

From: (b)(6)
To: Chris_Lehnertz@nps.gov
Cc: karen_washington@nps.gov
Subject: GGNRA Access and Recreation
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:52:14 PM

Dear Ms. Lehnertz,

I am writing to express concern over the General Management Plan for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. I believe the plan is far too restrictive and unfair to responsible, tax-paying pet owners in the Bay Area. Passage of this or any such plan that limits access to recreational areas in these spaces would be a travesty.

For over 30 years I have been enjoying the spaces of the GGNRA with my family and our pets. When I moved back to San Francisco six years ago after leaving for college and graduate school, the first place I went as I drove into town after a cross-country drive was Crissy Field. I walked with my dog along the beach and enjoyed one of my favorite places in the world. I also became a supporter of the GGNRA by becoming a member of the Parks Conservancy. I don't take access to these places for granted. I participate in every Coastal Cleanup Day and am a responsible dog owner when I explore Fort Funston, Crissy Field, or Ocean Beach with my dog. One of my last memories of my grandmother who just recently passed away was of walking with her and our dogs in Fort Funston and savoring life - wind, waves, and all.

To make a long story short, the GGNRA holds generations of memories for me and my family. Those memories include our dogs, and I, like millions of other dog owners in the Bay Area, cherish the recreational opportunities in the parks and value them immensely. Having off-leash havens like this in such close proximity to a bustling city is incredibly important to me, and is one reason I have been a contributing member of the Parks Conservancy as long as I have lived in San Francisco. I truly hope that the recreational opportunities for humans and animals are protected, and that I am able to continue making memories with my children and grandchildren.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shannon Valenti

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