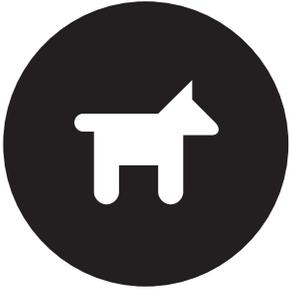


OUR PARKS BELONG TO THE PEOPLE - NOT THE FEDS!

UNLESS YOU WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR DOGS' LIVES IN COURT CHALLENGING ARBITRARY CLOSURES, PLEASE COME AND LET THE FEDS AND THE CITY KNOW THAT BECAUSE OF THE GGNRA'S BROKEN PROMISES AND BAD LAND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS, YOU WANT SAN FRANCISCO TO TAKE BACK ITS LAND.

The SF Commission of Animal Control and Welfare will consider a Resolution to the SF Board of Supervisors to take back our parks from the GGNRA (Reversion of GGNRA Park Lands), in order to protect our obligation and right to exercise our dogs.



**IF YOU LOVE YOUR DOG, PLEASE ATTEND THIS
CRITICAL MEETING TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!**

**Thursday, February 8, 2007,
City Hall, Room 408, 5:30 PM**

IT'S THE LAW:

In January 2005, the SF Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance (SF Health Code; Article 1; Section 41.12) requiring dog guardians to provide appropriate exercise for their dogs, presumably on public properties. For most dogs, that means playing, running and swimming off-leash.

THE SAN FRANCISCO SPCA KNOWS THE VALUE OF OFF-LEASH RECREATION:

"Since 1992, NPS Staff has justified the conversion of [GGNRA] recreational park resources to native plant habitats under the guise that such action is the national park mission... Contrary... to any allegations by the NPS that dog walking is a 'privilege' subject to the 'discretion' of the Superintendent which can be 'revoked' at any time, public use of the land for recreation... and off-leash dog walking specifically, is an important community right."

— SF SPCA, "THE PEOPLE'S PARK," AUGUST 29, 2000

THE GGNRA MADE PROMISES:

Dogs have been exercised off-leash at Fort Funston and Ocean Beach and other San Francisco parks for decades, including long before the lands were given to the GGNRA by the City of San Francisco. As a condition of transfer of the parkland from SF, the GGNRA promised to preserve existing recreational uses on the land.

Quoting the GGNRA Superintendent: "the National Park Service intends to preserve the general character and present use of the various parks [transferred from San Francisco]."

— SF CHRONICLE OCTOBER 25, 1973

The GGNRA's objective was "to expand to the maximum extent possible the outdoor recreation opportunities available in this region."

— H.R. REP. NO. 1391, 92ND CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION (1972)

THE GGNRA HAS BROKEN THEIR PROMISES:

"Ocean Beach without the people is an incredible habitat. But people think of it as a sandbox or their backyard." (*Daphne Hatch, Chief of Natural Resources management and Science for the GGNRA*)

— SF CHRONICLE, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

THE GGNRA HAS REPEATEDLY VIOLATED THE LAW:

The GGNRA has repeatedly violated the law by arbitrarily closing areas to off-leash dogs — and, in some cases, to people too — **without public notice. Closures occurred in 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, and 1996.** In 2001, they illegally banned off-leash dogs everywhere, and began a massive campaign of harassment and ticketing. When challenged in Federal Court, the GGNRA has lost every time and was forced to re-open the closed areas to off-leash dogs, only to repeat the cycle and try to close other areas a few years later.

THE COURTS AGREE:

Federal Courts reinstated off-leash recreation in December, 2004, and again in June, 2005, stating "... the NPS wiped away two decades of policy, practice, promulgations, and promises to the public."

— (UNITED STATES V. BARLEY, ORDER OF AFFIRMANCE, THE HONORABLE WILLIAM H. ALSUP, SUPRA, P. 5.)

THE GGNRA CONTINUES TO VIOLATE THE LAW:

In a letter dated January 9, 2006, GGNRA Supt. O'Neill admitted that, based upon the court's decision, he could not change an area from off-leash to on-leash without first going through Rulemaking. **Yet in November 2006, the GGNRA again banned off-leash recreation at most of Ocean Beach and a portion of Crissy Field without Rulemaking.**

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING (NR) WILL NOT REINSTATE IMPORTANT AREAS FOR OFF-LEASH RECREATION:

NR has arbitrarily excluded some important off-leash areas from consideration for continued off-leash use. Even if the current negotiations result in dogs allowed off-leash in parts of the GGNRA, **there's no guarantee the GGNRA won't arbitrarily close some or all of those areas at some future date, as they have done so many times in the past.**

THE DEEDS TRANSFERRING CITY PROPERTIES HAD REVERSION PROVISIONS:

Over 50% of San Francisco's park properties were turned over to the GGNRA in 1975. In the deeds transferring the SF lands, the City reserved the right to take back its lands (reversion) if the GGNRA broke its promises about how they would be used. Unfortunately, this has happened time & again. **NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT!**

REVERSION IS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE WE WON'T HAVE TO SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES IN COURT FIGHTING REPEATED ARBITRARY CLOSURES. COME TO THE MEETING AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OFF-LEASH RECREATION!