

GGNRA Management Plan

For

Visitors with Dogs

October 27, 2007

## **Executive Summary**

### **Introduction**

This report reflects a range of different options for consideration for off leash recreation, on leash, and no dog areas at twelve selected sites and other sites in the GGNRA. The options represent a reasonable range of alternatives, including mitigation measures, monitoring and enforcement so that the management tools will be effective. The options represent a blend of uniform rules and specific management actions tailored to the attributes and environment of each site.

The report recognizes that these are not easy natural resource management issues, and that the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, the National Park Service decision makers, and the public, as required by NEPA, deserve an opportunity to consider a range of alternatives in struggling with the same difficult questions that the negotiated rulemaking participants have tried to address.

This report takes into account the other negotiated members (reg-neg) committee members and National Park Service concerns and suggestions to address off leash dog walking in the GGNRA. It also takes into account the GGNRA general management plan and site specific environmental assessments, negotiated rulemaking parameters, NEPA scoping comments, and experience in other communities. The range of alternatives reflect the basic need to protect GGNRA's natural resources and natural values, while recognizing the GGNRA's urban setting and urban recreation values. These proposed options also takes into account for a fair and reasonable level of enforcement and compliance with the new dog management rule.

The report places a high priority on identifying alternatives that provide a diversity of user experiences in GGNRA, which includes recreation with dogs and without dogs. The GGNRA general management plan and the attributes of each park unit do not provide the same recreational opportunities in each unit or area. Each unit of the GGNRA is not all things to all people (or dogs). We agree there should be a reasonable diversity of experience within a reasonable geographic range, so that different users can enjoy the various experiences and values GGNRA offers.

### **Specific Plans, Rules and Effectiveness**

As of this writing, three of the twelve sites have site-specific suggestions for the NEPA impact analysis based upon the work of the small working group, a subcommittee of the Technical Committee. These sites include Oakwood Valley, Pedro Point and Upper Ft. Mason. In addition, there is a Discussion Draft that proposes off leash dog walking for all hours at Rodeo Beach, and on leash dog walking for all hours at Muir Beach.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Discussion Drafts came out of various meetings held recently with a small working group of Committee Members and do not represent endorsement by any particular group.

In addition to the specific options for the sites, we believe that some form of a modified TAG program as developed by the City of Boulder, Colorado, is the cornerstone to the success of the GGNRA's Dog Management Plan. This proposed program, OTS (Off Leash Tag System), makes dog owners accountable for dog etiquette and obeying the GGNRA off leash requirements. This OTS program would require dog owners to review a video about dog etiquette and off leash requirements and each owner would have to sign an application, acknowledging that they will follow the protocols as outlined in the video. Off leash privileges can be revoked if dog owners do not follow the rules. Commercial dog walkers would have additional limitations. Several community-based recreational organizations are also willing to assist in public outreach, education and compliance to make this program effective.

### **Other Management Tools and Accountability**

Other significant elements in this process include adhering to the 2006 NPS Management Policies regarding adaptive management and the Parameters and Scope of Negotiated Rulemaking Discussion (July 31, 2006) which identifies timed use as a general parameter at sites under consideration for off leash dog walking.

We agree that the public needs relatively simple and straightforward rules, as well as clear, consistent and understandable signage appropriate to the park for the management program to work. Complex and constantly changing rules will not promote compliance; neither will outright prohibition or restriction to small confined areas, which are likely result in widespread noncompliance. Just as most people have been able to understand and follow freeway HOV lane requirements, which may vary by time of day or week, most visitors to busy parks will be able to understand and follow limitations on weekend and holidays, a simplified form of "timed use."

A reasonable and important element of the proposal is to limit off leash use, prior to 10 a.m. and after 4 pm, weekends and holidays, all year round to address higher park visitor usage other than dog walking during these times at some of the twelve sites. Timed use here means that dog owners must have their dogs on leash in designated areas after 10 a.m. and before 4 p.m. during these hours/specific days. This is consistent with the National Park Service's Parameters and Scope of Negotiated Rulemaking Discussion Document dated July 31, 2006, states "Dog walking options may include restrictions on times of the year, days of the week, time of day, etc., to allow flexibility to accommodate other user groups."

Any new or changed program will have unknowns and uncertainties. Accountability is key to making sure the program is working or is modified to be successful. The Park Service and NEPA guidance have recognized adaptive management as a tool for accountability. As defined in the 2006 NPS Management Policies: "Adaptive management is a system of management practices based on clearly identified outcomes, monitoring to determine if management actions are meeting outcomes and if not, facilitating management changes that will best ensure that outcomes are met or to re-evaluate the outcomes".

The implementation and effectiveness of GGNRA's Dog Management Plan, through public outreach and education, the OTS program, the Dog Management Guidelines, the Guiding Principles developed by the reg-neg committee, the establishment of a GGNRA Recreation Management Committee and specific management measures for each site, will take at least two or more years in order to design, implement, monitor, evaluate and adjust potential dog management issues. For example, if one particular site has on-going conflicts with dogs, the GGNRA will need to re-evaluate and modify management efforts to address the conflict issue, not to simply remove off leash activity as the management tool.

Adaptive management also depends on a reasonably accurate baseline. This report summarizes the attributes of each site, however, the attributes tables provided by GGNRA or its consultants in the reg-neg process need to be corrected and updated, in order for informed decisions on alternatives to be made and to provide a starting point for the adaptive management process.

It should be noted that the Presidio Trust withdrew from participating as a member of the Negotiated Rulemaking for Dog Management committee (even though they are part of the GGNRA and have off leash dog areas) and has decided not to participate as an operating or reviewing agency under the NEPA process. In addition, the reg-neg protocols excluded certain areas from consideration in the reg-neg process, however, changes from the GGNRA 1979 Pet Policy and existing general management plan still require environmental and public review before decisions are made to change existing policies and plans.

### **Site-by-Site Overview**

The following is a summary of our proposed options for off leash, on leash and no dogs as part of the development of GGNRA's Dog Management Plan. As noted above, the report provides a range of alternatives that should be considered at each of these sites. In our view, the proposed options reflect substantial compromise from historical and existing policies and conditions.

As noted above, each of these site specific management plans would be accompanied by standard management measures, including the OTS program and commercial dog walking permits, public outreach and education, and so on. Each of these management options utilizes some form of physical barriers or substantial physical separation between areas dog and non-dog areas.

**Muir Beach** There is a Discussion Draft for Muir Beach that proposes on leash year round in conjunction with the Discussion Draft suggestion that Rodeo Beach be off leash year round. An alternative for Muir Beach would be dogs on-leash to the crest of the dunes on the beach; this also includes the restrooms, boardwalk, the footbridge, and any area near the creek and lagoon. Under the alternative proposal, the beach would be off leash during the week and prior to 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. on week ends and holidays; on

leash at other times. This is the time period that the beach is the busiest. The following nearby beaches in the GGNRA do not allow dogs Kirby Cove, Black Sand Beach, Tennessee Valley Beach and Stinson Beach.

**Rodeo Beach** As indicated above, in conjunction with the Discussion Draft for Muir Beach, there is a Discussion Draft that Rodeo Beach be off leash from the lagoon to the water's edge.

**Oakwood Valley** There is a Discussion Draft which provides that there be off leash on the Oakwood Valley Road from Tennessee Valley Road to the junction of Oakwood Valley Trail and on leash from the junction to Alta Road. Another option would be to include a small parking area to promote visitor safety and, if necessary for mitigation, post and cable fencing with mesh near the creek adjacent to the Oakwood Valley Road.

**Upper Ft. Mason** As a result of discussions with other interest groups, there is a suggestion for the various locations within Upper Ft. Mason for a variety of visitor experiences. The off leash areas include the Great Meadow, Laguna Green and possibly the Parade Ground. On leash would be allowed on MacArthur East; MacArthur West; East 101, the GGNRA Headquarters Building Lawn; residential area lawns parking lots, roads and sidewalks providing access to the administrative, residential and event buildings. No dogs would be allowed on the Bowl, adjacent to the Burton Statue, North Meadow, East Meadow and the Officers Club.

**Crissy Field** The preferred option provides a no dog visitor experience in the West Bluff area as well as the western most portion of the Grassy field, with appropriate landscaping, as indicated in the attached map. Off leash would be permitted on both the East and Central Beaches. The West Beach area would continue to be subject to seasonal restrictions as set forth in the Compendium which allows on leash near the water for dogs ten months a year and two months off leash. We propose that the park consider installing post and cable fences in critical locations around the wild life protection area to limit access so park visitors will not trample the western snowy plovers where they rest in the high dunes. The preferred option provides that the promenade would be off leash during the week and prior to 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays. This could allow seniors, disabled and other park visitors (especially when there is a high tide and visitors are unable to walk on central beach) an opportunity to use the promenade. Another option would be to also make a small area of the eastern most portion of East Beach no dog assuming that appropriate landscaping can be done.

**Baker Beach** There are three options for Baker Beach. The preferred alternative is that no dogs would be allowed west of Lobos Creek, in the area adjacent to the west parking lot and the western picnic area as indicated on map Option I. Off leash dogs would be allowed from Lobos Creek to and including the social sand trail access at the east end of Baker Beach. During weekdays off leash dogs would be allowed from the social sand trail to the eastern end of Baker Beach. On weekends and holidays, off leash dogs would be allowed from the social sand trail to the eastern end of Baker Beach before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m.; on leash at other times. Option II provides a no dog experience west of

Lobos Creek and at the east end of Baker Beach from the social sand trail to the east end of Baker Beach. Off leash dogs would be allowed from Lobos Creek to and including the social sand trail at the eastern end of Baker Beach. Option III is the same as Option II except that the eastern most portion of Baker Beach would be on leash.

**Land's End/ Ft. Miley** The small group discussed a compromise for evaluating Land's End and East Ft. Miley. There was no solution discussed for West Ft. Miley. Under the proposed compromise, the Sutro Baths and the Ocean View Trail would offer a no dog experience. The Coast Trail would be on leash for its entire length. El Camino Del Mar would be off leash, the parking lot/road between El Camino Del Mar and the Museum would be on leash and East Ft. Miley would be off leash from the Museum along Lincoln Golf Course. West Ft. Miley is the same as in the alternative proposals with on leash to the intersection of trail to the Octagonal House. From that intersection to and including the grassy field, off leash during the week and before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays. The trail to the Octagon House as well as beyond up the hill to the former batteries would be off leash. The El Camino Del Mar trail has been identified as one where post and cable fencing would be appropriate on either side of the off leash trail which would run from the steps from the Museum to the Memorial Parking lot. Another option would keep the Sutro Baths and Ocean View Trail as no dog as well as El Camino Del Mar to the cross over steps leading to the Coast Trail. The Coast Trail would be off leash during the week to Eagle Point overlook and before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays. East and West Ft. Miley would be the same as proposed in the small group compromise suggestion.

**Ocean Beach/Ft. Funston** Our preferred option would be off leash from the Cliff House to stairwell 24, from Panama Point south to the end of Ft. Funston, between and including the "chipped" trail and horse trail and on the central & sand-ladder trails to beach. No dogs would be allowed from Sloat to Panama Point, around the ranger station and the hang glider platform. On leash dogs would be allowed from stairwell 24 to Sloat, in the hang glider landing area, Sunset trail, most of central grassy area, on trails around northern-most closed areas. There is a Discussion Draft that proposes that the buffer zone for the Snowy Plover on Ocean Beach be moved from Stairwell 21 to 24. Under this proposal, off leash would be allowed north of Stairwell 24 as well as south of Panama Point in Ft. Funston. Off leash dogs would also be allowed between "chipped" trail and up to but not including the horse trail as well as on central & sand-ladder trails to beach. A parallel corridor for off leash dogs would be considered adjacent to the horse trail. No dogs would be allowed between Stairwell 24 and Sloat, around the ranger station, the hang glider platform, the horse trail and the trails around northern-most closed areas. On leash dogs would be allowed from Sloat south to Panama Point as well as in the Hang glider landing area, the Sunset trail, and most of central grassy area.

**Pedro Point** On leash near Highway 1; Off leash on the trail to the border of GGNRA property. GGNRA will have to work in conjunction with local jurisdictions that operate adjoining trails.

**Cattle Hill** On leash on the steep trail up to Baquino Trail. Off leash on to the left on Baquino Trail until it merges with the adjacent Sweeny Ridge portion (to the right with post and cable fencing) of the trail where it is on leash.

As noted above, these options reflect substantial compromise on various sites. They are presented as a whole package and should not be misinterpreted to say that we support one of these options without the others. Although variations in a given option at a site may be acceptable, any changes would need to be viewed in light of the opportunities that exist at the other sites. For example, if further restrictions are proposed at one site, additional opportunities may need to be provided at another site.

### **Other Sites**

Based upon Park Service requirements that other sites be limited to on leash or no dog, we have made the following recommendations to accommodate native habitat and sensitive species: Alta Road On-leash along Alta Trail with Post and Cable or similar protections adjacent to Mission Blue Butterfly habitat (to minimize impact of all park visitors); Fort Baker, no dogs on Chapel Trail, on leash on other trails; Homestead Valley, on leash on trails; Milagra Ridge, on leash on trails; Mori Point, no dogs (and people) around ponds, on leash on trails; Stinson Beach, on leash in parking lot and picnic area; Sutro Heights, on-leash on trails; Sweeny Ridge, no dogs on notched trail, on leash in other trails; Marin Trails-all of these trails are on leash.

### **Commercial Dog Walking**

We propose that there would be special rules for commercial dog walkers that are site specific. Generally, professional dog walkers would be limited to the number of dogs allowed by the county abutting the site at issue up to a total of 6 dogs. Commercial dog walkers would be required to obtain a license, pay a fee and demonstrate proof of insurance. Commercial dog walkers would be permitted to use the designated sites between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the week. On weekends, commercial dog walkers would only be permitted before 11 a.m. and after 3 p.m.

### **Conclusion**

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Negotiated Rulemaking process for Dog Management in the GGNRA and want to thank the GGNRA for all of their time and resources directed towards this complex effort.

## **Muir Beach, Marin County**

### **Overview**

Muir Beach is primarily used by fishermen, local residents and other park visitors for off leash recreation. The Discussion Draft and the proposed three options attempt to provide a diversity of uses for each park visitor, and to protect the wildlife found in the creek and small lagoon. The preferred option proposes off-leash for the southern portion of the beach (the southern most portion of the beach is not within GGNRA boundaries) and on-leash use at the northern end. The second option proposes no dogs at the northern portion of the beach, and dogs off-leash at the southern portion. The third option proposes no dogs at the northern portion of the beach and on-leash use at the southern portion.

### **Summary**

Muir Beach is located adjacent to the community of Muir Beach which borders the beach on the bluff to the north. The beach has historically been used by locals with their dogs. The daily user groups are made up of “beach-combers”, people walking with their dogs, people fishing and occasionally an equestrian.

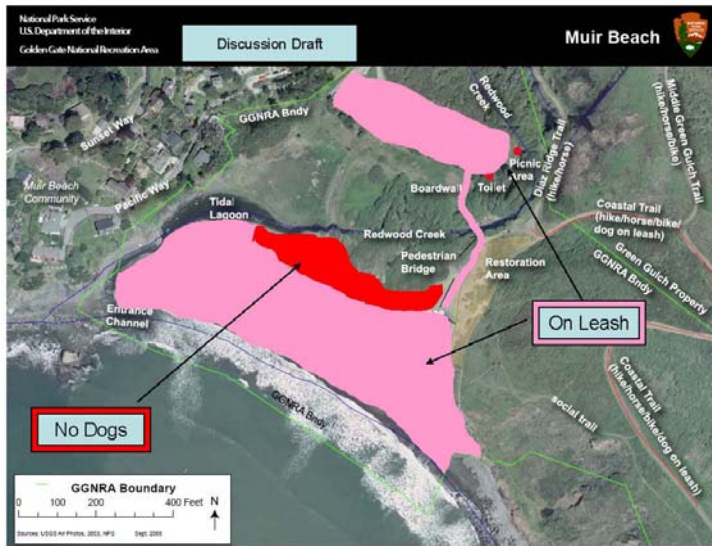
On the rare warm, fog-free sunny days, multiple user types gather mid-day on the beach. There is a large parking area. Next to the parking area are restrooms and picnic tables. The beach is accessed by crossing over a boardwalk and footbridge that connect the parking area to the beach. There are also several trails that come down from the bluff that rises above the south end of the beach.

Threatened and endangered species are found in and around the creek and small lagoon that border the beach. There is post and cable fencing around the lagoon and more post and cable is planned to border the creek.

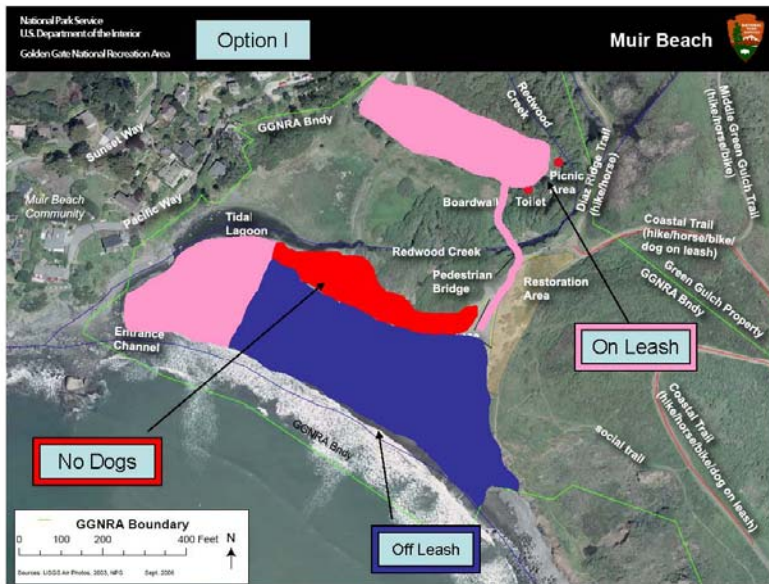
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### **Discussion Draft**

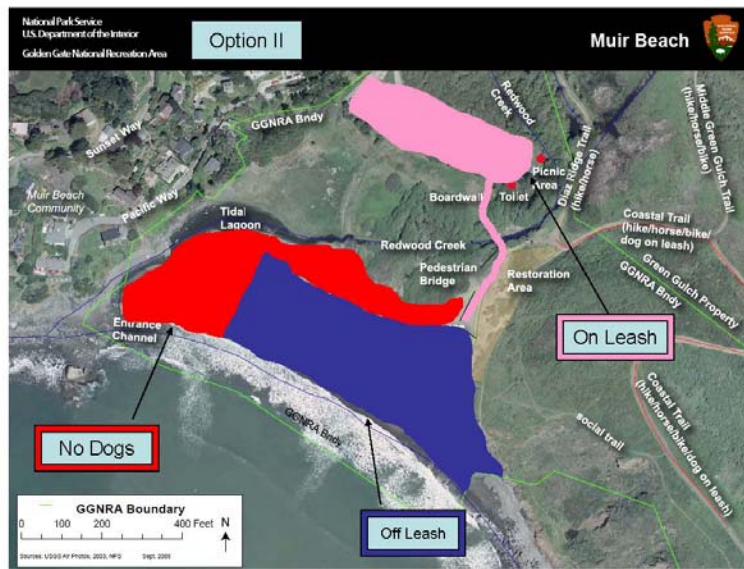




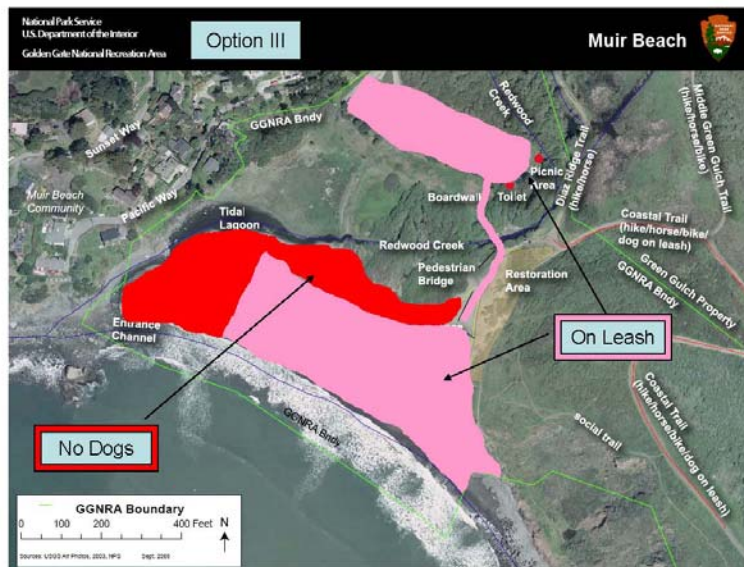
## Option I



## Option II



### Option III



### Options for Muir Beach

The following are options for Muir Beach to allow local residents and park visitors, and their dogs, continued access to Muir Beach. The following points are in support in particular of Option 1, the recommended and preferred option. Given the fenced creek and lagoon, and trails up from the beach to the south, Muir Beach has already achieved a positive balance between wildlife habitat and the needs and wishes of the local residents and park visitors – to provide an area for dogs to be taken off-leash.

The description of Muir Beach Option 1 and its supporting rationale follows:

1. No Dogs near the creek, or picnic tables. No dogs would be allowed in the area at the top of the beach from the picnic tables to the creek. This provides an area for a no-dog experience especially important for many around food.
2. Dogs on-leash at the north end of the beach near the lagoon. There is post and cable fence along the creek and lagoon. Requiring dogs to be on-leash next to the lagoon is added assurance that dogs do not disturb either wildlife or habitat.
3. Off-leash from mid-beach to the southern end. The southern part of Muir Beach is at the opposite end of the beach from the lagoon and creek where critical habitat and threatened and endangered species exist. The very southern end of Muir Beach is not within the GGNRA boundary, so does not fall within the jurisdiction of GGNRA enforcement. In addition, there are trails that go up from the south end of Muir Beach to the Headlands, including the Coastal Trail.
4. Parking lot, picnic tables, foot-bridge, board-walk, Park visitors with dogs must have their dogs on leash in all of these areas.

## **Management Measures**

**Commercial Dog Walkers:** CDWs must apply and receive a commercial permit to walk dogs from the GGNRA. Limit number of dogs walked at one time.

**OTS/TAG Program:** Each dog owner must apply, review the video and receive a TAG to walk their dog in the GGNRA. This GGNRA sponsored program will improve the park's ability to educate and enforce dog etiquette and leash law requirements.

**Public outreach:** Create brochures, clear signage about off leash, on leash and no dog areas. Make sure that these areas are posted at trailheads (and fire roads), and on bulletin boards, and web site postings at the park. Designate a point person for the dog walking community to contact. Conduct waste clean up events. Make doggie bags and trash cans available.

## MUIR BEACH PARKING AREA



## MUIR BEACH ENTRANCE TO BOARDWALK





**MUIR BEACH LOOKING EAST  
POST AND CABLE FENCING AROUND LAGOON**



**MUIR BEACH LOOKING NORTH TO COMMUNITY OF MUIR BEACH**



## Rodeo Beach at Fort Cronkite, Marin County

### Overview

Rodeo Beach is primarily used by surfers, fishermen, and local residents and other park users with their dogs for off-leash recreation. The Discussion Draft and proposed two options attempt to provide a diversity of uses for each park user. The preferred option proposes off-leash for the entire beach. The second option proposes timed-use on weekends during the summer months; and the third option proposes on-leash use on the northern end of the beach and off-leash use from the foot-bridge entrance south.

### Summary

Rodeo Beach is characterized as having low park visitor use most of the year with low conflict. The daily park visitor groups are made up almost exclusively of surfers, people walking with their dogs, people fishing and occasionally an equestrian. During the week, in addition to the groups mentioned above, there are some park visitor groups from the Headlands Institute. At optimum low tide, Rodeo Beach runs from the “surfer” parking lot at the north end to South Rodeo Beach at the extreme south end. Winter tides and summer high tides limit use of the south end of Rodeo Beach from the “bluff” to the extreme south end.

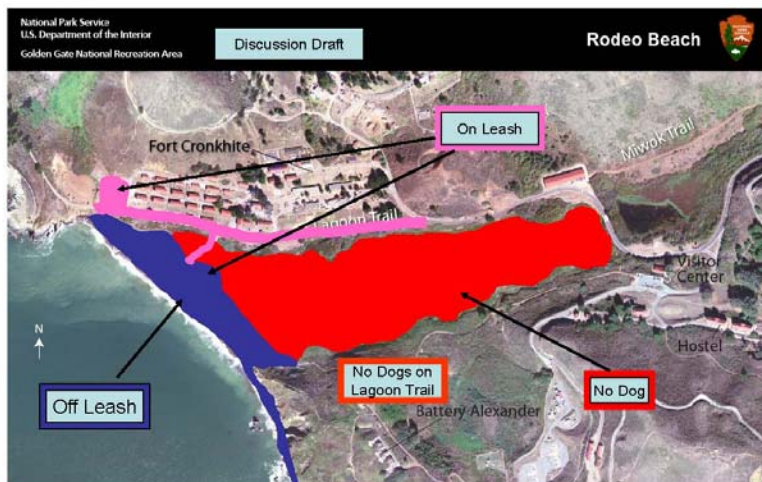
On those occasional fog-free, sunny weekend days in the summer, multiple park visitors gather mid-day on the beach. The majority of all park visitors arrive via Mitchell Road and access the beach from the north end via the metal footbridge across Rodeo Lagoon or from the “surfer” parking lot.

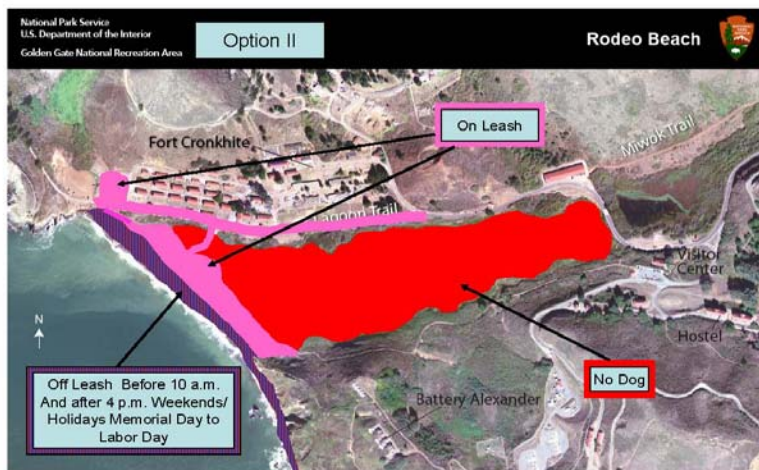
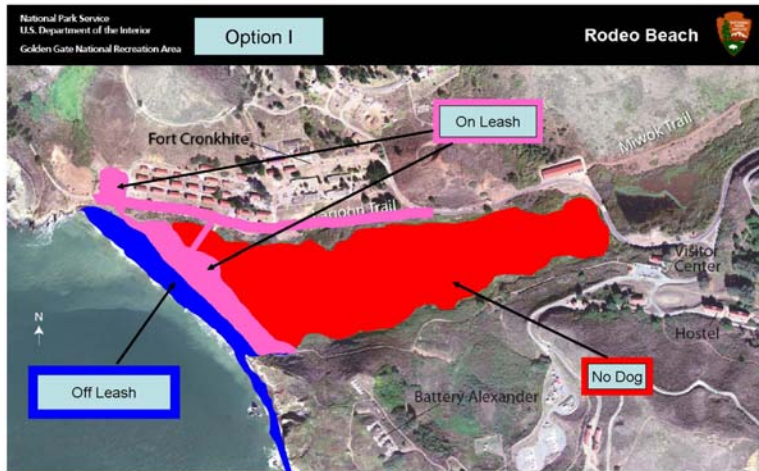
Threatened and endangered species are found in and around Rodeo Lagoon, *not* on Rodeo Beach. The beach is steep and not attractive to most bird groups and does not provide the nutrients that shore birds require.

### Note

The NPS is currently considering four alternatives for The Marin Headlands and Fort Baker Transportation Infrastructure and Management Plan (TIMP). Alternative 3 is the NPS preferred alternative; this alternative would initially impose parking fees at Rodeo Beach. The long-term goal of the plan is to initiate a shuttle service and eliminate park user autos to Rodeo Beach. If Alternative 3 is selected and users can no longer drive their autos to Rodeo Beach, the question of how park visitors with dogs would get to Rodeo Beach is raised.

### Discussion Draft





## Options for Rodeo Beach

The Discussion Draft and options suggested for Rodeo Beach allow local residents and park visitors, and their dogs, continued access to Rodeo Beach, and at the same time provide either a no dog experience or on-leash condition. These options have been shared with and are supported by most of the local residents, other user groups (equestrians) and Park Partners, including the Marine Mammal Center and the Headlands Institute. Both of these organizations found no conflict or reason not to fully support continued off-leash use at Rodeo Beach.

Threatened and/or endangered wildlife live on and around Rodeo Lagoon *not* on Rodeo Beach. A new post and cable fence will mark Rodeo Lagoon boundaries for all users with a large buffer zone west toward the beach to protect this area from human and domestic animal interference. Dogs are not allowed at all in the Lagoon area and are required to be on-leash to the crest of the dunes in Option I. Marine mammal strandings

on Rodeo Beach are very rare, safe haul out areas are reported south and north of Rodeo Beach area by the Marine Mammal Center.

The description of Rodeo Beach Options and supporting rationale follows:

- Dogs on leash The dogs are on leash from the vehicles they arrive in to the crest of the dunes on the beach in Option I. This includes on leash in parking areas, picnic area, restroom, roadways, and the metal footbridge to the beach and around Rodeo Lagoon.
- No Dog experience The following nearby GGNRA beaches never allowed dogs: Kirby Cove, Black Sand Beach, Tennessee Valley Beach and Stinson Beach. There are trails on the bluff above the beach that do not allow dogs. In addition, there is the timed use component in Option 1 that provides for no dogs on the north end of the beach during peak periods of use.
- Timed Management Option II, provides a no dog experience at the North end of Rodeo Beach from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Option II restricts users with dogs on weekend and holidays from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 10 am to 4pm to on leash dogs only.
- Dogs off leash/under voice control All three options provide park visitors with an off leash experience.
- Enforcement GGNRA Park Rangers are located on the 2nd floor of one of the buildings opposite the Beach with a clear view of all of Rodeo Beach for enforcement.
- Parking There is ample parking at two areas at the north end of the beach: the “surfer” parking lot and Mitchell roadway parking near the metal foot-bridge across the Lagoon.

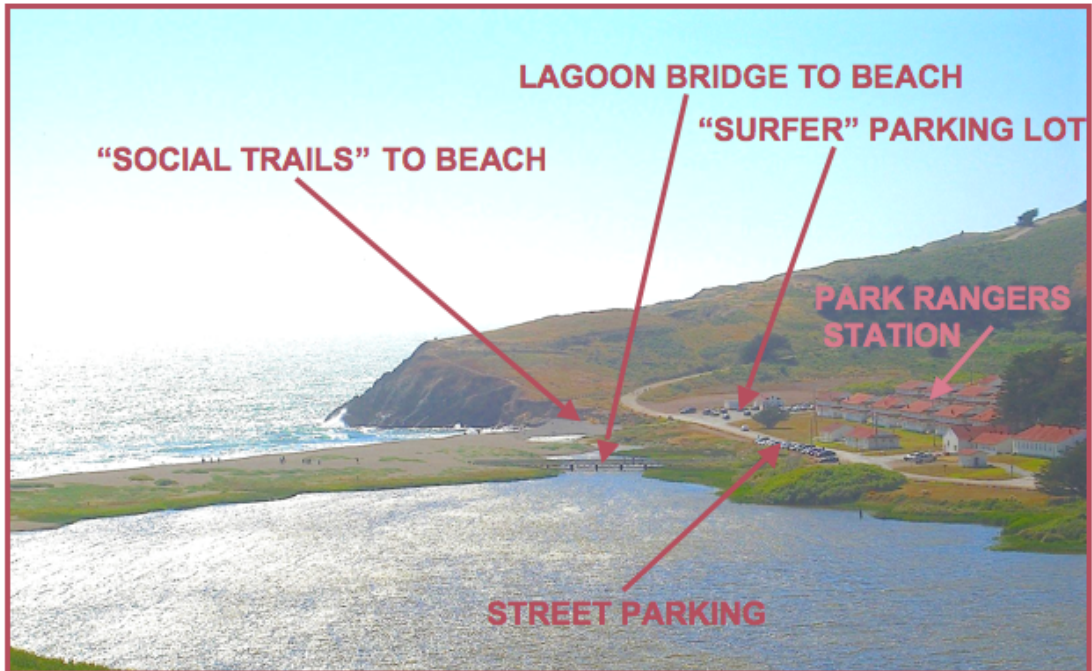
### **Management Measures for Rodeo Beach**

**OTS/TAG Program:** Each dog owner must apply, review the video and receive a TAG to walk their dog in the GGNRA. This GGNRA sponsored program will allow the park the ability to educate and enforce dog etiquette and leash law requirements.

**Public outreach:** Create brochures, clear signage about off leash, on leash and no dog areas. Make sure that these areas are posted at trailheads (and fire roads), and on bulletin boards, and web site postings at the park. Designate a point person for the dog walking community to contact. Conduct waste clean up events. Make doggie bags and trashcans available.



## NORTHERN END OF RODEO BEACH ENTRANCES AND PARKING



## MITCHELL ROAD ALONG LAGOON TO RODEO BEACH



## RODEO LAGOON FOOT-BRIDGE PARKING



## RODEO LAGOON FOOT-BRIDGE TO BEACH





**“SOCIAL TRAILS” FROM “SURFER” PARKING LOT DOWN TO BEACH**



**NORTH END OF RODEO BEACH (AT “SOCIAL TRAILS”) LOOKING SOUTH**



**MID-RODEO BEACH LOOKING SOUTH TO BLUFF**



**SOUTHERN END OF RODEO BEACH ALONG BLUFF LOOKING SOUTH**





**SOUTH RODEO BEACH LOOKING NORTH**



**RODEO BEACH 11AM ON A WARM SUNDAY**



User groups in this photo include: children, dogs (on and off leash, large and small) an equestrian, beach strollers and picnickers.

## **Oakwood Valley Road at Oakwood Valley**

### **Overview**

Oakwood Valley Road is one of two access points from Tennessee Valley Road into Oakwood Valley. The other access point is Oakwood Valley Trail that runs parallel to Oakwood Valley Road; it is a narrow trail versus the “road” which is wider. Historically the “trail” has been on-leash only while the “road” has been off-leash/voice control.

Under current conditions, the Oakwood Valley Road off-leash area extends from the Tennessee Valley Road up to Alta Avenue. The off-leash hike then continues north on Alta Avenue to the parking area at the end of Donahue Street in Marin City. This is a good hour hike. There is a moderate level of commercial dog walking on the Alta fire road.

The current off-leash consideration is Oakwood Valley Road from Tennessee Valley Road to the junction of Oakwood Valley Trail. This is a short 10 minute walk. There does not appear to be commercial dog walking in this short segment of the trail.

### **Summary of Characteristics**

- ***Difficult and unsafe auto unloading at Oakwood Valley Road access point at Tennessee Valley Road***
- Coyotes are known to frequent the Oakwood Valley area down-slope of Alta Avenue but above the Oakwood Valley Road
- “No plant species of special concern are known to be present at this site, with the exception of summer lupine and varied color lupine which serve as host plants except in the summer there is lupine which serves as host plants for federally endangered mission blue butterfly.” (Oakwood Valley Trail Attributes-deliberative draft)
- “Low to moderate use by runners, bicyclists, hikers.” This is not used as an equestrian trail
- Tree dwelling Northern Spotted owl habitat thought to exist, however, Great horned owls are currently present and experts from Wildcare state that the Great Horned owl will trump the presence at any time of any smaller owls at Oakwood Valley

### **Mitigations:**

Current Conditions: ***Unloading from cars on Tennessee Valley Road at Oakwood Valley Trail is dangerous. There is a very narrow parking strip on the Oakwood Valley side of the roadway. There is also a narrow parking strip on the opposite side of the road. Parking on the opposite side adds the risk of crossing against traffic. This is an especially dangerous situation for the handicapped and elderly, as it is for anyone with a dog(s).***

Mitigation: We recommend that the NPS build a new parking area on the Oakwood Valley side of the road to provide safe parking and access for park users and their dogs.

Current condition: The riparian habitat and stream adjacent to Oakwood Valley Road is attractive to dogs. The NPS has indicated that they do not want dogs to access the stream.

Mitigation: We recommend that the NPS build a fence along the entire road area, separating the road from the stream, preventing dogs from running down into the stream.

No Dog Experience: Dogs are not allowed (on or off-leash) on Tennessee Valley Trail which leads to Tennessee Valley Beach. Both Tennessee Valley Road and Tennessee Valley Beach are no dog areas. The trailhead and large parking area for Tennessee Valley Trail is just down the road from Oakwood Valley.

**Recommendations:**

It is unclear why this small segment of the trail has been proposed and not the exiting connection to Alta. There is very little parking and the parking that exists is not safe. Oakwood Valley is a very small area, and a creek runs down the middle of it. It is located a long distance from Park Rangers, and requires Rangers to enter Oakwood Valley to determine current activity.

Alta Fire Road (please see option 1 map) on the other hand, has a large parking area at the end of a dead-end street. It is a wide fire road that runs on top of the ridge above Marin City. The first section of the Alta Fire Road is privately owned with a permanent easement into the GGNRA. Activity on the fire road can be easily observed and managed.

The west side of the fire road slopes down to Marin City, the east side of the fire road slopes down to Tennessee Valley. Both of these areas have considerable human activity.

The road has natural barriers along much of it (steep banks), and post and cable fence has been installed marking Mission Blue habitat that lies west of the road. There is a large buffer zone between the road and the post and cable fence.

Alta Fire Road is currently used by cyclists, walkers, and by humans with dogs. Since the road is wide throughout there is little conflict. There are no horses on this road.

The fire road is used as an entrance into the GGNRA by service vehicles including the NPS, PG&E and MMWD. This is not pristine wilderness, but rather a road that is used by both Park users and maintenance staff.

Alta Fire Road intersects with Oakwood Valley Trail about 2 ½ miles out.

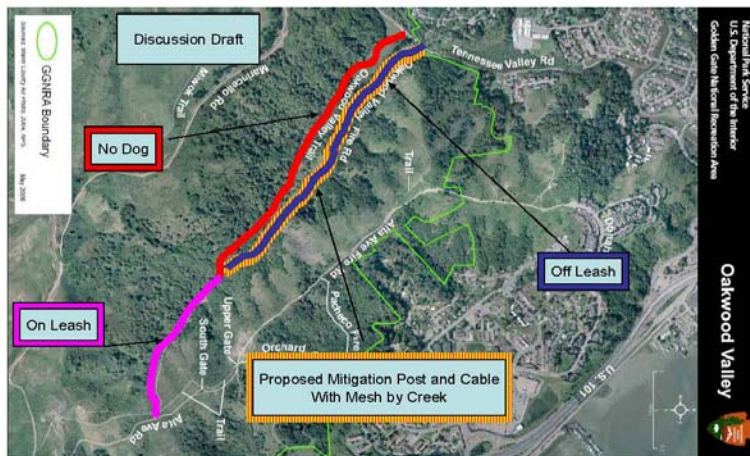
**Management Measures for Oakwood Valley**

**Commercial Dog Walkers:** CDWs must apply and receive a commercial permit to walk dogs from the GGNRA. Limit number of dogs walked at one time.

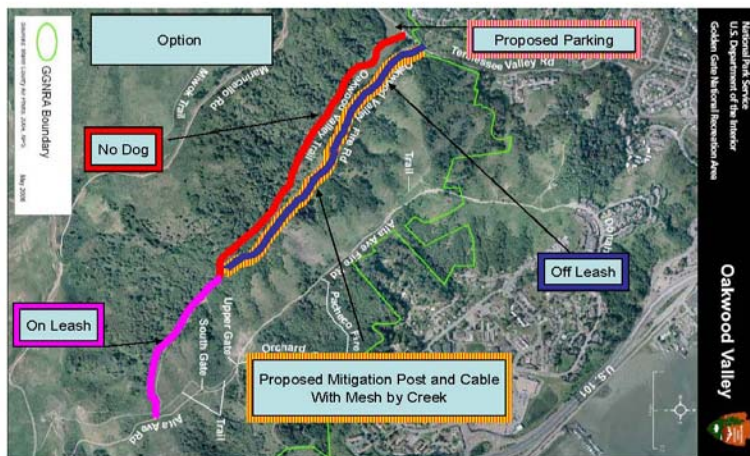
**OTS/TAG Program:** Each dog owner must apply, review the video and receive a TAG to walk their dog in the GGNRA. This GGNRA sponsored program will allow the park the ability to educate and enforce dog etiquette and leash law requirements.

**Public outreach:** Create brochures, clear signage about off leash, on leash and no dog areas. Make sure that these areas are posted at trailheads (and fire roads), and on bulletin boards, and web site postings at the park. Designate a point person for the dog walking community to contact. Conduct waste clean up events. Make doggie bags and trashcans available.

## Discussion Draft



## Option





**SHOULDER PARKING AT OAKWOOD VALLEY TRAIL HEAD**



TRAIL HEAD TO OAKWOOD VALLEY ROAD



OAKWOOD VALLEY ROAD



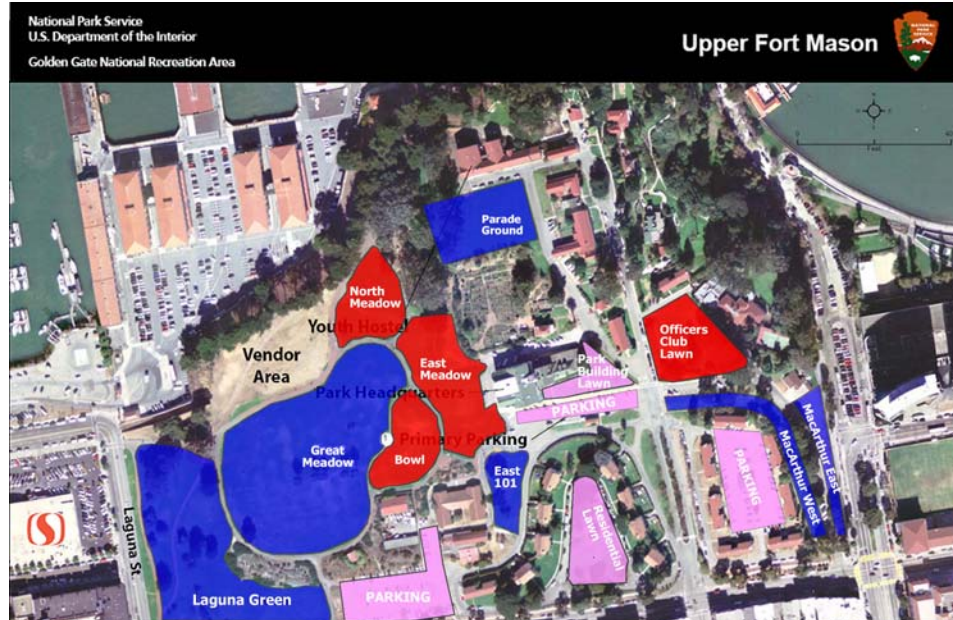


OAKWOOD VALLEY ROAD





## Option I



## Option I Summary

### A. Voice and Sight Control Areas (Blue Areas as depicted on Map)

1. The Parade Ground
2. Great Meadow
3. The Laguna Green
4. MacArthur East
5. MacArthur West
6. East 101

### Summary of Rationale for Option I

- Propose landscape barriers for Laguna Green; without barriers, it would be difficult for Laguna Green to be a voice and sight control area due to 4 lane, high speed traffic of Bay and Laguna Streets;
- East 101 provides an area for dogs coming from cars that need to immediately relieve themselves. All surrounding areas are no dog areas. There is indirect light for the evenings;
- The only water fountain with dog bowl is in Great Meadow;
- Great Meadow has the only paved walkway for use by seniors and disabled;
- Areas provide indirect lighting from street lamps in the evenings;
- Combined area allows for appropriate dispersion of dogs;
- Areas provide some shelter from the wind;

- MacArthur Avenue is the only location on the east side of the park for voice and sight control recreation. The only cars are those looking for parking as it is not a through road, only a loop. There is indirect light in the evenings and some protection from the wind.

**B. On Leash Areas (Pink Areas as depicted on Map)**

1. GGNRA Headquarters Building Lawn
2. Residential area lawns
3. Parking lots, roads and sidewalks providing access to the administrative, residential and event buildings

Summary of Rationale (For further details see Mitigation/Rationale)

- Location of GGNRA Headquarters
- Residential area
- Public access ways are common areas
- Provides safety and comfort level for some park visitors

**C. No Dog Areas (Red Areas as depicted on Map)**

1. Bowl (adjacent to East Meadow and Bufano Statue)
2. North Meadow (between Great Meadow and Park Building, contains Bufano Statute)
3. East Meadow (flat lawn north of Great Meadow between Bufano Statute and stairs to piers)
4. Officer's Club Lawn

Summary of Rationale for Option I

- Picnickers and sunbathers utilize these areas on rare occasions;
- Provides safety and comfort level for some park visitors;
- Variety of terrain including both hilly and flat areas;
- These areas are adjacent to main parking lot and provide access to and from Aquatic Park and Lower Fort Mason;
- Officer's Club rented for special events;
- Allows for an extensive stroll between Lower Fort Mason and Aquatic Park that is either no dog or on leash only.

**D. Barriers**

1. Landscape barriers would be necessary for Laguna Green
2. Proposed landscape barriers for No Dog Areas to address compliance and general safety concerns
3. Landscape barriers can be visually appealing within the urban park

**E. Mitigation/Rationale**

While the park visitors utilizing the Great Meadow are predominantly dog owners, there are other park visitors during the day.

#### Voice and Sight Control Areas

Park visitors without dogs rarely utilize the above identified voice and sight control areas. Many people actually considered the Laguna Green to be somewhat outside the Park because of the current landscaping between the Great Meadow and Laguna Green. As such, allowing off leash recreation would not appear to interfere with other park activities. There is little commercial dog walking here.

Landscape Barriers are proposed for Laguna Green along the perimeter for safety from the adjacent traffic. One possibility would be a mid-height hedge with an impermeable interior barrier high enough to protect against the traffic, but not so high as to encourage vagrancy or other safety issues. The hedge should be sufficiently wide and should contain some sort of fencing that can be hidden within the hedge.

This option proposes the barriers to be just inside of the paved walkways that parallel the city sidewalks along Bay Street and along Laguna Street. This way, all visitors can utilize the walkway or the sidewalk that is directly alongside the traffic. Additionally, the landscape barrier would not interfere with the sight of drivers as they approach the turn from Bay onto Laguna.

These voice and sight control areas have the benefit of providing indirect light from street lamps during the winter months when evening falls so early. They also allow for some shelter from the wind.

The water fountain adjacent to the Great Meadow is the only fountain with a ground level faucet and drinking bowl for dogs.

The Great Meadow provides critical voice and sight control recreation. It is the only area large enough to allow for reasonable dispersion of the high number of dogs that visit the Park. This area is the only area with a paved sidewalk providing seniors and disabled park visitors the ability to exercise their dog in an environment safe for them to do so.

Many retired and elderly dog-owners walk their dog during the day.

#### On Leash Areas

In acknowledgement of the GGNRA Headquarters and parking lot, Option I proposes the lawn in front and around the building as on leash only.



The residential lawn is in close proximity to the front lawns of the homes in the area. Option I proposes it be on leash, rather than no dog, because there are dog owners and dogs that reside in this area.

#### No Dog Areas

Option I proposes these no dog areas so other park visitors may enjoy this area without dogs. Weather permitting, you will see occasional sunbathers and picnickers along the slopes leading down the West Meadow and in the relatively flat area making up the North Meadow. These areas are adjacent to the GGNRA Headquarters parking lot. They provide access between Upper Ft. Mason and Aquatic Park, the Youth Hostel and Lower Ft. Mason (via the stairs to piers).

The North and West Meadows are easily identifiable areas that are easily amenable to landscape barriers. Such barriers would help to ensure that there is a separation between voice and sight control and no dog areas.

These no dog areas provide a substantial barrier between the voice and sight control areas and the Park Service buildings and parking lots.

In light of the special events that take place at the Officer's Club, the Option I proposal includes the Officer's Club Lawn as a no dog area.

#### **Management Measures for Upper Ft. Mason**

**Commercial Dog Walkers:** CDWs must apply and receive a commercial permit to walk dogs from the GGNRA. Limit number of dogs walked at one time.

**OTS/TAG Program:** Each dog owner must apply, review the video and receive a TAG to walk their dog in the GGNRA. This GGNRA sponsored program will allow the park the ability to educate and enforce dog etiquette and leash law requirements.

**Public outreach:** Create brochures, clear signage about off leash, on leash and no dog areas. Make sure that these areas are posted at trailheads (and fire roads), and on bulletin boards, and web site postings at the park. Designate a point person for the dog walking community to contact. Conduct waste clean up events. Make doggie bags and trash cans available.



# **Crissy Field**

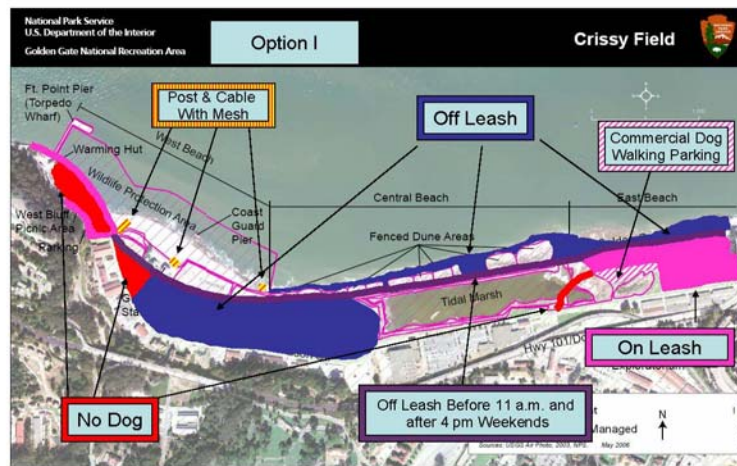
## **Summary**

Crissy Field is very popular location for many recreational activities, including dog walking. The GGNRA's Crissy Field Environmental Assessment (1996) identified off leash dog walking as an important recreation activity and the EA's Proposed Plan allocated 70 acres for this specific use. This planning process included extensive public input. The subsequent restoration of Crissy Field included installing post and cable fences (some with mesh) to protect sensitive habitats. Additionally, the Tidal Marsh (designated as a Wildlife Protection Area) is protected with a vegetative barrier that is surrounded by two post and cable fences with mesh. The other designated Wildlife Protection Area is West Beach at Crissy Field per the GGNRA's Compendium. There is a seasonal closure to park visitors and dogs on the high dunes due to the presence of the western snowy plover. Dogs must be leash near the water's edge ten months per year. GGNRA signage delineating the West Beach WPA for all park visitors is somewhat successful. However, there is no post and cable fencing to restrict park visitors at West Beach. Additionally, Crissy Field Dog Group, founded in 2000, provides over 60,000 plastic doggie bags per year and fills the fifteen GGNRA sponsored dispensers daily along Crissy Field. A usage survey conducted by CFDG members from June 2006 to 2007 indicate that there is a definite increase of park visitors enjoying a wide variety of recreational activities; at least 50% of families who enjoy the East Beach bring their dogs with them; increase in the number of tourists biking on the promenade which has also lead to a serious safety concern about bike usage on the promenade; increase of commercial dog walkers, due in part, to recent enforcement issues in the Presidio targeting commercial dog walkers, even though current policy states that voice control is allowed in certain areas of the Presidio.

Additionally, there is low to moderate off leash recreation during the weekdays and higher use on weekends, especially if it is a sunny weekend. Even though Crissy Field is a popular off leash recreation area, only two dog related incidents were reported during the usage survey period.

Also, NPS had over 200 Special Events in 2006 (around 1 million people) and unfortunately, many park visitors trample on the dunes and sensitive habitat areas during these events.

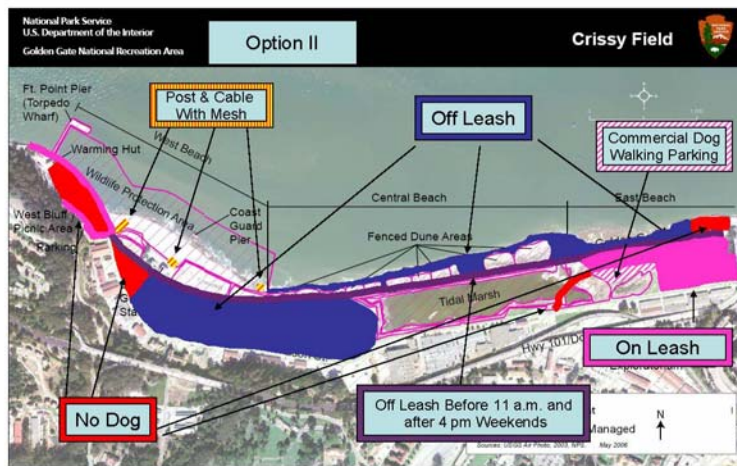
Below are the two proposed options for Crissy Field:



### Option One-the Preferred Option

Option One proposes no dogs in the West Bluff area; no dogs in the western end of the grassy airfield and on the boardwalk in the tidal marsh area that is already a restricted dog area, and on leash in both parking lots and picnic areas. Commercial dog walkers would be required to get a permit and park their cars in the southwest area of the East Beach parking lot. Off leash would occur in the grassy airfield, the east and central beaches, Additionally, the promenade would be off leash on the weekdays during low use and on timed use for the weekends when it is much busier. Also, a post and cable fence with mesh should be installed around certain access areas of the Wildlife Protection Area. The WPA would continued to be under the seasonal restriction per the Compendium, meaning dogs are on leash (and walk near the water's edge) from August through April and off leash for the remainder time period.

This provides for a diversity of experiences so many park visitors to can continue to enjoy Crissy Field as it has a large carrying capacity to protect the sensitive habitats and yet allow for diverse recreational activities for everyone.



## Option Two

Option Two provides the same premise as Option One with the exception of providing a no dog area on the far eastern border of the East Beach. This could be a possible alternate area for park visitors who want to go to East Beach and not have a dog experience.

## Management Measures for Crissy Field

**Special Events:** To alleviate impact to natural resources, significantly increase fees to reduce the number of special events. This would also pertain to the numerous exercise camps at Crissy Field.

**Commercial Dog Walkers:** CDWs must apply and receive a commercial permit to walk dogs from the GGNRA. Limit number of dogs walked at one time.

**OTS/TAG Program:** Each dog owner must apply, review the video and receive a TAG to walk their dog in the GGNRA. This GGNRA sponsored program will allow the park the ability to educate and enforce dog etiquette and leash law requirements.

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## **CRISSY FIELD: A PLACE FOR EVERYONE**







**FAMILY PICNIC AT EAST BEACH**



**KIDS AND DOGS PLAYING AT EAST BEACH**



**EAST BEACH ON A FOGGY MORNING**





**EAST BEACH:ON A SUNNY WEEKEND MORNING**





**DISABLED AND  
SENIORS ENJOYING  
THE PROMENADE**





**PROMENADE: BIKING AND RUNNING ON A SUNNY WEEKEND**



**PROMENADE DURING THE WEEKDAY**





**BUFFER AREA FROM  
PROMENADE TO THE  
TIDAL MARSH**



**CRISSY FIELD  
TIDAL MARSH**





## **CENTRAL BEACH**



**A FAMILY AND DOG ENJOYING CENTRAL BEACH**



**CHILD PLAYING INSIDE FENCED DUNE AREA TO  
PROTECT SENSITIVE SPECIES WHILE DOG IS ON  
THE BEACH WITH OWNER**





**HEADING WEST ON THE PROMENADE; GRASSY AIR  
FIELD IS ON THE LEFT**





## **WEST BLUFF PICNIC AREA-NO DOGS**



**WEST BEACH: WILDLIFE PROTECTION AREA  
FAMILIES ENJOYING WEST BEACH**