

From: [David Shaw](#)
To: [Howard Levitt \(howard_levitt@nps.gov\)](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)
Subject: FW: Slightly revised Howard letter
Date: Monday, May 05, 2014 8:14:27 PM

Hi Howard,

I spoke with Amy Meyer today, and we are now thinking that it may be best if Mark B sends in a letter to the editor at the Marin IJ, since they prefer to publish letters from Marin residents. It would be great to get that to them tomorrow.

Amy and I tried to shorten your letter below, as they have tight space limitations of 250 words, so it may still be too long.

More soon,
David

From: David Shaw
Sent: Monday, May 05, 2014 12:02 PM
To: Amy Meyer (b)(6)
Subject: Slightly revised Howard letter

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 outside 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 these national parklands.

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, our incomparable nonprofit support organization, will help make these changes possible. Bay Area. Just as the Conservancy restored Crissy Field to a place now 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 seek to make possible the improvements called for in the GMP with financial support from the community. The Parks Conservancy has created a nationally renowned outreach programs for underserved communities through the Crissy Field Center, provided 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.