

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** [Chris\\_Lehnertz@nps.gov](mailto:Chris_Lehnertz@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** War on Dogs  
**Date:** Monday, May 26, 2014 6:45:47 PM

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Dear Ms. Lehnertz:

I am writing again to urge the NPS to reconsider the approach to Dog Management in the GGNRA. As a conservationist and dog owner, I am dismayed at the total lack of creative and new ideas to off-leash needs of urban dog owners in the GGNRA. Why not embrace us, make wonderful designated areas with water, services, bags, places to sit and recreate with animals, and allow considered large areas for off - lease recreation close to our homes.

Additionally, I completely agree with all the points noted below.

- It has come to the sad juncture that the staff of the National Park Service is proposing to use our federal taxpayer dollars to keep people from recreating in the GGNRA – places we have been allowed to go for more than 40 years since it was protected from development.
- Currently the GGNRA is pushing forward with three separate plans that seek to limit access to areas like Fort Funston, Rancho Corral de Tierra and the Marin Headlands. Two of those plans could be signed off on as soon as this week – the 20-year General Management Plan, which would establish "zones" where the GGNRA could actually prohibit people from doing things like picnicking at most of Ocean Beach; and a rule that would create restrictive and expensive permits for professional dog walkers who people count on to make sure their pets receive appropriate exercise (any permitting should be considered as part of the dog management plan that is still being developed and reviewed until late 2015).
- Right now most people in the Bay Area have no idea what's being planned – there has been little to no effort by the GGNRA to reach out to the public and gather input for the General Management Plan.
- We need a real meaningful public process that involves the people who are going to be affected. And we want a process that takes our input into account. The entire community should have the opportunity to participate in this important discussion.
- We believe people and nature are compatible that is evident by the beauty and abundance of species in the GGNRA .
- San Francisco is the second most densely populated city in America after New York City. And the people of the San Francisco Bay Area fought hard to establish and protect this area that was founded to provide recreational opportunities to the people of this region.
- The proposed General Management Plan literally redefines and changes the stated park purpose that was established by an act of Congress in 1972. The original language holds "preserving for public use and enjoyment.... to provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space...." is being changed to "...providing a national park experience..."
- The National Park Service, which was entrusted to protect public access, is trying to eliminate our recreational opportunities one by one. These are beaches and trails where people have been welcomed for 40 years or longer. There is no credible reason to start denying access now.

Thank you and please do what your best to accommodate us long time senior residents of San Francisco who rely on places like Ft. Funston for exercise and quality of life.

Stephen Martin

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