

From: [Gwen Sobolewski](#)
To: [Howard Levitt \(Howard_Levitt@nps.gov\)](mailto:Howard_Levitt@nps.gov)
Subject: FW: Concerns re. Tiffany & Co. Foundation donation to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.
Date: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 2:08:26 PM

FYI

This is the stream of email starting with the one from the Save Our Recreation group to our funder of the Battery East Overlook.

I think Ben gave a really good response.

G

From: Mariner, Bridget [<mailto:Bridget.Mariner@Tiffany.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 7:30 AM
To: Ben Harwood
Cc: Rudolph, Samara
Subject: RE: Concerns re. Tiffany & Co. Foundation donation to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Good morning, and thank you Ben for your thorough response. We appreciate all that you and your teams do to ensure a safe and pleasant environment for all park visitors (two and four legged alike!).

Best wishes,

Bridget

Bridget (Baker) Mariner
Associate Program Officer
The Tiffany & Co. Foundation
200 Fifth Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10010
212-230-6827-tel | 212-202-4077-fax
bridget.mariner@tiffany.com

Please note my new email address. Thank you.

From: Ben Harwood [<mailto:BHarwood@ParksConservancy.org>]
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 6:46 PM
To: Foundation
Cc: Rudolph, Samara
Subject: RE: Concerns re. Tiffany & Co. Foundation donation to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Hello Bridget and Samara:

This refers to an unfortunate communication that was recently sent to some of our most important donors by a group of activists who are angry about the National Park Service dog policy. Rather than simply objecting to the NPS dog policy, which does restrict some unleashed dog activities in some sensitive areas of the 80,000-acre Golden Gate National Recreation Area, they seek to create a

perception that there is a conspiracy to limit recreation in the parks for people more generally. This idea, of course, is just plain wrong, because it is central to the mission of the NPS to connect people to the parks, so they are attempting to be purposefully misleading regarding the specific intent of the NPS.

Further, because the Parks Conservancy is the official nonprofit partner to the GGNRA, this "Save Our Recreation" group has decided that their frustration regarding the NPS dog policy justifies a smear campaign against the Parks Conservancy, as if somehow our nonprofit group has an interest in limiting recreation (again, our mission is clearly to do just the opposite). Moreover, it is also thankfully readily apparent to unbiased observers that the Parks Conservancy has no influence whatsoever over the policies of the National Park Service. So we're glad that our donors are not fooled by this rather transparent attack strategy.

Of course, it's great that people care so much about the parks, and that they are organized to express their views. But I assure you that there is no conspiracy among the NPS and the Parks Conservancy "to limit visitor and recreational access in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area." The simple truth is that although the NPS is charged with conserving the national parks, they are not maliciously setting policies designed to stop people from enjoying the parks. This Save our Recreation group is simply angry on behalf of their dogs.

So, although it's amazing how polarizing this dog issue has been for some of the more "dogged" dog activists against the NPS, there are no implications for the ongoing/long term maintenance of Battery East Vista project.

Hope this clears that up. (Woof!)

Cheers and have a great weekend,

Ben

From: Foundation [<mailto:Foundation@Tiffany.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 1:36 PM
To: Ben Harwood
Cc: Rudolph, Samara
Subject: FW: Concerns re. Tiffany & Co. Foundation donation to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Hi Ben –

One more email from me – I apologize.

We received the below via email and post from a local SF organization called "Save Our Recreation" stating concerns about a change in management plans for the Park. I've gone back with a simple response but did want to bring this to your attention.

Might you be able to elaborate a bit on the changes mentioned below and any implications this may have in the ongoing/long term maintenance of Battery East Vista?

Happy to jump on a call next week if easier to discuss over the phone.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Bridget

Bridget (Baker) Mariner
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Please note my new email address. Thank you.

From: Andrea Buffa [[\(b\)\(6\)](mailto:(b)(6))]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:57 PM
To: Foundation
Subject: Concerns re. Tiffany & Co. Foundation donation to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.



September 15, 2015

Dear Ms. Kamadoli Costa,

We are writing to you, as a contributor to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, with serious concerns about imminent plans to limit visitor and recreational access in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. We urge you, as an integral partner of the Parks Conservancy and the GGNRA, to learn more about these controversial plans and how your contributions may be supporting them. We hope that once you read this letter, you will decide to join us in expressing your concerns to the leadership of both organizations.

Congress created the GGNRA in 1972 “to provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to urban environment and planning.” Yet in January, the National Park Service (NPS) approved a new general management plan for the GGNRA that will severely restrict recreational access to this urban refuge, despite the fact these lands have been successfully managed for recreation and environmental preservation for more than 40 years.

The vast majority of GGNRA is now being reclassified for low-to-moderate visitor use levels where public access can be restricted in popular places like Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, Marin Headlands and Muir Beach. The new plan literally changes the mission of this urban recreation area and omits "recreation" as one of its guiding principles. Meanwhile, only a small percentage of the entire 80,000-acre GGNRA will be managed for diverse recreational opportunities, such as hiking, biking, surfing and dog walking. The Parks Conservancy is being called on to fund almost half of the estimated \$46 million capital expense budget under the new plan.

As you know, these areas are not remote, pristine wilderness and they should not be managed like Yellowstone or Yosemite. Hundreds of thousands of people rely on the GGNRA as our backyard to make the densely populated Bay Area more livable.

With the general management plan in place, the NPS is now moving to restrict dog walking, a very popular activity in the GGNRA. Within the next few months, the NPS will release a rule that is expected to dramatically limit and in many places entirely ban where people can walk with their dogs, despite the fact that such activity is not harmful to the environment and has been confined to less than one percent of the GGNRA.

One in three households in the Bay Area has a dog, and many residents consider dog walking a vital form of outdoor recreation. Thousands of people submitted comments opposing the extreme plan and the boards of supervisors of San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties have all called on the GGNRA to rethink its proposal. However, it does not seem to matter that so many individuals and elected officials are on record against this controversial plan and that there is no scientific rationale for these changes – the GGNRA is clearly moving ahead with its shift away from longstanding recreational activities.

Our group, Save Our Recreation, is a growing coalition of more than 10,000 Bay Area residents who actively support preserving recreation in the GGNRA. The population of the San Francisco Bay Area is growing fast. We need more access to recreational open space, not less. We ask you to advocate for preserving the intent of the GGNRA, which is to provide recreational open space in the densely populated Bay Area.

Please help us make sure that the GGNRA is managed and funded in a way that keeps room for both people and nature, the way it has been for decades. Please visit our website www.SaveOurRecreation.com and feel free to contact me at for more information. More importantly, please express your concerns to the Conservancy and the GGNRA

Sincerely,
Andrea Buffa

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