures at Fort Funston.

The newly erected fences keep people from enjoying what is the most scenic area of the Fort.

If fences are shown to be needed to protect the bank swallows, these should be near the cliff face, above the burrows; this solution would address public safety as well. The Park Service has shown it can erect fences even on dunes.

We are anxious to find a solution that allows all park visitors to enjoy their recreational activities including off-leash dog walking, hiking, bird and whale watching, or just sitting to admire the view. This can be done while also protecting existing park resources.

Sincerely,

Older Way
1534 - 8th AVE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
94122

FOFUAR02475

GGNRA008653



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02476

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

SEP 08 2000

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Sincerely,



227 UPPER TERRACE

SE, CA 94117

FOFUAR02477

GGNRA008655



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02478

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

SEP 08 2000
U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Sincerely,


Edward A. Van
666 Mungelo Ave
SF CA 94127

FOFUAR02479

GGNRA008657



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02480

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Please don't close Fort Funston.

I object to the recent closures at Fort Funston.

The newly erected fences keep people from enjoying what is the most scenic area of the Fort.

If fences are shown to be needed to protect the bank swallows, these should be near the cliff face, above the burrows; this solution would address public safety as well. The Park Service has shown it can erect fences even on dunes.

We are anxious to find a solution that allows all park visitors to enjoy their recreational activities including off-leash dog walking, hiking, bird and whale watching, or just sitting to admire the view. This can be done while also protecting existing park resources.

Sincerely,

Paul Burr
3871 Piedmont Ave #20
Oakland, CA 94611

FOFUAR02481

GGNRA008659



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02482

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

We use Fort Funston every week to let our dog run free & to go for a beautiful hike. We love to see our dog & the other dogs enjoying life. There is also joy in the majority of people we meet as they watch & greet the many dogs. This is a unique area & I do not want to see it closed as an area for dogs to be free.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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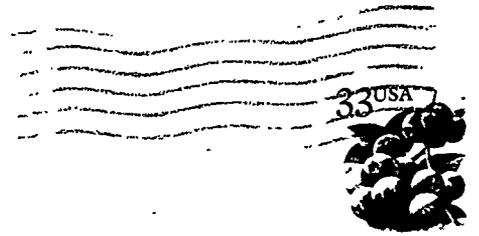
Sincerely,

Mary Cobb

Return address: 453 Moana Way
Pacifica CA 94044

FOFUAR02483

GGNRA008661



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02484

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,

Janet Larson

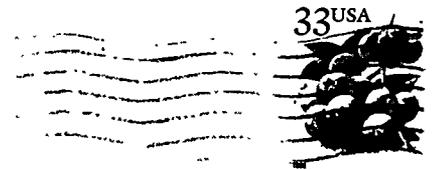
Return address: _____

33 REY St.

S.F. Ca. 94134

FOFUAR02485

GGNRA008663



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02486

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 8 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

G. Blazman

Gregory Blazman

Return address:

*660 Forest Lake Dr.
Pacific, Ca. 94044*

FOFUAR02487

GGNRA008665



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02488

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

My dog and I love Fort Funston. Living in the city it's hard for her to get the exercise she needs and loves. After we go to the Fort she always falls asleep in the car. Please don't start limiting the fun the dogs and dog owners have at this beautiful park.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,

Clare Tobias

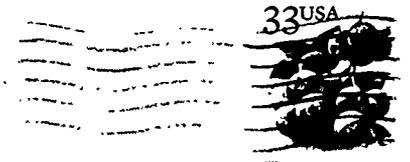
Return address: _____

219 Cornwall St. _____

SF, CA 94118 _____

FOFUAR02489

GGNRA008667



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02490

RECEIVED
SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Please think of our dogs as our children.
We have many facilities to let our children
play but Fort Funston is probably the only
place where our dogs can be a dog
without a lease! Thanks for listening

Sincerely,
Dorothy Lee

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Lee

Return address:

1303 Luv. Vista Grande
Millbrne, CA 94030

FOFUAR02491

GGNRA008669



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02492

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

SEP 08 2000

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Donald P Harris

Return address:

DONALD P HARRIS
4042 21ST STREET
SF CA 94114

FOFUAR02493

GGNRA008671



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02494

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

SEP 08 2000

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

DAVID CARLIN

Return address: 116 LUNDY LN

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

94110

FOFUAR02495

GGNRA008673



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02496

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Me & My Dog HAVE BEEN ENJOYING "FORT FUNSTON" FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS. WE SHOULD KEEP IT OPEN FOR PEOPLE & DOGS TO ENJOY.

I object to the recent closures at Fort Funston.

The newly erected fences keep people from enjoying what is the most scenic area of the Fort.

If fences are shown to be needed to protect the bank swallows, these should be near the cliff face, above the burrows; this solution would address public safety as well. The Park Service has shown it can erect fences even on dunes.

We are anxious to find a solution that allows all park visitors to enjoy their recreational activities including off-leash dog walking, hiking, bird and whale watching, or just sitting to admire the view. This can be done while also protecting existing park resources.

Sincerely,

Daniel Galavelli
1393 Wood St
SF CA 94131

FOFUAR02497



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02498

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I take my dog here at least once a week - it's really the only place around where we can play off leash. It is by far the most valuable park in the area for this reason.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

E. Mainshine

Return address: _____

Erica Mainshine

173 Girard St.

S.F. CA 94134

FOFUAR02499

GGNRA008677



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02500

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

The dog area at Fort Funston is an essential part of my dog's life, both in his relationship to me and in his socialization with other dogs. It would be a true shame if this place was shut down.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Wright
Daniel F. Wright

Return address: 2221 Cody Ave
East Palo Alto, CA

FOFUAR02501

GGNRA008679



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02502

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

My primary concern is that the Park Service ultimately intends to close the Park to Pets.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Eddie Ledy

Return address:

4413 Fulton St
San Francisco, CA

94102

FOFUAR02503

GGNRA008681



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

34123+1304



FOFUAR02504

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

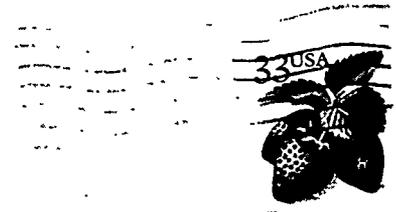


Return address:

Katie Day
539 Monterey Rd.
Pacifica, CA 94044

FOFUAR02505

GGNRA008683



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123/9999



FOFUAR02506

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

DATE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



Return address:

33 REY ST
SAN FRANCISCO 94134

FOFUAR02507

GGNRA008685



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123+1304



FOFUAR02508

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Louise Brown

Return address: _____

Louise Brown
1730 Sanchez St.
SF, CA 94131

FOFUAR02509

GGNRA008687



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123+1304



FOFUAR02510

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



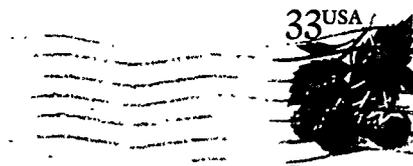
Return address: 4062 KEITH DR

CAMPBELL

CA 95008

FOFUAR02511

GGNRA008689



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123/9989



FOFUAR02512

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

IN THE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Teresa S. Taylor

Return address: 3741 Judah St.

S.F. CA 94122

FOFUAR02513

GGNRA008691

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, hiking areas
for persons with dogs are extremely limited.
It is important that this space remain open
for we who live in the Bay Area.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

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Sincerely,

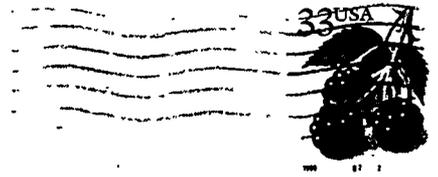
Carla F. Jay

Return address: _____

3109 King St. Apt. B
Berkeley, CA
94703

FOFUAR02515

GGNRA008693



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123/1301



FOFUAR02516

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

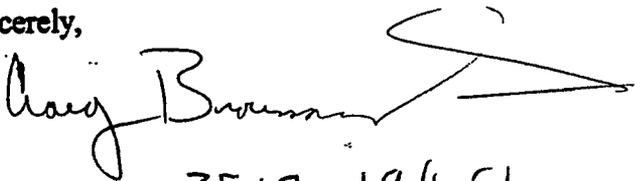
There is no where else to go! My dog
LOVES this park.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



Return address: 3517 19th St.

San Francisco, CA

94110

FOFUAR02517

GGNRA008695



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123/9383



FOFUAR02518

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

CST 117

I don't know where else to go to take my dog to socialize. With out the socializing my Rottweiler would probably be mean. and wouldn't get along with other humans either.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

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Sincerely,

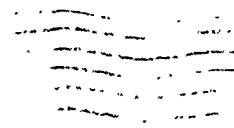
William Mahoney

Return address:

1133 1/2 Shattuck
San Fran Ca
94110

FOFUAR02519

GGNRA008697



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

FOFUAR02520

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Please keep the land open and
free as God created it!

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

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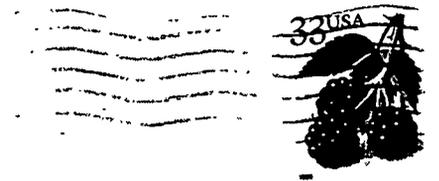
Sincerely,

Lana Van Reenuff

Return address: _____

FOFUAR02521

GGNRA008699



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

dub

FOFUAR02522

GGNRA008700

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Please keep the space open
so all our canine companions
have some space to feel free.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

A. D. Shaber

A. D. SHABER

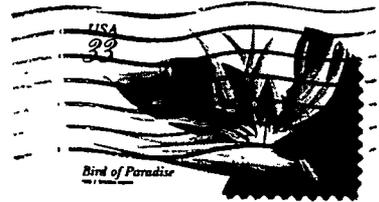
Return address: 557-27th St. #2

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

94131

FOFUAR02523

GGNRA008701



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123/9995 [Barcode]

FOFUAR02524

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

We use this space once a week to hike and walk our dog. We love to watch our dog "come alive" here and explore other dogs & the countryside. Taking this freedom away would be insensitive to people's and animal's needs.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

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Sincerely,

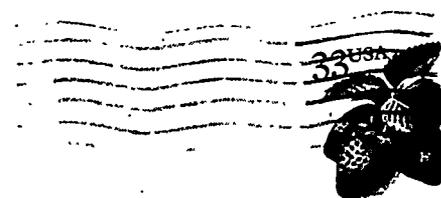
Anne Cobb

Return address: 453 Moana Way

Pacifica, CA 94044

FOFUAR02525

GGNRA008703



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02526

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

My WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN USE
(+ CLEAN UP) FORT FUNSTON AT LEAST
4 TIMES A WEEK ON DOG WALKS +
EXERCISE. IT IS BY FAR THE BEST
USED AREA IN THE VICINITY. THE
PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MORE PARTS OF
FORT FUNSTON IS UNNECESSARY.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

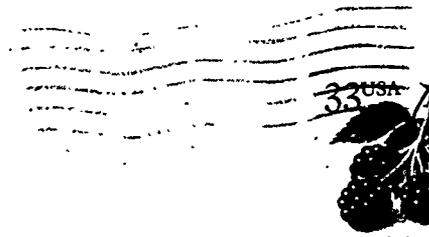
In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Return address: M. RADOUICH
3880 MOULTON DR.
SAN BRUNO, CA
94066

FOFUAR02527

GGNRA008705



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02528

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Even though that I do not have
a dog, I enjoy the walks here.
It is a good getaway from downtown
and the every day busy life.
Please do not close the area.

I object to the recent closures at Fort Funston.

The newly erected fences keep people from enjoying what is the most scenic area of the Fort.

If fences are shown to be needed to protect the bank swallows, these should be near the cliff face, above the burrows; this solution would address public safety as well. The Park Service has shown it can erect fences even on dunes.

We are anxious to find a solution that allows all park visitors to enjoy their recreational activities including off-leash dog walking, hiking, bird and whale watching, or just sitting to admire the view. This can be done while also protecting existing park resources.

Sincerely,

Ishita Banga
533 Parnassus Ave
UCSF. SF CA 94143

FOFUAR02529

GGNRA008707



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



FOFUAR02530

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Ft Funston is the best area for
 dogs in SF - Can't we keep it
 for dogs? There's other (many) spaces
 for people / children.
 Keep Funston for dogs & their owners.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Shere Gal

Return address: 331 Oregon
SF 94112

FOFUAR02531



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02532

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I grew up near Fort Funston and have enjoyed its surroundings very much. During these times it is especially important to keep the park dedicated to dogs and their owners and people who just come for a good hike and need it to relieve stress. Please protect the land here from any encroachment. Let the park be free of closure!

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Russ Glasgow
RUSS GLASGOW

Return address: _____

2130 Fillmore St PMB 362

S.F. CA 94115

FOFUAR02533

GGNRA008711



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02534

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

20000908 10:00 AM

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Dyann Jackson

Return address: 110 Monterey Rd.
Pacific CA, CA

Fort Funston is a beautiful recreation area, which is visited by hundreds of people and dogs daily. Keep the Fort open.

FOFUAR02535

GGNRA008713



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02536

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

CONFIDENTIAL

my dog enjoy walking at Fort
Funston and it is a wonderful park
which many people enjoy. We have
few places of open space.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Return address: _____

FOFUAR02537

GGNRA008715



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02538

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I LIVE IN THE SOUTH OF MARKET AREA OF THE CITY. THERE IS NO GREEN SPACE TO WALK MY DOG. WE AND EVERYONE WE SEE AT FORT FUNSTON ALWAYS CLEAN UP AFTER OUR DOG(S). THIS WILL BE A GREAT LOSS TO DOG OWNERS IN S.F. IF IT IS CLOSED. PLEASE DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESERVE THIS AREA FOR US.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



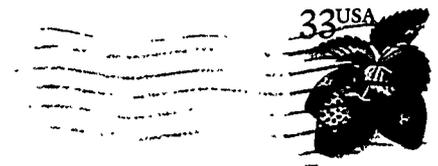
Return address: _____

2 SCOTT ALLEY

S.F., CA 94107

FOFUAR02539

GGNRA008717



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02540

GGNRA008718

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

City of San Francisco

Parks should be open to everyone -
even people who have dogs, who
actually end up using parks the
most.

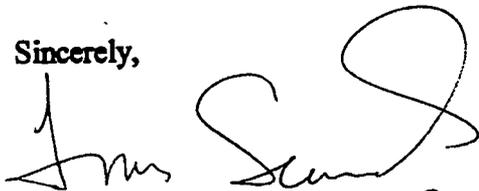
Thank you.

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



Return address:

Travis Seawards

168 Larders St

SF, CA 94114

FOFUAR02541

GGNRA008719



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94122/9999



FOFUAR02542

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Please keep this Area Fence Free for
Dogs to Roam

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

SUPPLEMENTAL

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,

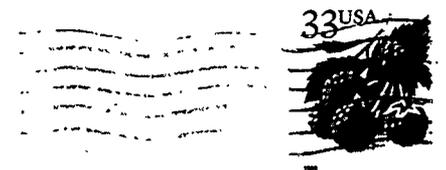


Return address:

HERBERT A Brosowsky
763 11th AVE
S.F. CA 94118

FOFUAR02543

GGNRA008721



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123/1280



FOFUAR02544

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

COURTNEY

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

I. GLAZMAN

Return address: 660 FOREST LANE DR

PACIFICA CA 94044

FOFUAR02545

GGNRA008723



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123+1204



FOFUAR02546

GGNRA008724

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

DATE:

Please keep Fort Funston
 open. My dogs and I
 enjoy the fort very much.
 Don't close the FORT!

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Hui VANESSA HUI

Return address: 231 Morningside DR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132

FOFUAR02547

GGNRA008725



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123/3333



FOFUAR02548

GGNRA008726

RECEIVED

SEP 08 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

We have been here at times when Tourists from far away have been here - and they are so amazed that we are so fortunate to have such a beautiful place to share with our dog and all the other people - they say that they have nothing like it - they say it is a treasure - I say it is a treasure - I am telling you - this place is world renown - well at least North American Renown - please understand how wonderful this place is - how we all love it

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely, please leave this wonderful park for us all
Conue Campbell thank you so much for listening to us about
this

Return address: _____

Hall of Justice

SF Police Dept

850 Bryant St

SF, Ca 94103

FOFUAR02549

GGNRA008727



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123/9999



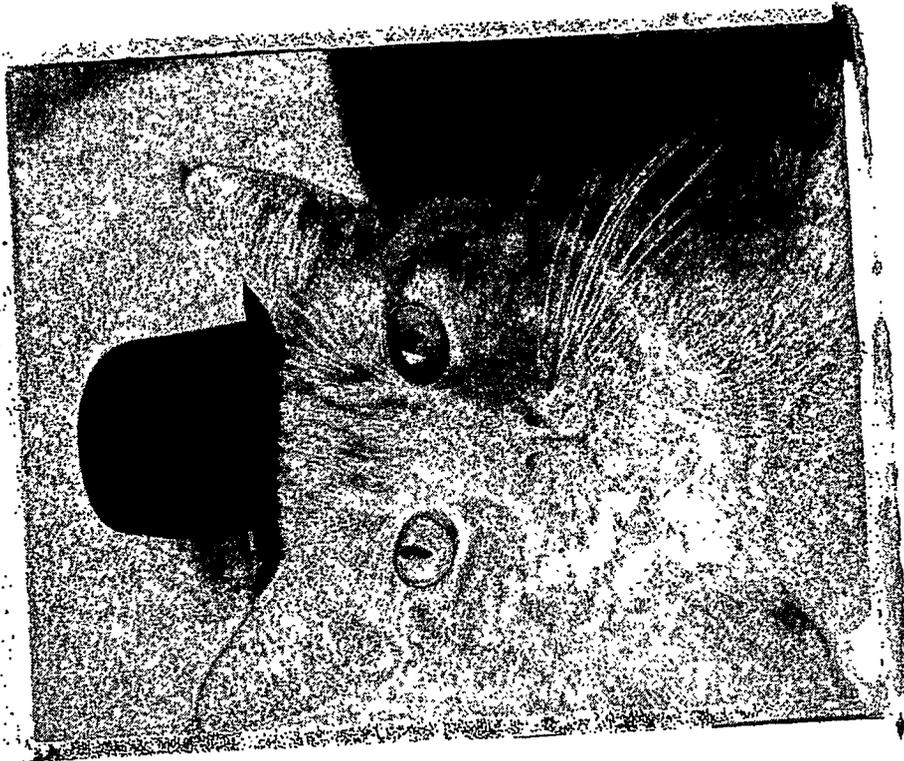
FOFUAR02550

**BATES RANGE
FOFUAR**

02551 TO 03054

Pocket #24

FOFUAR02551



©1999 Deborah Schenk



CHRONICLE BOOKS

FOFUAR02552

GGNRA008731

Sept. 14, 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to support the GGNRA + NPS decision to close off acreage at Fort Junston to protect the Snowy Plover and any other wildlife that may be affected. (Nests at the Crissy Field beach area need to be protected from dogs as well).

I am a dog lover as well, but there seems to be sufficient space already

for the dog runs (off-leash recreational space) on public property.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Janie C. Lee
2326-35th Ave.
S.F. Ca 94116-2243

RECEIVED

SEP 10 2000

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

FOFUAR02553

GGNRA008732

September 14, 2000

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

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I write to you as a concerned resident of San Francisco regarding the National Park Service's proposal to close additional recreation space at Fort Funston.

As a nature enthusiast and dog lover, I am disturbed at the actions taken by the National Park Service and its request to close an additional twelve acres of recreation space. The Bank Swallow is unquestionably in need of our protection, but closing these additional acres is unnecessary. A limited closure along the top of the cliffs is realistically all that is needed. The NPS, however, persists in pursuing this closure, as it did in years past, without the public review required by law.

As the unfortunate history shows, the NPS has revoked off-leash dog walking at other areas, such as Marin Headlands, Lands End, parts of Ocean Beach, and others. This truly violates our community rights, and discriminates against dog owners. We, as a group, are very conscientious about our pets—cleaning up after them, training them to be appropriate in an off-leash situation, and organizing “clean-up” days at Fort Funston. Fort Funston is an incredibly beautiful, serene, and magnificent place that we all should be able to enjoy, while simultaneously protecting the land and the wildlife.

Please protect our community rights and prevent this closure. I appreciate your support and concern in this matter.

Sincerely,



Rachael Tauber
441 Myra Way
San Francisco, CA 94127

FOFUAR02554

GGNRA008733

September 14, 2000

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

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2000

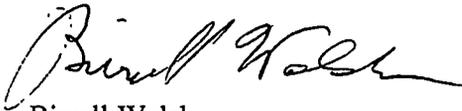
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the closure of 12 acres to off-eash dog walking at Fort Funston. As a dog owner, I have found larger and larger areas of the park closed to me and my dog. I moved to the beach area to be near these, and find that they are being closed off without scientific studies justifying the closure.

In addition, a court has found that these closures are being done without regard for the Park Service's own procedures. Please do not close any more land to dogs.

Thank you,



Birrell Walsh
4116 Moraga Street
San Francisco CA 94122

1-415-753-2572
birrell@well.com

cc:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 145380
San Francisco CA 94102

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senator
525 market Street, Suite 3670
San Francisco CA 94105

The Honorable Tom Lantos
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
400 South El Camino Real, Suite 410
San Mateo CA 94402

FOFUAR02555

GGNRA008734

September 14, 2000

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
GGNRA
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I am writing in support of Fort Funston Dog Walkers Association and the SF SPCA, and to protest all closures of the GGNRA to use by off-leash dogs, mostly especially the recent closures at Fort Funston. It is my opinion that those of you now running the GGNRA have overstepped your authority and violated the true intent of the original turn-over by the City of San Francisco to the federal government.

In general, I have often felt that the federal government is better run than local government, but in the case of the GGNRA, my positive opinion has vanished. If there is a way to wrest the land back, I hope we San Francisco residents figure out how to do it, because the Fort should be run in a way that shows more sensitivity to public opinion and the public interest.

Sincerely,



Irene Rubey
2294 - 44th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116
415/ 681-1342

cc: Fort Funston Dog Walkers Association

FOFUAR02556

GGNRA008735

September 14, 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Ft. Mason, Bldg. 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

RECEIVED

SEP 14 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Neill

We object to the closure of 12 acres of Ft. Funston. The urban recreational purpose specified by our Congress in the G.G.N.R.A's creation would clearly be obviated by this closure.

As San Franciscans, We have used Ft. Funston with our dog and family. Your proposed closure takes this vital outlet away from dog-owners in this intensely urban environment. Please reconsider.

Sincerely,



Elaine Kapjian-Pitt and Morley Pitt
756 Fourth Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94118

FOFUAR02557

GGNRA008736

RECEIVED

September 14, 2000

11 2000

00 SEP 14 2000

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

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I write to you as a concerned resident of San Francisco regarding the National Park Service's proposal to close additional recreation space at Fort Funston.

As a nature enthusiast and dog lover, I am disturbed at the actions taken by the National Park Service and its request to close an additional twelve acres of recreation space. The Bank Swallow is unquestionably in need of our protection, but closing these additional acres is unnecessary. A limited closure along the top of the cliffs is realistically all that is needed. The NPS, however, persists in pursuing this closure, as it did in years past, without the public review required by law.

As the unfortunate history shows, the NPS has revoked off-leash dog walking at other areas, such as Marin Headlands, Lands End, parts of Ocean Beach, and others. This truly violates our community rights, and discriminates against dog owners. We, as a group, are very conscientious about our pets—cleaning up after them, training them to be appropriate in an off-leash situation, and organizing “clean-up” days at Fort Funston. Fort Funston is an incredibly beautiful, serene, and magnificent place that we all should be able to enjoy, while simultaneously protecting the land and the wildlife.

Please protect our community rights and prevent this closure. I appreciate your support and concern in this matter.

Sincerely,


Angela Solleder
44 Myra Way
San Francisco, CA 94127

FOFUAR02558

GGNRA008737

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreational Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

September 14, 2000

RECEIVED

SEP 14 2000

Dear Superintendent:

RECEIVED

Alpine the Labrador and Baron the Rottweiler here to talk dog to human. There's enough room for everybody. So PLEASE don't squeeze us dogs out. Ft. Funston is the only place where we don't have to be led around with a chain. We can play safe and above all FREE. We look forward to our big outing all week.

Alpine here, I'm a canine who craves to swim in the water and to kick up my paws in the sand. My human can throw the ball and not worry about my safety.

Baron here, I'm a big mush who loves people. At Ft. Funston there are so many people to meet, with their friendly words and great scratches. And all the wonderful smells...Ahhhh doggie ambrosia! Our human loves Ft. Funston too because of the fresh air and exercise she gets. But she especially loves seeing us so happy.

Ft. Funston is our last doggie-heaven. Please don't take our happiness away.

Trustingly,

Alpine & Baron

Sheila D. Shofe(the human)



207 Ferne Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94306
650-621-0011

FOFUAR02559

GGNRA008738

RECEIVED

SEP 14 2000

SUPERINTENDENT

September 14, 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



Tami Blaj
Concerned Outdoors Enthusiast with Two Dogs
3367 Guido Street
Oakland, CA 94602

FOFUAR02560

GGNRA008739

2344 29th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2000

September 14, 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

Protecting the bank swallows is indeed an important issue. There surely should be a balance between the job at hand and the local community's interest. The best information that I have been able to gather seem to point to an over killed of the situation. Please reconsider the closure of access. Better yet, come walk with me one day at Fort Funston. All the charts, numbers and pictures don't do the place justice. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard Lau

FOFUAR02561

GGNRA008740

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2001

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Sept 14, 2000

Dear Mr. O'Neill

The Natl Park Service continues to do what it thinks best for the citizens/users of GGNRA despite the legally defined purposes of recreational uses, such as of leash dog walking & hiking and hang gliding in certain areas.

It is outrageous arrogance to presume to know more than anyone else what is best, and civil suit should be brought for the defiance of Environmental Impact Reviews, required.

what overzealous high handed behavior!

The 12 acres at Fort Funston do not need to be closed.

Hasn't The NPS done enough damage both locally and nationally to be satisfied.

Dorothy Skufca
442 Dwight St.
San Francisco Ca
94134

FOFUAR02562

GGNRA008741

Name: CAREEN KACBY
Address: 745 MCULL-MILLER ST.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
Date: 9.14.00: 94115

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

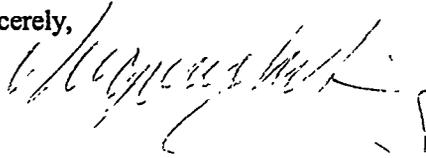
THERE IS A FAIR AMOUNT OF PROTESTS IN YOUR DISTRICTS. WHAT WAS DONE TO THE SULLSET TRAIL IS ONE EXAMPLE. PLEASE STOP!

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,



FOFUAR02563

GGNRA008742

RECEIVED
SEP 15 2000
SAN FRANCISCO

Name: Gregg Orik
Address: 131 Marietta Dr
SF CA 94127
Date: Sept 14, 00

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,



FOFUAR02565

GGNRA008744



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

94123/9999 |||

|||||

FOFUAR02566

GGNRA008745

Name: LESLIE FORRESTAL
Address: 248 RIDGELANE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94112
Date: 9/14/00

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

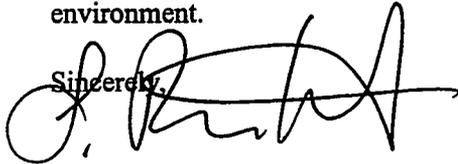
Dear Mr. O'Neill:

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Sincerely,



FOFUAR02567

GGNRA008746



Leslie Forrestal
 248 Ridge Ln.
 San Francisco, CA 94112-3112



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



FOFUAR02568

GGNRA008747

565 Manzanita Ave
Sunnyvale CA 94085

Anne Ferguson

September 14, 2000

Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Park
Fort Mason
San Francisco, California 94123

RECEIVED

SEP 2 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Brian O'Neill:

I am writing to comment on both dog-walking policy in the GGNRA and the potential habitat closure to protect dunes and rare birds at Fort Funston. I am an avid hiker and biker, and enjoy visiting the public parks in the Bay Area, including the GGNRA, nearly every weekend. I do not really like dogs, much less when they are off-leash, and they sometimes are a threat to me both when I am on bike or on foot. Some owners claim that they are able to control their pets by voice only, but occasionally these "voice controlled" animals have run up to me, growled, or nearly knocked me down, and do not appear to have been under any kind of control. They can ruin the outdoor experience for me.

I don't know much about native plants or wildlife, but I do know that we don't have much of it left, especially in the Bay Area. I think that letting dogs run amok in a national park is irresponsible, on the part of both the owners and the GGNRA. I learned through your website that you are considering closing off an area to dogs and people, even hikers like me, and I think it is a good idea. Even in remote parks I visit like the Sequoia-Kings Canyon, areas are closed to the public occasionally to stop trampling and let the plants come back. This is not an inconvenience, and most people understand that it is being done for the good of us all and for future generations. Personally, I would much rather look at the wildflowers in a closed-off area than sandy dog trails in an area that's not. I am in favor of the "Proposed Habitat Protection Closure" at Fort Funston. I am also in favor of the GGNRA requiring all dogs in the park on leash.

Sincerely,



Anne Ferguson

FOFUAR02569

GGNRA008748



PETER BETCHER REAL ESTATE

4551 EIGHTEENTH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

September 14, 2000

RECEIVED

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

SEP 20 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I am writing to you to protest the closure of more and more acreage at Fort Funston to off-leash dog walking. We have been taking our dogs there for five and a half years, since they were puppies. We took our former dog there more than twenty years ago. Suddenly, we find one of our greatest pleasures, and an important component of the high quality of life our city offers, extremely curtailed and truncated, for no justifiable reason.

Reason dictates that the needs of all the inhabitants—human, animal, and vegetable—of an ecology be balanced. Birds need to fly and nest, yes, but people need to escape from urban stress into nature, with their dogs if they have them, just as much. No one is suggesting that dogs be allowed to run wild through all the national park system. But if this is to be a human and humane city, there does need to be something close to adequate open space where people can enjoy the natural environment with their dogs, and where those dogs can be free to run and play, as is their nature.

I urge you to rescind the closures at Fort Funston and to restore those areas to us, the people, and to our dogs. I support any legal measures necessary to attain that end, and to demand your resignation, with appropriate penal consequences, should the record show that you have acted illegally, recklessly, and without regard to your public trust.

Peter Betcher

cc: Fort Funston Dog Walkers Association
Post Office Box 959
Daly City, CA 94017-0959

FOFUAR02570

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 5381
Berkeley, CA 94705
September 14, 2000

Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets, Building 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent:

I am writing in support of the proposal to permanently close a 12-acre area of the northwest section of Fort Funston to protect the bank swallow habitat, to enhance significant native plant communities, to improve public safety and reduce human-induced impacts to the coastal bluffs and dunes.

Preservation of the colony of threatened bank swallows must be a top priority of the management of Fort Funston, along with native plant restoration on the dunes, which would enhance wildlife habitat and stabilize the sand.

Existing laws that require all dogs to be on leash in national parks and require visitors and dogs to remain on designated trails should be firmly enforced.

Thank you for your kind attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,


Sheryl R. Kramer

FOFUAR02571

GGNRA008750

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

RECEIVED

SEP 15 2000

15 September 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

Since I moved to San Francisco in 1991, I have been bringing my dogs to Fort Funston. It was a beautiful open space for the dogs to run free, with stunning views of the city and the sea.

In recent years I have noticed more and more fences being erected in Fort Funston, cutting the available trails and open space back, and limiting the public's access to the coastline cliffs and views. I understand there is a plan afoot to continue and extend this pattern of fences to a total of twelve acres. I submit my disapproval of this plan.

It is my understanding that the Fort Funston land was acquired for the sole purpose of being open recreational space. Building more fences and closing off twenty percent of the park is a clear violation of the mandate of the GGNRA, and violates the acquisition agreement with the city of San Francisco.

There are no scientific studies that prove that the proposed closures at Fort Funston will in any way improve the habitat and safety of the bank swallows or the local flora. Fences along the cliff edge would address both the bank swallow issue and public safety.

Please reconsider the plan to fence off Fort Funston.

Sincerely,



Evi Pazmanczyk

2131 30TH AVE.
SF, CA 94116

FOFUAR02572

GGNRA008751

RECEIVED

September 15, 2000

SEP 15 2000

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

My name is Tyler Davidson, and my wife and I are homeowners who own a dog in San Francisco. For many years we've enjoyed taking our dog to Fort Funston, and are dismayed that more and more of Fort Funston is being closed to dogs. The area serves as one of the only places to exercise dogs off-leash in our large metropolitan area, which we believe is a crucial service to our crowded city.

We would like to forward our opinion, during the comment period, that no measures should be taken to close any more land to off-leash dog use at Fort Funston.

Thank you very much,



Tyler Davidson

Jo Carol Davidson



342 Rome St.
San Francisco, CA
94112

FOFUAR02573

GGNRA008752

KAUFMAN & LOGAN LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

111 PINE STREET

SUITE 1300

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111

TELEPHONE (415) 392-6677

FACSIMILE (415) 391-4639

E-MAIL: ppeters@kllaw.com

JEFFREY KAUFMAN¹
PETER J. LOGAN
W. MARTIN TELLEGEN

SANDRA L. CROSS
GERALD F. ELLERSDORFER
PAUL A. PETERS²
PAULETTE DONSAVAGE
DOUGLAS W. CALLABRESI
KEITH R. DENNY

¹ ADMITTED ALSO IN WISCONSIN

² ADMITTED ALSO IN ILLINOIS

SPECIAL COUNSEL

GARRETT L. CECCHINI

September 15, 2000

RECEIVED

SEP 15 2000

Superintendent
GGNRA
Bay and Franklin Streets
Bldg. 201, Ft. Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

The Hon. Diane Feinstein
U.S. Senator
525 Market Street
Suite 3670
San Francisco, CA 94102

SUPERINTENDENT

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Member, House of Rep.
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Suite 145380
San Francisco, CA 94102

The Hon. Tom Lantos
Member, House of Rep.
400 S. El Camino Real
Suite 410
San Mateo, CA 94402

Re: Fort Funston; Proposed Bank Swallow Habitat Closure

Dear Superintendent, Senator Feinstein, Rep. Pelosi and Rep. Lantos:

I write to comment on the proposed closure of 11 additional acres of Bank Swallow habitat in Fort Funston. I am a very concerned citizen/environmental attorney who uses the park. I know many others who frequent Fort Funston, which is probably the number-one rated park for dogs and their humans in all of the Bay Area. I can attest that Funston is "critical habitat" for recreational access by dedicated dog-owners all over the Bay Area.

As such, any proposal to close portions of the park to public access must, in my view, be strictly scrutinized to ensure absolute necessity. This seems a classic case of where to draw the line in the Park Service's often conflicting missions of preserving resources for future generations while permitting maximum public use and enjoyment. Especially with urban parks like Fort Funston, where recreational access is critical, the Park Service should have clear proof of necessity before closing areas off.

In this case, is there such proof that the bank swallow population in the park will suffer substantial decline without this reservation? If so, is there alternative habitat within the Bay Area region, such that the overall population in this area does not require

FOFUAR02574

GGNRA008753

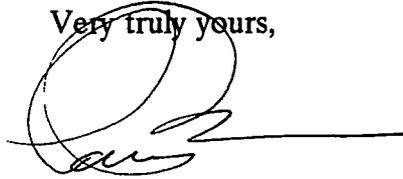
Superintendent
Hon. Diane Feinstein
Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Hon. Tom Lantos
September 15, 2000
Page 2

these 11 acres to maintain itself? Is this swallow a threatened or endangered species under the Federal or State Endangered Species Act? What do USF&W and Cal. Fish & Game opine on these issues? Will this closure have substantial negative impact on recreational access in a key area of the park? Even if swallow population within the Park would decline somewhat without this reservation, as long as alternative habitat is available regionally, on balance, should these key public access values be favored over non-critical wildlife preservation?

I urge you to review these issues with care, and to leave these 11 acres open to the public unless it is a reasonable scientific certainty that the acreage is critical Bay Area habitat for a regionally-threatened species and that closing them will not significantly impact recreational access.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul A. Peters', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul A. Peters

PAP:ps

cc: Lizanne Antonio
Samira Suprise Blair

F:\K&L\CLIENTS\PS\SWALLOW.LTR

FOFUAR02575

GGNRA008754

Sept. 15, 2000

Fort Funston Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Streets
Building 201 Fort Mason
San Francisco CA 94124

RECEIVED

SEP 22 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Superintendent;

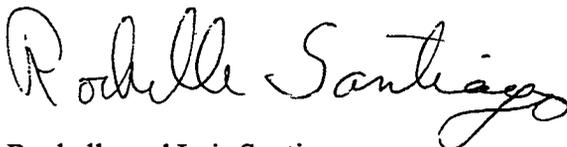
My Husband and I would like to have our opinion considered in regard to the care of Fort Funston. We are both long-term residents of San Francisco who have enjoyed Fort Funston for years. We are not longer able to go to Fort Funston because what I would call the Radical Dog owners that have forcefully taken over the park. These people believe that they have more of a right to the park than the rest of us. And believe that they should be able to do as they please without any respect for the well-being or safety of others.

My Husband and I tried to take our 3-year-old son for a walk, in what we remembered as a beautiful natural setting. We couldn't make it out of the parking lot without 5 separate dogs jumping up on us. Even when the owner was close enough to ask they refused to hold their dogs back from us. I personally do not like strange dogs jumping on me but it is an issue of safety with a 3 year old. Our poor son of course was scared out of his mind.

If these people have no concern for the safety of my 3-year-old child, why would anyone think they care at all about the environment or safety of the wild life at Fort Funston? Looking around the park from the parking lot it was clear that these dogs have destroyed the environment. Dog hair everywhere, plant destroyed by the dogs running over them.

Pleas close as much of the park as possible from this disrespectful dog owners and their dog. Save some piece of this beautiful park for my son's generation.

Sincerely,



Rochelle and Luis Santiago
1362 Quesada Ave,
San Francisco CA 94124

FOFUAR02576

GGNRA008755

make
8 copies

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2000

Monday 9.15.2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I can only re-emphasize the statement below. I have used this park since it opened, with & without my dogs. you have recently closed so much of this park, creating an impossible access for many. (Note: removal of walkway near Cliff was not a total necessity. Repair of the area near or re-routing it inward a few feet would have been cheaper than tearing up hundreds of feet.) My handicapped aunt enjoyed the circle walk - not she and others can't make it.) I have supported

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority. *the GGNRA since its inception, but this last year I*

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline. *stopped and I*

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment. *their not join again*

Sincerely,

FOFUAR02577

Alta J. Katon
2322-20TH Ave
San Francisco, Ca 94116

cc: ~~Howe~~
B. Boker, D. Feinstein
M. Pelosi, T. Lantow
and W. L. Brown
FFD W. P.O. Box 959, Daly City, Ca 94017

until you get your priorities straight. ended out, your statement, dog walk in the Presidio will suffice is not acceptable or a true statement when facts are reviewed. The people in Lakeside, Parkside West Portal don't need to travel across the city if they can use Ft Funston for their family recreation.

GGNRA008756

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

FOFUAR02578

GGNRA008757

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SEP 19 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

John Gardner
1340 Dolores Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

September 15, 2000

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

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

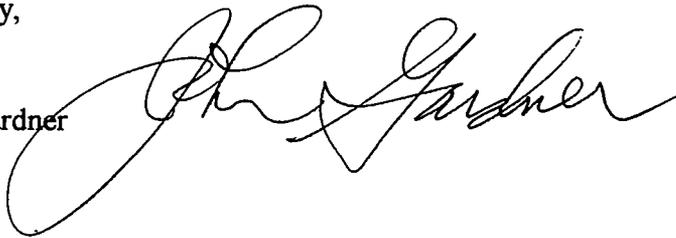
I am writing to you and the GGNRA to express my opposition to your latest proposal to close an additional 12 acres of land at Fort Funston. Over the last decade the GGNRA has been stealing this beautiful park, and the recreation it affords, away from the people of the Bay Area. You have bulldozed away trees and habitat and you continue to bulldoze away our rights. Your destruction of this once beautiful park by unsightly fencing and illegal prohibitions must stop.

As an individual who regularly visits Fort Funston for personal recreation I am saddened by your continued insensitivity to the expressed needs of the people in this community. The recent destruction of the Sunset Walk (*by bulldozers!*) was a particularly heinous act as it closed an enormous section of the park to the aged and disabled.

Fort Funston is a *People's Park* not a private preserve. It has been and must remain a place of recreation for all people. Count me as a vote and a voice against this outrageous land grab.

Sincerely,

John Gardner



FOFUAR02579

GGNRA008758

Douglas M. Bernstein
123 Freelon Street
San Francisco, CA 94107
415/777-9739

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

15 September 2000

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

RE: Ft. Funston closures

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to add my voice to the many San Franciscans who are staunchly opposed to the Ft. Funston closures and deeply disturbed by the Park Service's handling of this matter. The NPS has violated the public trust in closing these lands without proper hearings and outreach, and has violated its own principles by failing to perform adequate environmental impact studies before taking action. Furthermore, the NPS has clearly used cliff swallow protection as a ruse to undertake a native plant restoration and the revocation of a legitimate, long-standing, and precious recreational use -- off-leash dog walking.

As a long-time member of the San Francisco SPCA, I fully support its August 29, 2000 Statement to the Citizens Advisory Commission for the GGNRA. I also protest the unethical and insensitive actions of the National Park Service in the matter of the Ft. Funston closures.

Sincerely,



Douglas M. Bernstein

c: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Mayor Willie Brown
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Tom Lantos

FOFUAR02580

GGNRA008759

Author: John Reynolds at NP-WRO
Date: 9/15/00 3:23 PM
Normal

TO: Brian O'Neill at NP-GOGACC: Rita Hanamoto at NP-WRO Subject: Fwd:Fort Funston Area ----- Message Contents

Forward Header

Subject: Fwd:Fort Funston Area
Author: Bob Stanton at NP-NPS
Date: 9/5/00 4:05 PM

Forward Header

Subject: Fort Funston Area
Author: "Robert E. Rutkowski" <rutkowski@terraworld.net>
Date: 8/5/00 9:13 AM

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay & Franklin Streets, Building 201
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123
Fax: 415-561-4710

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I am writing to support measures to protect the Fort Funston area of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. I do not need to tell you of the unique nature of the sandstone bluffs and sand dunes of Fort Funston. Only 5 percent of the San Francisco dune complex remains, and the National Park Service is charged with protecting those dunes within GGNRA "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Unimpaired does not mean resources scarred with graffiti or eroded by tracks and trails.

I cannot understand why the National Park Service has failed to enforce its own clear regulations at Fort Funston regarding free-running dogs. Is GGNRA the only unit of the National Park System that openly ignores 36 CFR 2.1, apparently encouraging pet owners to run their dogs on fragile dunes? Why have you not halted the threats to fragile native vegetation, bank swallows (listed as threatened in California), California quail and burrowing owls?

I urge you to end the habit of owners running unleashed dogs at Fort Funston and to protect sensitive areas of the sandstone bluff and dune system. Please keep me informed on steps the National Park Service will take to the Fort Funston site.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring these remarks to your attention.

Yours sincerely,
Robert E. Rutkowski, Esq.

cc: Bob Stanton

FOFUAR02581

2527 Faxon Court
Topeka, Kansas 66605-2086
Fax: 1 785 379-9671
E-mail: r_e_rutkowski@hotmail.com

Received: from saturn.terraworld.net ([206.53.116.218]) by ccmil.itd.nps.gov with SMTP

(IMA Internet Exchange 3.13) id 0048C9BB; Sat, 5 Aug 2000 10:06:09 -0400

Received: (qmail 24161 invoked from network); 5 Aug 2000 14:08:06 -0000

Received: from achilles.terraworld.net (206.53.116.85)

by port116218.terraworld.net with SMTP; 5 Aug 2000 14:08:06 -0000

Received: FROM terraworld.net BY achilles.terraworld.net ; Sat Aug 05 09:11:26 2000 -0500

Received: from bobspc (slip-32-102-133-6.ks.us.prserv.net [32.102.133.6])

by corona.terraworld.net (BLUETAIL Mail Robustifier 2.2.1) with ESMTMP

id 393294.481302.965corona-s1

; Sat, 05 Aug 2000 08:15:02 -0500

Message-ID: <001901bffee7\$48381a40\$06856620@bobspc>

From: "Robert E. Rutkowski" <rutkowski@terraworld.net>

To: <goga_wr_information@nps.gov>

Cc: "Robert Stanton" <Bob_Stanton@nps.gov>

Subject: Fort Funston Area

Date: Sat, 5 Aug 2000 09:13:06 -0500

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain;

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

X-Priority: 3

X-MSMail-Priority: Normal

X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.50.4133.2400

X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

FOFUAR02582

GGNRA008761

SEP 20 2000

Stacy A. Pratt
11 Margaret Ave.
SF, CA 94112
9/15/00

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
GGNRA, Building 201, Fort Mason
SF, CA 94123
RE: GGNRA Fort Funston, SF, CA (closures)

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I left the east coast almost 11 years ago with my 2 BIG dogs. Our first week here we went to Fort Funston GGNRA in SF. Wow! This became known as dog heaven to us. My dogs were never happier. I was never happier. I wasn't going back east. And this place was mostly why. Finally I found a large urban park that recognized that off leash dog play was a recreational activity! Along with the good people who keep their dogs under control, the acreage at Fort Funston is what allows all these dogs to get along so well. At the same time it allows many other types of recreation. Seeing the dogs so free to run and socialize as well as watching the hang gliders and hawks soar, children playing in the dunes, the ice plants blooming, horses meandering by, the fog moving in and out, the coastal mountains in all their beauty, and everyone enjoying this pacific ocean park, is so very soothing and very, very special.

After both dogs died I was dogless for 2 years. However, my daughter and I would continue to go for our weekly fix. Now we have a new dog who howls and puts his paw on my shoulder as soon as we turn down Lake Merced Boulevard and head for Fort FUN. I am telling you he is saying yea, thank you...thank you. He is thrilled and so am I. And my daughter never misses an opportunity to go because she loves to check out the dogs, climb the trees, and roll down Joey's hill. I have turned so many people onto the Fort Funston, many who are dogless. Just last week I brought 2 inner city 11 year old boys down. They had a blast and want to go back again. Today I bought a friend's child with us who lives in Fremont. As we left, she said "you guys are so lucky to have this place, everyone should share it, the people, the dogs, the birds, sand, ocean and the plants". We should and we can! As a Biologist (UCSF) and as a member of FFDW, as well as a member at times with the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, GGNRA (Recreation area & Raptor Association) and numerous other animal, nature, environmental, and recreational societies, I must agree with her!

I am very concerned as I continue to see areas of this beautiful place closed to our PUBLIC use. I do not see the justification for these LARGE "project" closures. I was not informed of them prior to them happening. I am concerned about the crowding these and possible future closures are and will cause. I support the Bank Swallows Protection. But it is only needed on a seasonal basis and the fences can be scaled back quite a bit. I support plant restoration. However, I believe that every park in the NPS has specific goals/specialties. And Fort Funston is a NATIONAL RECREATION AREA intended for public recreational use. It is not another CA state park who's goal seems to be to limit access for anybody to anything. There are more appropriate places to replant native plants that both the recreational and NON-recreational type can enjoy. If you find that such replanting is essential for the Fort area such as educational purposes or preventing some loss to the dune complex (caused by erosion, NOT DOGS) it could be scaled back. I must also add that if they (CA Native Plant Society) want to tackle the ice plant it must be done much more aggressively than they have shown and I do not believe they have the organization or capacity to do so. Besides I happen to like ice plants and figs and have been told at least one species is endemic to the area.

Public comment by the uses of this park needs to be heard. Please don't take away our large urban recreational area!

Thank you.


Stacy A Pratt

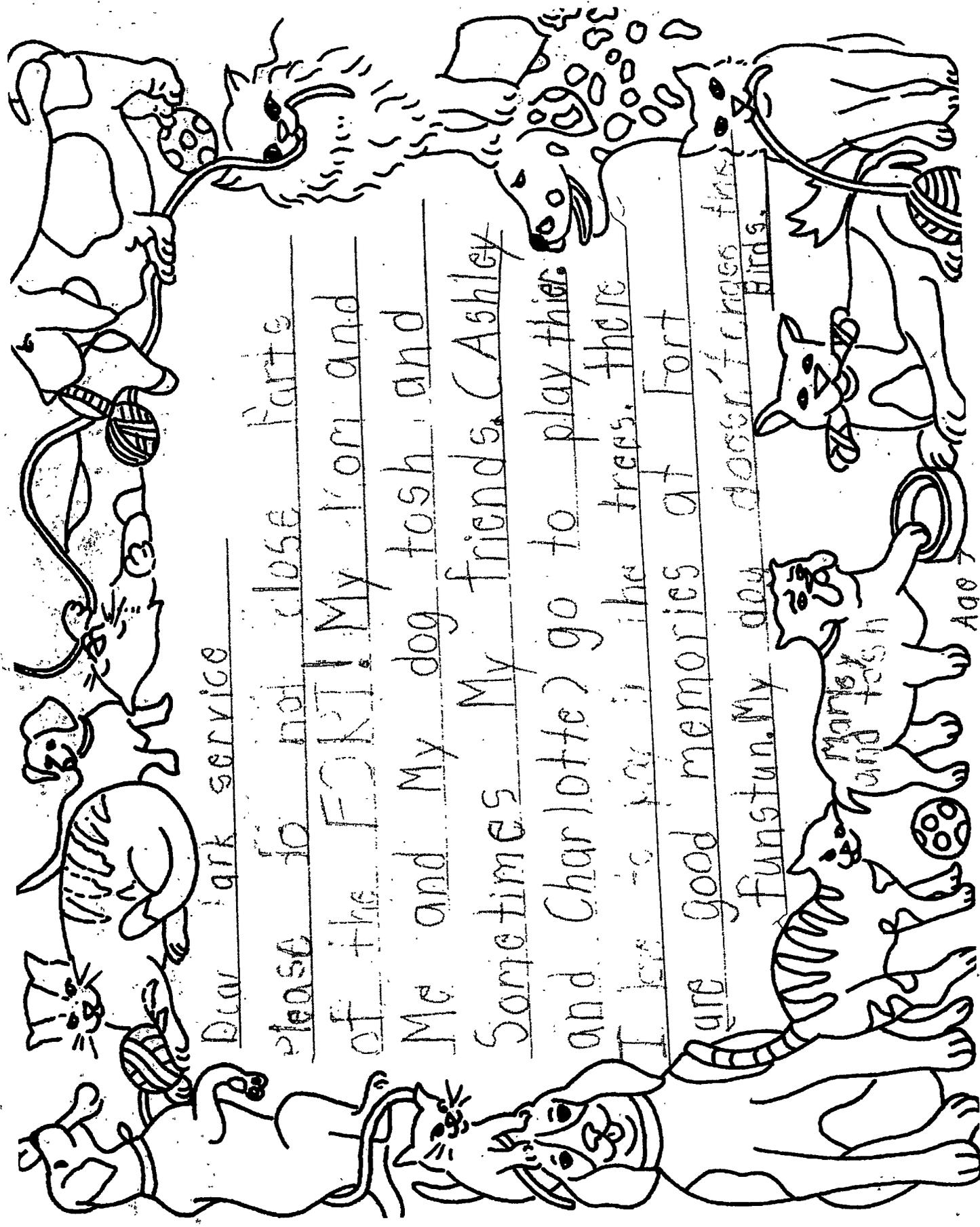
FOFUAR02583

GGNRA008762

cc: Supervisor Leland Yee (SF Board)
Mayor Willie Brown, Jr.
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Representative Nancy Pelosi
Representative Tom Lantos

FOFUAR02584

GGNRA008763



Dear park service

please to not close parts
of the FORT! My Mom and
Me and My dog Tosh and
Sometimes My friends Ashley
and Charlotte go to play there.
I like to play in the trees, there
are good memories at Fort

funstun. My dog does fences trees
Birds.

Marys
and Tosh

Age 7

RECEIVED

SEP 15 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

407 Belvedere Street

S. F. Ca. 94117

September 15, 2000

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

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I have a dog, yet I strongly support your proposal to close 12 acres of sensitive sand dune habitat on Fort Funston to off-trail recreation. This is necessary to help control sand cliff erosion, & to protect the nesting swallows. Revegetation and restoration of these eroding dunes is critical. Please do all you can to preserve this threatened species of bird & the habitat, which it depends upon,

Sincerely yours,
Georgene Smell

FOFUAR02586

GGNRA008765

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

NO RETURN ADDRESS

RECEIVED

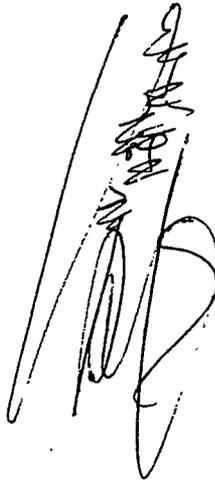
SEP 23 2001

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

RE: Protesting Closure of 12 Acres of Fort Funston, CA

Stop fencing off areas in Fort Funston!!! Enough has been fenced off. The Audubon Society & California Native Plant Society have given their input and as a result, more fences have been put up. Most people who use Fort Funston are people who have dogs. We are very responsible in keeping the area clean and picking up after our dogs; cleanups are scheduled monthly. We go there to hike and enjoy the scenic area with our dogs. It is a joy for both dog owners and their dogs to be able to play freely and to have canine socialization. Fort Funston has allowed dogs off-leash for decades. Why is it changing now? There are more people now with dogs but there are so few places for people and dogs to be able to hike together. As one of many dogwalkers/taxpayers, I truly enjoy and appreciate this park. Now it is our turn to say **STOP** this nonsense! We have a right to enjoy the park too!!!

Sincerely,

 TSH 9.15.01

FOFUAR02587

GGNRA008766

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SEP 19 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

September 15, 2000
675 Grand View Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94114

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

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am writing to add my name and protest to others who are protesting the closure of 12 more acres to dogs and their companions at Ft. Funston.

These lovely surroundings, set aside for public use, are a boon to those of us who live in the area. I have met a multitude of Bay area hikers, bikers, paraplanners, families and dog owners during my walks at Ft. Funston. The ambiance of the place seems to have a salubrious effect on those who use its walkways and beach. Almost without exception, people are friendly and responsible. Dog owners clean up after their pets, families with children are generally delighted to mix with others, including dogs. In general, dogs are well behaved and the occasional miscreant is taken to task by any and all who witness misbehavior. One could only wish the attitude of community and caring extended to other places in the Bay area!

In particular, the Ft. Funston Dog Walkers Association has performed admirably in their adopted custodial role - devoting a week-end each month to cleaning up the area as well as monitoring the overall health and safety of those who enjoy the benefits of the facilities.

I strongly oppose any further limitations to the multiple uses that citizens make of Ft. Funston. As Superintendent, I would hope that you concur and will uphold the right of free access to all.

Very truly yours,



Fredericka Bell Mackenzie

FOFUAR02588

GGNRA008767

September 16, 2000

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SEP 19 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

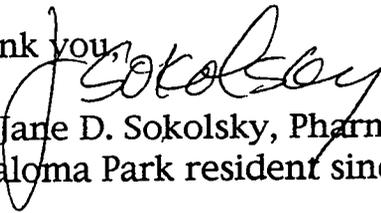
35 Melrose Ave.
San Francisco, CA
94131

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
GGNRA
Bay & Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill;

I am writing to protest the proposed closures at Ft. Funston. I understand the concerns of the opposition but this park is located in an URBAN area and recreational space is important for the residents of the area. I am a law-abiding, tax paying, dog owner who regularly drives half way across the city to use this official off-leash dog walking area. I respect the decisions that my city has made regarding the ON-leash policies of most parks in San Francisco; I make the effort to go across town where I will not be breaking the law with my off-leash pooch. Fort Funston is important to me and my family. Please do not make this recreational area a plant and bird refuge. There are plenty of other open space preserves where these conservationist efforts can be made. Fort Funston is NOT the place for this. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Thank you,


Dr. Jane D. Sokolsky, Pharm.D.
Miraflores Park resident since 1992

cc Supervisors Leland Yee and Mabel Teng

FOFUAR02589

GGNRA008768

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2000

September 16, 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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

Re: Proposed closure at Fort Funston

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

Fort Funston lands were deeded for recreation use. As recreational users of Fort Funston and taxpayers, we would appreciate your support in denying the park services proposed closure of an additional 12 acres.

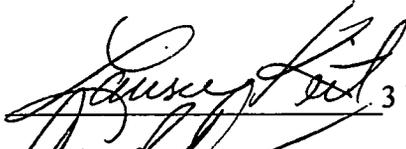
The Department of Fish and Game has advised that the closure of the cliff face and the top of the cliffs is enough to protect the bank swallows. It is not necessary to close an additional 12 acres to protect them. The park service has illegally fenced 10 acres despite community efforts to prevent it. Despite the illegal closure, the population of bank swallows is continuing to decline.

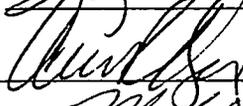
The majority of users of Fort Funston are dog walkers and those who enjoy dogs and the natural beauty of the park.

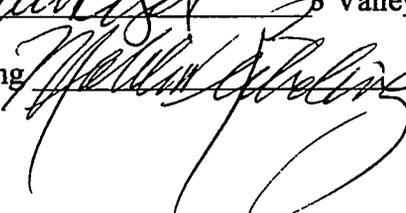
The park is in part maintained by the Fort Funston Dog Walkers Association which sponsors monthly cleanups. I can tell you as a frequent user that not only it is a place where dogs can socialize, it is a place where people of all generations can socialize and bond with man's best friend.

Your support is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Laurie Keit  3 Valley Wood Ct, Pacifica, CA 94044

Alec Keit  3 Valley Wood Ct, Pacifica, CA 94044

Mahlia Riebeling  1249 Alemany Blvd. SF 94112

FOFUAR02590

GGNRA008769

Sept. 16, 2000

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2000

SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Ft. Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Re: Ft. Funston

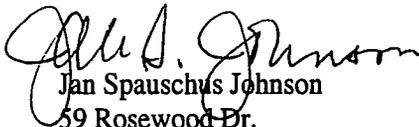
Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I'm a San Francisco dog owner who is writing to protest the closure of twelve acres of coastal area at Ft. Funston. As you no doubt know, the overwhelming majority of visitors to Ft. Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs, for whom Ft. Funston offers a unique and vital recreation site.

San Francisco dog owners value their local environment and contribute significantly to its maintenance. No local dog-owner group opposes protection of the nesting grounds of the bank swallow, the purported reason for closing large sections of the coast at Ft. Funston. But why close off a large swath of land inland from the cliffs in which the birds nest, when beach-side access to the cliffs remains completely open? At the northern end of the park, those cliffs are just steps away from the Great Highway, and anyone with a mind to can easily scale them, doing far more damage to the nesting area than any dog or person walking inland above the cliffs could do.

Ft. Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the U.S. Congress specified urban recreation as a priority. That very opportunity for recreation is now being eroded by the closure of large sections of Ft. Funston. I and San Francisco's other responsible, voting dog owners urge the GGNRA to reconsider its policy.

Sincerely,



Jan Spauschus Johnson
59 Rosewood Dr.
San Francisco, CA 94127
415-587-3235

P.S. I adopted my dog—a wonderful 8-year-old Dalmatian—from the San Francisco SPCA. I firmly believe that many San Francisco dog adoptions simply would not happen if it weren't for the opportunity for off-leash exercise afforded by Ft. Funston. I think the animals, the SPCA, and the city will suffer if large areas of Ft. Funston are closed to dogs and their people.

cc: Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.; The Honorable Barbara Boxer; The Honorable Dianne Feinstein; The Honorable Nancy Pelosi; The Honorable Tom Lantos; SF SPCA; FFDW

FOFUAR02591

GGNRA008770

RECEIVED

SEP 15 2001

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco Ca 94102

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to you regarding the recent closures at Fort Funston. As a native San Franciscan I have spent many days over the past 38 years at Fort Funston. From the time I was a young boy to present I've hiked all over Fort Funston as a young boy with my friends to present day with my own family. I have never encountered a dangerous situation at Fort Funston and for you to now fence off some of the most spectacular areas of the park upsets me. The park and turned into a haven for dog owners, hikers, and even tourists. I urge you not to close off more of this beautiful park.

Sincerely,



John Carnemolla

John Carnemolla
Phillip Hillenbrand
484 Forest St.
Oakland, CA 94618

Cc: Mayor Willie Brown
Barbara Boxer
Diane Feinstein
Nancy Pelosi
Tom Lantos
FFDW

FOFUAR02592

GGNRA008771

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Ellice Sperber
33 Marcela Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116
(415)661-4103

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

September 16, 2000

Dear Superintendent O'Neill,

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

You only need to visit Fort Funston on any given day, any time of the day to know that the vast majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. Fort Funston has provided such recreation for our family for at least the past decade.

I walk my dog daily at Fort Funston, she gets offish free play, socialization, and we both get exercise. At least, we both used to get exercise. I used the 12 acres proposed for closure for that extra little bit of endurance walking for my exercise, and the vistas from that walk for relaxation. I've enjoyed watching my children gain strength and confidence climbing Joey's Hill (also within the proposed closure). It was a remarkable difference to watch my children slowly walk along the paved path during the temporary closure, the structure having changed their feeling of freedom within the park. I'd like to add that my children both are successful students with learning disabilities. Their success is due to a lot of hard work. Fort Funston is where I bring them with our dog to get some release and freedom which is well deserved.

Please do not undervalue this piece of lands' need as a recreational area. We live in a densely populated city. The open space at Fort Funston plays a daily part in my families, and many other families (particularly those with dogs) lives for recreation and respite from the city.

Sincerely,



Ellice Sperber

c.c. FFDW
Mayor Willie Brown
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Tom Lantos

FOFUAR02593

GGNRA008772

Helen Vozenilek
4121 Laurel Ave.
Oakland, CA 94609
510-482-2184, helenv@igc.org

Superintendent Brian O'Neill
GGNRA
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
SF CA 94123

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT

Dear GGNRA'ers,

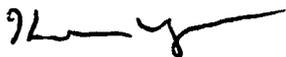
9/17/00

I'm writing in regards to the GGNRA's continued attempts to take over public use of the land at Fort Funston. While you seem to be unclear whether it is the bank swallows or the native plants that require closing another 12 acres of the land that was given to the GGNRA in 1973 for the "maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to urban environment and planning," it is clear that you don't have the needs and the interests of the public in mind.

I would suggest paying attention to others by holding the environmental impact statements and public hearings which your agency seems to ignore when dealing with issues of land closure in Fort Funston. I too suggest you reconsider the designation of dog-walking as a "privilege." In the city parks we constantly get the excuses of the kids and multiple use and how that doesn't include dogs. Now with Fort Funston, the kid excuse doesn't work, so it appears that you start worrying about a problem that isn't a problem-the bank swallows- and let this wild-hair about native plants subsume all other considerations.

Add my voice to those against stealing any more land away from public recreational use.

Sincerely,



FOFUAR02594

GGNRA008773

RECEIVED

SEP 20 2001

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Name: Rob Cyr

Address: 854 H Antoinette Lane

SSF CA 94080

Date: 9/17/2k

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

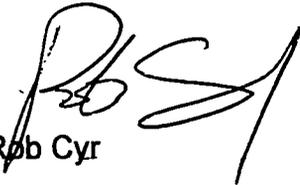
Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am opposed to the proposed closure of 12 acres at Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



Rob Cyr

FOFUAR02595

GGNRA008774

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Susan Nightingale
797 Wayside Road
Portola Valley, Ca. 94028

September 17, 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, Ca. 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am opposed to the proposed closure of 12 acres at Fort Funston.

As a Bay Area resident of almost 50 years I have been a regular visitor of Fort Funston with my dogs. There continues to be fewer and fewer places to enjoy nature with dogs.

Please preserve this rare and special place for the use most enjoyed by its visitors; off-leash freedom for dogs and their companions. This is my only recreation and very dear to me.

Sincerely,

Susan Nightingale



FOFUAR02596

GGNRA008775

Julie Peisner

1100 Gough Street 6D San Francisco, CA 94109

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

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

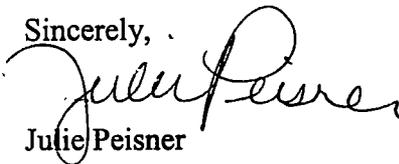
September 18, 2000

Dear Brian:

I am writing to you to voice my concern over the issue of making Fort Funston an on-leash park. I have two Labrador Retrievers and love to take them to Fort Funston because there is so much open space and therefore they have plenty of room to get the exercise that they need. There are not many parks in San Francisco that have dog runs. Many of them are on-leash, which is unfortunate for many people like myself because my dogs cannot get the exercise they need if they are forced to stay on-leash. I think many people who do not own dogs do not understand that dogs need to run around and play and interact with other dogs and people. How can I play fetch with my dog if he is on a leash?

I understand the need to keep certain areas blocked off because they are bird sanctuaries or fragile ecosystems, but there is no reason to turn the whole area into an on-leash park. I am requesting that you keep Fort Funston leash free, i.e. dogs on voice command, and open in its entirety. Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,



Julie Peisner

FOFUAR02597

GGNRA008776

RECEIVED
SEP 21 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Robert Spirito
34 Natick Street
San Francisco, 94131

18 Sept. 2000

Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. I personally have enjoyed the area with my dog several times a week for a number of years. Though my dog is no longer with me, I know the importance of maintaining the area for dog owners to enjoy the decades-long tradition of off-leash play and canine socialization.

Even now, to walk in Fort Funston watching both the dogs and children freely enjoying the area along with their adults, make living in this densely populated city so worthwhile. It is vital to maintain this environment.

Sincerely,



FOFUAR02598

GGNRA008777

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED
SEP 18 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

Magda S. Rinaldi

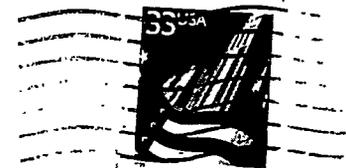
Return address: 109 Pope St.

San Francisco, Ca

94112

FOFUAR02599

GGNRA008778



Superintendent Brian O'Neill
 Golden Gate National Recreation Area
 Bay & Franklin Streets
 Bldg. # 201, Fort Mason
 San Francisco, CA
 94123

94123+1328 

FOFUAR02600

GGNRA008779

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,



Return address: _____

FOFUAR02601

GGNRA008780

RECEIVED

SEP 20 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

30 Fair Oaks St. #4
San Francisco, CA 94110
September 18, 2000

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

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the national Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,



Janis Takamoto

FOFUAR02602

GGNRA008781

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

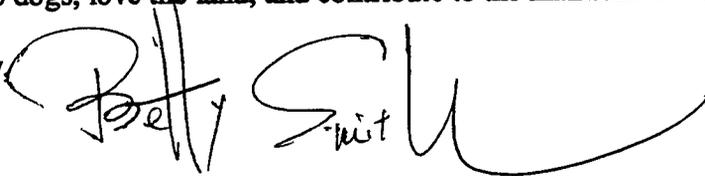
RECEIVED
SEP 18 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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Sincerely,



Return address: _____

FOFUAR02603

GGNRA008782

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

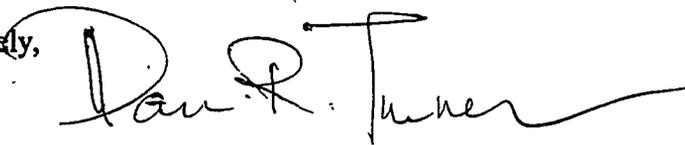
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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Sincerely,



Return address: _____

FOFUAR02604

GGNRA008783

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,



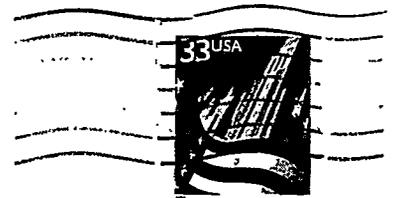
Return address: _____

332 12th Ave Apt

SF CA 94118

FOFUAR02605

GGNRA008784



Superintendent Brian O'Neill
 Golden Gate National Recreation Area
 Bay & Franklin Streets,
 Building # 201
 San Francisco, CA

94123

94123/9999



FOFUAR02606

GGNRA008785

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Please keep Fort Funston an off-leash dog park. It is essential to maintain this type of recreation area for "us" dog owners, who live in a large urban environment. Closure of this park would cause undue strain on the smaller enclosed parks.

Thank you

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,



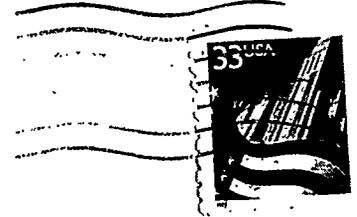
Return address: 721 Holloway Ave.

S.F. CA

94112

FOFUAR02607

GGNRA008786



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123/3323



FOFUAR02608

GGNRA008787

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,

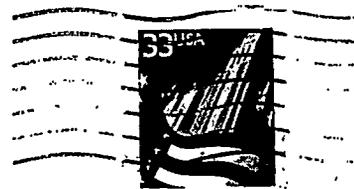
Lijie Bermudez

Return address: 106 E. MOHRE ST. #35

Daly City, CA 94014

FOFUAR02609

GGNRA008788



Superintendent Brian O'Neill
 Golden Gate National Recreation Area
 Bay E, Franklin Streets
 Building # 201, Fort Mason
 San Francisco, CA
 94123

94123/9999 

FOFUAR02610

GGNRA008789

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I HAVE USED FORT FUNSTON FOR MANY YEARS.
BEING A CITY DWELLER, MY DOG IS LIMITED
TO PLACES WE CAN GO OFF LEASH.

DOGS AND THEIR OWNERS DESERVE THIS PLACE TO
RUN, SOCIALIZE & EXERCISE. PLEASE LEAVE OUR
PARK INTACT!

RONALD H. OTT

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,

RONALD OTT

Return address: 711 PAGE STREET

SF CA 94117

FOFUAR02611

GGNRA008790

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

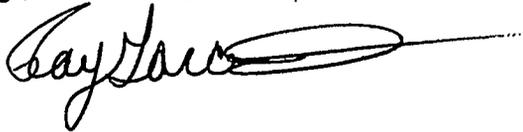
RECEIVED
SEP 18 2000
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely,



Return address:

RAY GARCIA
30 CAMINO TORCIDO
SANTA FE N.M
87505

FOFUAR02613

GGNRA008792



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**

94123/9999 

FOFUAR02614

GGNRA008793

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Let them run free

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

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Sincerely,

Return address:

Don Robertson
Box 122
Redway Ca 95560

FOFUAR02615

GGNRA008794

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

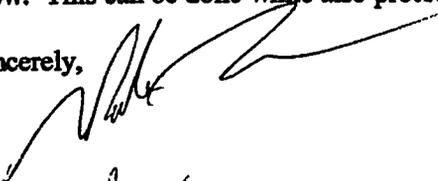
I object to the recent closures at Fort Funston.

The newly erected fences keep people from enjoying what is the most scenic area of the Fort.

If fences are shown to be needed to protect the bank swallows, these should be near the cliff face, above the burrows; this solution would address public safety as well. The Park Service has shown it can erect fences even on dunes.

We are anxious to find a solution that allows all park visitors to enjoy their recreational activities including off-leash dog walking, hiking, bird and whale watching, or just sitting to admire the view. This can be done while also protecting existing park resources.

Sincerely,



Wade Crayson

701 Steiner St.

SF, CA 94117

FOFUAR02617

GGNRA008796



**Superintendent Brian O'Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Bay and Franklin Streets
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123**



FOFUAR02618

GGNRA008797

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

*Please give us back our dog's
off-leash areas*

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2000

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

I am writing to protest the closure of 12 acres of Fort Funston. Fort Funston was given to the National Park Service by San Francisco for recreational use, and in legislation creating the GGNRA, Congress specified urban recreation as a priority.

By far the majority of visitors to Fort Funston are San Franciscans and their dogs. They go to Fort Funston to enjoy its decades-long tradition of off-leash free play and canine socialization, in a windblown but gloriously beautiful section of San Francisco coastline.

In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, such space is vital to the 38% of us who keep dogs, love the land, and contribute to the maintenance of our local environment.

Sincerely, *Will Lind*

Return address: _____
1015 QUEVEDO
SF. CA 94124
