

DRAFT RULE FOR A DOG MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THE GGNRA

From SFDOG

3/13/16

This Draft Rule is the final phase of the decades-long process to restrict where you can walk with a dog in the GGNRA. It will cut where you can walk now by 90%. Many places where you can walk off-leash now will become no-dogs-allowed. This draft rule is worse than previous versions. **We need people to submit comments until May 25, 2016.**

To read the draft rule:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=NPS-2016-0002-0001>

This site is also where you can submit a comment on the plan **until May 25, 2016.**

Or you can mail or hand deliver a written comment to:

General Superintendent, GGNRA

Attn: Dog Management Proposed Rule

Fort Mason, Building 201

San Francisco, CA 94123

To see maps of where dogs will be allowed at 22 sites in the GGNRA:

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/getinvolved/prop-rule-maps.htm>

SIGN PETITION OPPOSING THE RULE:

www.tinyurl.com/2016dogpetition

SUGGESTED COMMENTS:

We are still analyzing the rule and will post specific recommendations on what to say in your comment within a few weeks on <http://www.sfdog.org>

Specifically, the National Park Service says (on p. 3) that they want to get comments on “whether commercial dog walking should be allowed under the proposed rule” so **be sure to include support for professional dog walking in the GGNRA in your comment.**

NEW FEATURES OF THE DRAFT RULE:

- 1) **Anyone who walks 4-6 dogs will be required to get a commercial dog walker permit, whether they are a commercial dog walker or not.** All permits will require proof of liability insurance and proof of successfully completing a dog-handling course that is accepted by the GGNRA Superintendent, plus paying a fee. Display of the permit will be required at all times. Permit can be revoked permanently or temporarily due to documented

violations or failure to comply with terms of permit.

- 2) **Walking 4-6 dogs will only be allowed on weekdays between 8 am and 5 pm.** No one can walk 4-6 dogs on the weekend. The Superintendent can adjust these hours in the future.
- 3) An “authorized person”, i.e., Park Ranger or Park Police, can ask anyone with a dog for **proof of rabies vaccination and proof of dog license** (tag) from the city where the dog’s owner lives. If the dog license requires rabies vaccination, the dog license will be proof of both requirements.
- 4) Each dog walker must have the **dog owner’s name, home address, and phone number available for each dog walked** and must provide this to an “authorized person.” Each dog must have ID tags affixed to their collar with proof of rabies vaccination and owner’s name, address and phone number.
- 5) An “authorized person” can ask for **proof of immediate recall** to the walker’s side, without regard to circumstances or distractions, at any time of any dog that is off-leash.
- 6) **You cannot enter the GGNRA with more than six dogs at one time.** The proposed Rule will prohibit dogs left unattended in a parked vehicle.
- 7) **Dog walking can be further restricted if the Superintendent determines that the level of compliance with the Rule is approaching “unacceptable levels.”** They will also monitor numbers of dog rescues (e.g., going over the cliff at Fort Funston) to consider as part of compliance.
- 8) **Dogs under four months old must be leashed, crated, or confined in a carrier at all times, even in an off-leash area.**
- 9) The proposed Rule “advises” dog walkers to ask another person (with or without a dog) whether it is acceptable for their dog to approach the other person or that person’s dog. Contact by a dog that results in uninvited or unwanted physical contact will violate the Rule. They define an “uncontrolled dog” to include repeated barking.
- 10) The Rule seems designed to encourage harassment of people with dogs. Rangers and Park Police can stop and ask anyone with a dog for proof of vaccination, license, permit, and a demonstration of immediate recall. GGNRA has budgeted \$2.6 million to enforce the new rule, which can buy a lot of harassment.
- 11) The Rule will push people with dogs out of the GGNRA and into the much smaller city parks. The GGNRA has never adequately studied impacts on city parks.

WHERE YOU CAN WALK ON- AND OFF-LEASH IN THE GGNRA:

SAN FRANCISCO:

Ocean Beach: Dogs will be banned entirely, even on-leash, on 3/4 of the beach, from Stairwell 21 (the Beach Chalet) south to Sloat. Dogs allowed off-leash on northern 1/4 of the beach (Cliff House to Beach Chalet). Off-leash allowed for 4-6 dogs. On-leash on concrete promenade and in stairwells between Cliff House and Stairwell 21, but only for 1-3 dogs. No on-leash for 4-6 dogs on promenade and in stairwells.

Fort Funston: Off-leash cut by 60%. Dogs will be banned entirely from 59% of the site. No dogs allowed on northern half of beach (from middle beach access trail to Sloat). No dogs on horse trail. Off-leash areas near parking lot and near top end of middle beach access trail, and on southern half of beach (from middle beach access trail to sand ladder). Trails mostly on-leash.

Crissy Field: Off-leash cut by 60%. Dogs allowed off-leash (including 4-6 dogs) on central beach and middle of airfield. On-leash the rest of the airfield (including 4-6 dogs) and on Promenade, and in East Beach Picnic Area. Dogs banned from East Beach (near parking lot) and from Western Beach. Dogs banned from West Bluff Picnic Area. On-leash 4-6 dogs not allowed on most of the Promenade; on-leash 4-6 dogs allowed on Promenade from East Beach Parking lot to easternmost access to central beach, and to cross from airfield to beach at access points.

Baker Beach: All off-leash banned. Dogs allowed on-leash (including 4-6 dogs) on southern half of beach and on Coastal Trail (no 4-6 dogs on Coastal Trail). Dogs banned from northern half of beach. Dogs banned from south picnic area, allowed in north picnic area.

Fort Mason: Small off-leash area at corner of Bay and Laguna Sts (includes 4-6 dogs). On-leash on Great Meadow grass and paths (for 1-3 dogs), and several other areas (includes 4-6 dogs). On-leash 4-6 dogs only allowed paths in Great Meadow, not on grass area. Dogs banned from more than half of area.

Fort Miley: Loss of all current off-leash. On-leash on most trails. People with 4-6 dogs banned from all trails.

Lands End: Loss of all current off-leash. On-leash on most trails. People with 4-6 dogs banned from all trails.

Sutro Heights Park: On-leash dogs only. People with 4-6 dogs banned from entire area.

Fort Point: On-leash on all trails. People with 4-6 dogs banned from entire area.

MARIN:

Rodeo Beach: Beach will be only off-leash anywhere in GGNRA in Marin County (includes 4-6 dogs). However, dogs will be banned from northern end of beach when

lagoon surface water and ocean are connected. Dogs are banned from South Rodeo Beach. On-leash only on Fort Cronkhite Trail, Old Bunker Road and Coastal Trail (1-3 dogs only). People with 4-6 dogs banned from all trails.

Muir Beach: Loss of all current off-leash access. On-leash on beach and trail from parking lot (1-3 dogs only). Dogs banned from western end of beach when lagoon surface water and ocean are connected. People with 4-6 dogs will be banned from Muir Beach.

Stinson Beach: Dog banned entirely from Stinson Beach. Dogs banned from South Picnic area (but allowed on-leash in North and Central Picnic Area, 1-3 dogs only). Dogs on-leash on trail from western end of parking lot to county-owned Upton Beach (1-3 dogs only). People with 4-6 dogs banned everywhere at Stinson Beach.

Homestead Valley, Oakwood Valley, Alta Trail, Marin Headlands: Loss of all current off-leash access on fire roads and trails. On-leash on a few trails (1-3 dogs only). People with 4-6 dogs will be allowed on-leash on Alta Trail only, but banned from all other trails.

Fort Baker: No off-leash access. Dogs allowed on-leash on parade ground and some trails (includes 4-6 dogs).

SAN MATEO:

No off-leash anywhere in GGNRA in San Mateo.

On-leash (1-3 dogs) allowed on some trails at **Mori Point, Sweeney Ridge, Cattle Hill, and Rancho Corral de Tierra**. Dogs banned from other trails. People with 4-6 dogs banned from all on-leash trails in San Mateo.

DATES TO BE AWARE OF:

May 25 : Public comments are due.

April 30 : MARCH AND RALLY AGAINST THE RULE

GGNRA-Sponsored Public Information Meetings (to inform the public about the rule and answer questions): All of them from 6 pm to 8 pm

March 22 – in Montara at Farallon View School

March 23 – at the Bay Model in Sausalito

March 24 – at Fort Mason in SF

March 29 – at the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park in SF

March 30 – at Mill Valley Community Center

March 31 – at Pacifica Community Center

Crissy Field Dog Group will have two workshops, led by their attorney, with advice on **how to submit substantive comments on the rule:**

April 11 – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Calvary Presbyterian Church (Fillmore@Jackson), SF

April 12 – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, SF SPCA, 201 Alabama, SF