

From: (b)(6)
To: Chris_Lehnertz@nps.gov; karen_washington@nps.gov
Subject: Dogs and the GGNRA
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 10:52:15 PM

Dear Park officials:

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to honor its historical relationship with the citizens of San Francisco and allow dogs and people to enjoy the GGNRA's beaches.

I understand that bird populations often use the sand dunes for nesting, however, rather than rushing to restrict dog running and picnicking you should devote more time and effort to reach a compromise solution allowing for wildlife protection along with recreation. Under a new general management plan certain areas may have to be restricted at key times and in different places, however, in a densely populated city like San Francisco with many pets, the park service must consider their well-being as well as that of bird populations. They are not incompatible. Afterall, the beaches of San Francisco have been used unrestricted by residents for decades until recently.

Particularly challenging for San Franciscans is the fact that the city is surrounded by water on three sides, much of it controlled by the National Park Service. But all you have to do is look at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's name to know that recreation should be an inherent part of the lands you oversee.

When you weigh the merits of keeping the beaches open to recreation, please consider the following:

Cape Cod National Seashore, America's first national seashore, allows dogs on the beach anytime outside the swimming areas. The Assateague Island National Seashore is the prime destination for dog owners heading for the beach in Maryland, and there are many beaches around the country that allow dogs early in the morning and in the evening or off-season.

Thank you for your consideration,

Molly Hooper
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