

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** [Chris\\_Lehnertz@nps.gov](mailto:Chris_Lehnertz@nps.gov)  
**Cc:** [karen\\_washington@nps.gov](mailto:karen_washington@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** GGNRA and urban recreation  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 27, 2014 4:53:06 PM

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Dear Ms. Lehnertz,

I am writing to urge you not to sign off on GGNRA's proposed General Management Plan. Contrary to GGNRA's own charter, the plan actually limits and in some cases removes opportunities for urban recreation on GGNRA lands. As a neighbor of Rancho for the past 12 1/2 years, recently relocated to Seattle but retaining my El Granada house, I was out on Rancho's trails daily with my dogs. I love this land and the respite it provides. I participated in numerous open houses and talked with GGNRA staff on several occasions, and was initially very excited about this "national park in our backyard". But over the past 4 years, it's become clear that Superintendent Dean and his staff have an agenda to limit access and treat our recreational areas as wilderness. Based on the plans they developed, they have not been listening to their constituents.

The irony is that, for the past 40 years or so before GGNRA came along, we -- the neighbors -- were the eyes and ears on this land. We are the ones who care about it and keep watch because we are out on this land daily. And now GGNRA wants to exclude us. People and nature *\*are\** compatible. It's possible to protect recreational opportunities and to be responsible stewards -- as we proved, for decades before GGNRA.

Since the 1970's, the people of the SF Bay Area have fought hard to set aside open space for recreation for the people of our region. There is no credible reason for the National Park Service and GGNRA to deny access to these lands now.

If GGNRA needs examples as to how to manage land for urban recreation -- including dog walking, cycling, picnics on the beach, hiking -- they can look to Seattle's city parks department, or East Bay Regional Parks, or San Luis Obispo city parks. All successfully manage significant acreage for conflict-free, multi-use, urban recreation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Risa Galant