

From: [Amy Meyer](#)
To: [Frank Dean](#)
Cc: [Howard Levitt](#); [Greg Moore](#); [David Shaw](#); [Alexandra Picavet](#)
Subject: re: draft letter for IJ
Date: Monday, May 05, 2014 11:54:38 AM

Here are Howard's main ideas and words, shorter and cast in a different framework.
Amy

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area's just-released General Management Plan (GMP) is a vision for the future. It was shaped by the input of thousands of people for close to a decade. At Muir Woods and Alcatraz, the theme of the plan is "A Focus on National Treasures," and in the rest of the park, the theme is "Connecting People to the Park," which is exactly what this park was set aside to do.

Every day of the year, people can be found enjoying the GGNRA in a multitude of ways: on foot, by bicycle, with dogs both on and off-leash, hiking, jogging, bird watching, beachcombing, meditating, painting, studying, volunteering, taking photos, and in dozens of other ways getting and staying healthy. All of these activities will continue under the vision of the GMP, enhanced with the addition of some needed facilities, and better trails, better interpretation, and better support for visitor enjoyment of the park.

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, our incomparable support organization, will help make these changes possible. Bay Area. Just as the Conservancy restored Crissy Field to a place enjoyed by well over one million people per year, enlarged and enhanced the parks trail system, and created an award-winning audio tour at Alcatraz, and an award-winning new visitor center at Lands End, it will make

possible the improvements called for in the GMP. The Parks Conservancy has created a nationally renowned outreach programs for underserved communities through the Crissy Field Center, given support for school bus transportation for 25,000 kids per year, and organized 35,000 park volunteers. The Parks Conservancy is among the most successful of the many organizations that make a difference for the National Park Service, and we are grateful for its excellent leadership and staff and for the thousands of Bay Area residents who support its work.

In a dog management plan that is separate from, - but in harmony with - the GMP, the park proposes to continue to welcome dogs at areas throughout the park, including seven areas proposed for off-leash use. This is spelled out in a Draft Dog Management Plan that has been twelve years in the making, with additional public engagement still to come.

We urge people to read the new General Management Plan. We believe the vision it presents is an inspired one – after all, it reflects the aspirations of a “park for the people, where the people are,” as Congress originally intended. And we encourage people who care about the park, to join the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and continue the mission of making the Golden Gate National Recreation Area a model of excellence and civic collaboration.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area recently released a new General Management Plan (GMP) for the park. We are very proud of the vision for the future this plan offers, shaped by the input of thousands of people for close to a decade.

At Muir Woods and Alcatraz, the theme of the plan is, not surprisingly, “A Focus on National Treasures” – which each of these iconic destinations certainly are. In the rest of the park, the theme is “Connecting People to the Park,” which is exactly what this park was set aside to do.

There are some people who claim that because their preferred activity is not accorded unrestricted access to all the lands of the park, the plan is “anti-recreation.” To say the park is anti-recreation is to ignore the reality of the park now and in the future envisioned by the newly released GMP. Every day of the year, people can be found enjoying the park in a multitude of ways: on foot, by bicycle, with dogs both on and off-leash, hiking, jogging, bird watching, beachcombing, meditating, painting, studying, volunteering, taking photos, and in dozens of other ways getting and staying healthy. All of these activities will continue under the vision of the GMP, enhanced with the addition of some additional needed facilities, better trails, better interpretation, and better support for visitor enjoyment of the park.

It is discouraging that some people who know better continue to claim that the park is seeking to ban dogs, and use that utterly false claim as evidence that the park is seeking to curtail recreation. In a dog management plan that is separate from, - but in harmony with - the GMP, the park proposes to continue to welcome dogs at areas throughout the park, including seven areas proposed for off-leash use. This is spelled out in a Draft Dog Management Plan that has been twelve years in the making, with additional public engagement still to come.

One of the most troubling contentions that have surfaced in recent days is that the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, our incomparable support organization, is somehow anything but a positive force for the quality of life in the Bay Area. Without the Parks Conservancy, there would be no restored Crissy Field that is enjoyed by well over one million people per year, the parks trail system would be in a greatly diminished condition, there would not be an award-winning audio tour at Alcatraz, nor an award-winning new visitor center at Lands End. Nationally renowned outreach programs for underserved communities through the Crissy Field Center would be nothing more than a tantalizing dream, and support for school bus transportation for 25,000 kids per year, and 35,000 park volunteers, would simply not be there. The Parks Conservancy is among the most successful of the many organizations that make a difference for the National Park Service. We are grateful for the excellent leadership and staff of the Parks Conservancy, and for the thousands of Bay Area residents who support the work of the park through the organization.

We urge people to read the new General Management Plan. We believe the vision it presents is an inspired one – after all, it reflects the aspirations of a “park for the people, where the people are,” as Congress originally intended. And we encourage people who care about the park, to join the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and continue the mission of making the Golden Gate National Recreation Area a model of excellence and civic collaboration.