

Dear Friend of Golden Gate National Recreation Area:

I am pleased to present this final General Management Plan for Golden Gate National Recreation Area, [Fort Point National Historical Site – not included, right?], and Muir Woods National Monument.

A General Management Plan is a seminal document for any unit of the National Park System, because within the plan can be found the aspirations of those who care about the park, as well as an outline of what the park will look like 20 years in the future. This plan replaces one that was released in 1980. The original plan for this “National Park in an urban area” set a vision that effectively guided the park for over three decades and most of the major concepts outlined in that plan have been fulfilled.

The new plan reflects the intent of Congress in establishing the park, as well as the vast amount of knowledge about park’s exceptional natural and cultural resources that has been gained since 1980. This new knowledge was tremendously enhanced by the thoughtful input of thousands of individuals, dozens of public agencies, and numerous outside organizations and stakeholder groups.

The plan offers a vision of the park that accommodates the rapidly changing cultural and social landscape of the park. It was developed in the context of the evolution in attitudes toward conservation and preservation, as well as changing preferences toward modes of transportation, recreation choices, and ways of experiencing parklands. The vision in this plan is predicated on *partnership* as an effective management approach, and will rely on the continued support of our key partners, especially the incomparable Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

This park is a fixture in the life of the San Francisco Bay Area, and - because of the way the park engages the community as visitors, stewards and advocates - a model of success for park managers around the world. We cannot adequately express our thanks to those who have helped create this new General Management Plan. We can only invite all friends of Golden Gate to join us in bringing the future vision of the park to fruition.

Sincerely,

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent