

Epilogue

As the new century began, Golden Gate National Recreation Area had become one of the premier national park areas in the system. Its visitation numbers were among the highest of all parks, the park had successfully negotiated countless resource management and constituency situations, and with the addition of the Presidio, Golden Gate National Recreation Area seemed poised to emerge from its designation as a national recreation area and was in position to be considered an important national park. The management challenges that remained were many and complex, while the strategies the park developed over nearly three decades testified to the commitment of management to agency goals and the flexibility of leadership in building support in the public and private sectors for the park.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area had much to teach the rest of the park system. In its twenty-eight year history, the park had become one of the most important examples of urban national park areas, and it was among the few places that faced issues that foreshadowed the future of the park system. As a national recreation area, Golden Gate helped redefine the category in the public mind, raising the status and stature to match that of other categories of park area. The park not only allowed people to enjoy recreation; it taught about the many pasts of the Bay Area, about the seas and the coast, about life in northern California before the coming of Euro-Americans and their cities. With much more than recreation available, a new generation of visitors and Bay Area residents, especially those who were poorer or immigrant, thought of Golden Gate National Recreation Area as their national park.

A template for the rest of the park system, Golden Gate National Recreation Area had become a place to which other parks looked as they sought to devise responses to changing contexts. In many instances, Golden Gate National Recreation Area had already addressed similar issues. The remarkable variety of resources at Golden Gate National Recreation Area complicated its management and demanded coordinated response from managers. Park planning yielded documents such as the General Management Plan of 1980 and subsequent natural and cultural resource management plans, which provided the tools to construct a park from the myriad features of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The park pioneered complex forms of management, the integration of cultural and natural resource objectives with the goals of an enormous day-use public and the interests of neighborhoods, activists, ranchers, and interested parties. It led in creating public participation in the park system with the Citizens' Advisory Commission, and its cooperating association, Golden Gate National Parks Association, became one of the most significant contributors to the resource base of the park and easily the largest provider of funds to its park of any cooperating association in the system. This close relationship between GGNPA and the park foreshadowed the creation of the Presidio Trust. Another public nonprofit organization that exercised considerable control and influence over the Presidio, the Trust was easily the most significant urban addition to the national park system since the 1970s, an addition that required a different management philosophy. In this, the park faced a series of administrative arrangements that demanded unparalleled dexterity.

In the Bay Area, the Park Service also had to deal with the concerns of an energized and involved public that had clear ideas about what it wanted from a national park area. In some circumstances, those ideas and the parks' goals and values did not mesh, forcing Golden Gate National Recreation Area into a series of ongoing negotiations. In the complicated political

climate of the Bay Area, Golden Gate National Recreation Area found itself in a secondary position. The park's fate and the economic future of the Bay Area were related, but many other entities had much greater impact on the regional economy. The park needed a different approach than was common in places where parks dominated the regional economy. From its inception, Golden Gate National Recreation Area assiduously cultivated the public, seeking its input into every major decision. The park learned many lessons in this process; paramount among them was the understanding that just because the public agreed to an idea as part of a plan did not mean that it would support the implementation of that plan. The gap between planning and implementation remained one of the most vexing for the park.

Close ties with the public yielded important community relationships. Golden Gate National Recreation Area developed important ties in the Bay Area with managers of all kinds. Community leaders, financial experts, and activists were among the many friends of the park. In situations when the park needed public support, its consistent maintenance of relationships gave it strong and vocal supporters. This in turn allowed the park to implement programs that might otherwise have been stalled. The park could turn to its association, commission, or friends for cover, deflecting animosities to other quarters. Even though managing Golden Gate National Recreation Area was always contentious, park leaders often sighed with relief as powerful park supporters stepped forward.

The result was a complicated park that foreshadowed the needs of a demographically changing nation that interpreted its national parks in new ways. Golden Gate National Recreation Area crossed from a recreational park into a comprehensive one that managed with the needs of its many constituencies in mind. In this it was able to build strong alliances that could protect it from attack; it also ran the risk of letting its friends dictate terms to park managers. Golden Gate National Recreation Area required visionary but flexible leadership, a balancing act between firm adherence to federal, agency, and park policies and thoughtful decision making that included the countless constituencies of the park.

The travails and successes of Golden Gate National Recreation Area offer an insight into the demands of park management in the twenty-first century. In the future, the traditional supporters of national parks and their elected officials will become fewer. The reaction of the larger public will determine whether national parks as Stephen T. Mather and Horace M. Albright envisioned them were a class-based creation of a moment in American history. As those constituencies and their representatives diminish as a percentage of the American population, the techniques and strategies of Golden Gate National Recreation Area will become increasingly necessary to protect the existing parks. As a leader in integrating the different facets of management with the needs of a wide range of constituencies, Golden Gate National Recreation Area will serve as a model for national parks of the coming century.

Appendices

Monthly Visitations, 1979-1999

Month	Year	Visits			
January	1979	529.802	September	1982	1,598.361
February	1979	805.332	October	1982	1,230.142
March	1979	1,163.146	November	1982	1,384.466
April	1979	866.836	December	1982	1,257.499
May	1979	1,044.645	January	1983	1,218.631
June	1979	1,137.845	February	1983	1,022.888
July	1979	1,201.874	March	1983	1,273.427
August	1979	1,200.030	April	1983	1,499.164
September	1979	1,035.038	May	1983	1,700.522
October	1979	874.597	June	1983	2,686.294
November	1979	765.823	July	1983	1,730.789
December	1979	696.159	August	1983	1,746.359
January	1980	1,009.310	September	1983	1,699.660
February	1980	1,048.930	October	1983	1,285.890
March	1980	1,094.436	November	1983	983.043
April	1980	1,276.658	December	1983	757.884
May	1980	1,549.423	January	1984	1,030.439
June	1980	1,736.887	February	1984	1,063.706
July	1980	2,595.773	March	1984	1,222.122
August	1980	1,917.277	April	1984	1,303.760
September	1980	2,060.709	May	1984	1,332.716
October	1980	1,850.484	June	1984	1,464.281
November	1980	1,075.557	July	1984	1,945.851
December	1980	1,206.329	August	1984	1,925.716
January	1981	1,067.346	September	1984	1,923.758
February	1981	1,155.238	October	1984	1,535.673
March	1981	1,304.302	November	1984	1,001.118
April	1981	1,364.366	December	1984	982.566
May	1981	1,691.042	January	1985	1,125.982
June	1981	2,416.359	February	1985	1,220.659
July	1981	2,296.376	March	1985	1,138.352
August	1981	2,469.125	April	1985	1,476.035
September	1981	2,492.918	May	1985	1,502.803
October	1981	1,534.950	June	1985	1,787.375
November	1981	1,310.247	July	1985	1,943.866
December	1981	1,177.520	August	1985	2,027.928
January	1982	1,324.163	September	1985	2,077.624
February	1982	1,312.297	October	1985	1,717.146
March	1982	1,400.209	November	1985	1,224.964
April	1982	1,816.131	December	1985	1,112.631
May	1982	1,939.585	January	1986	1,258.252
June	1982	1,993.261	February	1986	1,266.006
July	1982	2,324,124	March	1986	1,276,579
August	1982	2,317.151	April	1986	1,357.779

Mav	1986	2.116.045	June	1990	1.468.856
June	1986	2.151.600	Julv	1990	1.471.350
Julv	1986	2.735.997	August	1990	1.468.567
August	1986	2.779.350	Sentember	1990	1.336.655
Sentember	1986	2.249.520	October	1990	1.341.237
October	1986	1.840.318	November	1990	1.110.429
November	1986	1.417.895	December	1990	838.905
December	1986	1.133.027	Januarv	1991	1.043.598
Januarv	1987	1.199.474	Februarv	1991	979.342
Februarv	1987	1.227.791	March	1991	1.098.731
March	1987	1.242.682	Anril	1991	1.361.166
Anril	1987	1.992.370	Mav	1991	1.131.377
Mav	1987	2.423.636	June	1991	1.468.856
June	1987	2.143.065	Julv	1991	1.471.350
Julv	1987	2.386.270	August	1991	1.468.567
August	1987	2.594.571	Sentember	1991	1.336.655
Sentember	1987	2.044.208	October	1991	1.341.237
October	1987	1.921.977	November	1991	1.110.429
November	1987	1.383.160	December	1991	884.463
December	1987	1.207.972	Januarv	1992	1.009.567
Januarv	1988	1.006.170	Februarv	1992	924.760
Februarv	1988	1.405.548	March	1992	1.058.138
March	1988	1.480.117	Anril	1992	1.130.026
Anril	1988	1.773.231	Mav	1992	1.254.631
Mav	1988	2.137.367	June	1992	1.376.558
June	1988	2.478.775	Julv	1992	1.496.267
Julv	1988	2.787.131	August	1992	1.409.272
August	1988	2.493.243	Sentember	1992	1.447.701
Sentember	1988	2.162.553	October	1992	1.878.507
October	1988	1.653.202	November	1992	1.332.805
November	1988	1.192.245	December	1992	991.106
December	1988	1.189.689	Januarv	1993	1.043.598
Januarv	1989	984.430	Februarv	1993	979.342
Februarv	1989	1.023.779	March	1993	1.098.731
March	1989	1.106.804	Anril	1993	1.361.166
Anril	1989	1.415.206	Mav	1993	1.131.377
Mav	1989	1.309.148	June	1993	1.468.856
June	1989	1.794.307	Julv	1993	1.471.350
Julv	1989	2.467.759	August	1993	1.468.567
August	1989	1.636.678	Sentember	1993	1.336.655
Sentember	1989	1.425.279	October	1993	1.341.237
October	1989	1.592.487	November	1993	1.110.429
November	1989	996.690	December	1993	884.463
December	1989	904.329	Januarv	1994	1.043.598
Januarv	1990	1.043.598	Februarv	1994	979.342
Februarv	1990	979.342	March	1994	1.098.731
March	1990	1.098.731	Anril	1994	1.361.166
April	1990	1,361,166	May	1994	1,131,377
May	1990	1.131.377	June.	1994	1.468.856

July	1994	1,471,350	June	1997	1,240,357
August	1994	1,468,567	July	1997	1,269,101
September	1994	1,336,655	August	1997	1,254,808
October	1994	1,341,237	September	1997	1,165,448
November	1994	1,110,429	October	1997	1,214,818
December	1994	884,463	November	1997	1,066,352
January	1995	1,043,598	December	1997	929,922
February	1995	979,342	January	1998	949,556
March	1995	1,098,731	February	1998	1,016,357
April	1995	1,361,166	March	1998	1,125,410
May	1995	1,131,377	April	1998	1,220,318
June	1995	1,468,856	May	1998	1,258,958
July	1995	1,471,350	June	1998	1,337,678
August	1995	1,468,567	July	1998	1,350,034
September	1995	1,336,655	August	1998	1,188,875
October	1995	1,341,237	September	1998	1,251,288
November	1995	1,110,429	October	1998	1,267,198
December	1995	884,463	November	1998	1,024,980
January	1996	1,050,640	December	1998	1,055,938
February	1996	1,015,037	January	1999	972,474
March	1996	1,222,501	February	1999	1,070,058
April	1996	1,335,448	March	1999	1,132,792
May	1996	1,202,476	April	1999	1,302,790
June	1996	1,282,725	May	1999	1,179,726
July	1996	1,202,211	June	1999	1,327,761
August	1996	1,366,995	July	1999	1,167,544
September	1996	1,277,090	August	1999	1,209,249
October	1996	1,109,012	September	1999	1,264,156
November	1996	1,039,460	October	1999	1,186,212
December	1996	940,389	November	1999	1,091,638
January	1997	973,083	December	1999	1,143,685
February	1997	1,081,129			
March	1997	1,113,382			
April	1997	1,198,736			
May	1997	1,296,246			

Statistics courtesy of the National Park Service Public Use Statistics Office

GGNRA Superintendents

	Title	Years at GGNRA
William J. Whalen	Gen Mgr. Bay Area Parks ⁴⁹²	1/23/1972 – 7/02/1977
Jerry L. Schober	Acting General Manager ⁴⁹³	7/03/1977 – 10/22/1977
Jerry L. Schober	Superintendent	8/04/1974 – 2/10/1979
Lynn H. Thompson	Superintendent	4/23/1978 – 2/29/1980
William J. Whalen	Superintendent	6/01/1980 – 2/12/1981
John H. Davis	Superintendent	1/10/1982 – 9/28/1985
Brian O'Neill	Acting Superintendent	9/29/1985 – 2/15/1986
Brian O'Neill	Superintendent	2/16/1986 –

⁴⁹² Assigned to Golden Gate NRA; administered Golden Gate NRA, Point Reyes NS, Muir Woods NM, and Fort Point NHS from 10/27/1972. A south area superintendent position was filled as of 8/4/1974 at Golden Gate NRA, and the north area was assumed by the incumbent superintendent and Point Reyes. The areas formerly supervised by the superintendent of Point Reyes, John Muir NHS and Muir Woods NM, were then placed under the supervision of the south area superintendent. Title was changed on 10/11/1975 from Bay Area General Superintendent to General Manager of Bay Area Parks.

⁴⁹³ Organizational change eliminated the north area (Point Reyes) from the Bay Area grouping on 10/1/1977, and the title of General Manager was discontinued effective 10/22/1977.

Significant Legislation

Public Law 87-657, authorizing Point Reyes National Seashore, signed into law by President Kennedy on Sept. 13, 1962.

Public Law 92-589 (H.R.16444) established the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and an Advisory Commission on October 27, 1972. It sanctioned the expenditure of \$61,610,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands. It also authorized inclusion of all Army lands within the boundaries when these lands were declared excess by the Army, immediately transferred administrative jurisdiction of Fort Mason, Crissy Field, Forts Cronkhite, Barry and the westerly one-half of Fort Baker to the Secretary of Interior, and placed the Marina Green, including the railroad right of way, within park boundaries.

The Establishment section read: "In order to preserve for public use and enjoyment certain areas of Marin and San Francisco Counties, California, possessing outstanding natural, historic, scenic, and recreational values, and in order to provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to urban environment and planning, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to as the "recreation area" is hereby established. In the management of the recreation the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") shall utilize the resources in a manner which will provide for recreation and educational opportunities consistent with sound principles of land use planning and management. In carrying out the provisions of this Act, the Secretary shall preserve the recreation area, as far as possible, in its natural setting, and protect it from development and uses which would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of the area."

Public Law 96-199 added \$15,500,000 to P.L.'s land acquisition ceiling.

Public Law 1193-544, enacted in 1974, added several relatively small parcels of land to GGNRA's boundary in the Mill Valley/Sausalito area.

Public Law 94-389 (H.R. 738), passed in 1976, provided for Federal participation in preserving the Tule Elk population in California and suggested that Point Reyes National Seashore is one of the Federal areas which offered a potential for use.

Public Laws 94-544 (H.R. 8002), also passed in 1976, and 94567 (H.R. 13160) established the Point Reyes Wilderness Area of 25,370 acres and a Wilderness potential of 8,003 acres.

Public Law 95-625 authorized the acquisition of 3,723.60 acres of private land in the Lagunitas Loop/Devil's Gulch area of Marin County in 1978, as well as the addition of Samuel P. Taylor State Park.

Public Law 96-199, enacted in March 1980, extended the park boundary more than eight miles further northward, adding about 2,000 acres that encompassed most of the waters of Tomales Bay.

Public Law 96-344, enacted in September 1980, modified P.L. 96-199 by adding eighteen more parcels, amounting to about 1,100 acres.

Public Law 96-607 authorized a boundary expansion of Golden Gate National Recreation Area by adding 26,000 acres in San Mateo County, including 1,047 acres of privately held land on Sweeney Ridge. Legislation passed December 28, 1980.

Public Law 100-526 at 102 STAT 2623 (The Base Closure and Realignment Act), enacted Oct. 24, 1988, required that the Army installation at the Presidio of San Francisco close and that approximately 1,234 acres of the Presidio transfer to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Recommendations for Further Research

1. Research to underpin interpretation of recent military history. Special Historical Studies for missile bases and other military installations within the park
2. Administrative history of Point Reyes National Seashore
3. Additional Crissy Field research to support the evolution of the management of Crissy Field
4. Greater research into the Coast Miwok and Ohlone presence in the Bay Area
5. Research to clearly analyze park constituencies and their interests from political, social, and cultural perspective
6. History of Golden Gate National Parks Association
7. Special History Study of the Presidio and its evolution
8. Special History Study of the GGNRA Advisory Commission
9. History of Visitation and Visitor Expectations on Alcatraz Island
10. History of permits for outside activities inside the park

Chronology

- 1847, January 30 – Yerba Buena renamed San Francisco by Lt. Washington Bartlett, U.S. Navy.
- 1847, March – Americans (7th New York Volunteers) took over Presidio.
- 1847, May – U.S. Army began survey of Alcatraz Island as site for harbor defenses.
- 1848 – Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill.
- 1848 – Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ceded California to the United States.
- 1850 – President Fillmore reserved Alcatraz Island and Angel Island for military purposes.
- 1850, November 6 – President Millard Fillmore proclaimed the Presidio, Alcatraz, Angel Island and other Bay Area sites as military reservations.
- 1850, December 31 – Fillmore modified reservation proclamation to reflect new boundaries.
- 1853 – Army began construction of Fort Point
- 1854 – U.S. Army began construction of a fort on Alcatraz Island.
- 1854, June 1 – Lighthouse on Alcatraz Island began operating; first lighthouse on Pacific coast.
- 1859, July – Belt of stone and brick fortifications built around Alcatraz Island, with 75 guns mounted.
- 1861, February 15 – Fort Point completed and Army orders troops to garrison fort. Construction costs about \$2.8 million.
- 1862 – First true prison building built on Alcatraz Island; this forms the nucleus for the development of the "Lower Prison" complex.
- 1863, October 15 – Original Cliff House opened for business.
- 1866, July 24 – Army purchased land for Lime Point reservation (Forts Barry and Baker). Baker later named after Col. Edward D. Baker, veteran of Mexican War killed in action during the Civil War.
- 1883 – Maj. William Albert Jones, an engineer at Army department headquarters, develops comprehensive plan for afforestation of Presidio reservation.
- 1884, December 12 – War Department designated former post cemetery and surrounding land as the first National Cemetery on the West Coast.
- 1885 – Sutro Heights opened for public use as a park. (Adolph Sutro elected Populist mayor of San Francisco in 1894, serves 1895-1897.)
- 1890-1893 – Army began afforestation of Presidio, planting eucalyptus, pine, acacia and other species, set in ordered rows on the ridges and hills of the reservation.
- 1890 – Treasury Department established Fort Point Life Saving Station in Lower Presidio.
- 1892, May 1 – United States Quarantine Station opened on Angel Island.
- 1893 – Army declared Fort Point's guns to be obsolete, and began work on series of reinforced concrete installations, with building to continue for about 15 years.
- 1892, January 23 – Army acquired 200-acre land area through condemnation proceedings, called site Fort Miley.
- 1894-1896 – U.S. Army spent \$10 million on twenty-six coast defense batteries around the Bay.
- 1895, July 1 – Army designated Alcatraz Island as United States Disciplinary Barracks.
- 1897, July 7 – First permanent garrison established at Fort Baker (Battery 1, 3rd Artillery).
- 1898 – Army established Laguna Merced Military Reservation, which will later become site of Fort Funston.
- 1900, April 14 – Government established Veterans' Hospital at Fort Miley.
- 1904, December 27 – Army divides Fort Baker reservation in half and creates Fort Barry.
- 1905 – Army decides to abandon Alcatraz Island as defense site, and designated island solely as a military prison.
- 1905, July 8 – Secretary of War allots land on Angel Island to departments of Commerce and Labor for Immigration Detention Station.
- 1906 – William Kent purchases lands around Muir Woods to prevent logging.
- 1906, April 18 – Earthquake hits San Francisco. Four refugee camps established on Presidio on order of Gen. Frederick Funston, housing 16,000 refugees for ten days. Fort Mason also housed refugees and was the site for the Army Relief Headquarters for the entire city.
- 1915 – Panama-Pacific International Exposition held just east of Presidio on landfill. Marina built as yacht harbor for exposition.

- 1917 – U.S. government bought ocean frontage portion of Fort Funston property from Spring Valley Water Company.
- 1917, June 26 – Army named Fort Funston in honor of Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston.
- 1920-1930s – San Francisco Park Commissioners and state and federal assistance programs helped improve Marina. In 1930s, WPA crews built stone seawall, harbormaster's house and lighthouse.
- 1921 – Army designated Crissy Field as military airfield. It is the first Army coastal defense airfield on the Pacific coast, and was built over site of Exposition's automobile race track. (Field is named after Maj. Dana Crissy, who was killed in 1919 in a transcontinental air race that started in San Francisco).
- 1921 – Design work started on Julius Kahn Public Playground, a 7.294-acre site on the Presidio's south boundary.
- 1924 – War Department gave its consent for construction of Bay bridges.
- 1928 – California established Mount Tamalpais State Park
- 1932 – Army released 19.2 acres of land at Fort Miley to the General Services Administration for construction of the Veterans Administration Hospital. Hospital opened in 1934; latest addition to hospital opened in 1965.
- 1933 – Act of Congress transferred Alcatraz Island from Department of War to Department of Justice for a prison.
- 1933 – Golden Gate Bridge designer Joseph Strauss designed a steel arch for the approach over Fort Point, making it unnecessary to remove the fort.
- 1934, July 12 – Army abandoned United States Disciplinary Barracks at Alcatraz.
- 1934, Aug. 15 – First fifty prisoners arrived at Alcatraz Island. Convicts' rail cars ferried across Bay to avoid risking a transfer.
- 1937, May 27 – Golden Gate Bridge dedicated and opened. Designers incorporate special arch in bridge to avoid destroying Fort Point.
- 1937, December – Army bought about 800 acres in Marin County and created Fort Cronkhite, named in honor of Maj. Gen. Adelbert Cronkhite.
- 1940s – Ansel Adams and former Sierra Club president Ed Wayburn proposed that the Golden Gate be designated a national monument.
- 1942 – Army bought remaining land for Fort Funston from Spring Valley Water Company (this purchase was the eastern section – ocean section purchased in 1917. Land was used as Nike missile base in the 1950s).
- 1950 – City of San Francisco received northern fifty acres belonging to Fort Funston (originally 237 acres total).
- 1951, November – City voters approved \$1.1 million bond issue to purchase 116 acres south of armory for recreation and park use. (Land offered by federal government as surplus property).
- 1953 – City leased seven acres of former Fort Funston property to state for National Guard Armory on 99-year lease.
- 1954 – Nike Ajax missiles began to be sited around San Francisco.
- 1958 – NPS released a coastline study which included a report calling for creation of Point Reyes National Seashore.
- 1959 – Fort Point Museum Association incorporated.
- 1960s – Idea develops in California to create "Parks for the People." Concept spreads to Washington, brought there by Interior Secretary Walter Hickle, and became a buzz word in the National Park Service. Leads to creation of Gateway National Recreation Area.
- 1961 – Undeveloped areas of Fort Baker turned over to California for park purposes.
- 1962 – The Department of Defense declares Fort Mason "surplus military property," and transfers the remaining military functions to the Oakland Army Base.
- 1962, June – U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy announced Alcatraz to be phased out of Federal Penitentiary System.
- 1962, June 13 – Presidio designated a National Historic Landmark.
- 1962, September 13 – President Kennedy signed legislation establishing Point Reyes National Seashore.
- 1963, March 21 – Alcatraz closed as prison and last prisoners transferred off island.
- 1963, April – Alcatraz Island reported to General Services Administration as excess property.
- 1964, March – President's Commission on the Disposition of Alcatraz Island formed.

- 1964, May – Alcatraz commission recommended island be used to commemorate the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco. (No action taken on this proposal)
- 1964, August – San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 472-64, requesting that the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of General Services establish Fort Mason as a national historic site, or if such action proves impossible, requests that GSA make Fort Mason available to the city as a park and recreation area.
- 1964, November – Thomas Frouge and Gulf Oil Corporation unveiled plans for Marinello, an 18,000-person community to be built on the Marin Headlands.
- 1965, June – State of California published A History of San Francisco Harbor Defense Installations: Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite and Funston (Emanuel Lewis).
- 1966 – Sutro Baths burn in fire.
- 1968 – Federal and California agencies indicated to GSA that they do not wish to acquire Alcatraz Island.
- 1968 – San Francisco Bay Discovery Site designated a National Historic Landmark.
- 1968 – City of San Francisco expressed interest in acquiring Alcatraz Island and calls for development proposals. About five hundred are received.
- 1968 – NPS released Fort Point National Historic Site, California: A Proposal.
- 1969 – Federal government (General Services Administration) proposed building football field-sized National Archives storage building on surplus U.S. Army land at Fort Miley. Amy Meyer, who lived across from Lincoln Park, began organizing a protest. (The building is eventually built in San Bruno).
- 1969, November – Department of the Interior, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation recommended transfer of Alcatraz to National Park Service and inclusion of other surplus federal property as a Park for the People. Committee recommended that the lands be pulled together to form an 8,000-acre park.
- 1969, November 29 – Beginning of Indian Occupation of Alcatraz Island, which lasted nineteen months.
- 1969, December – San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to lease Alcatraz Island to H. Lamar Hunt for commercial development.
- 1970 – William Whalen named one of government's 10 outstanding young men.
- 1970, April – Fire destroyed lighthouse keeper's house, military buildings, post exchange, warden's residence and surgeon's home on Alcatraz Island.
- 1970, Summer – Cong. Phil Burton introduced legislation to create GGNRA. (HR 16444).
- 1970, October 16 – President Nixon signed Public Law 91-457, creating Fort Point National Historic Site.
- 1971 – U.S. Army turned twenty-two acres of Fort Mason over to General Services Administration for disposal.
- 1971, January – Protest group founded by Amy Meyer became People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- 1971, February – Nixon made "Legacy of Parks" statement.
- 1971, June 16 – Rep. Phillip Burton introduced expansive proposal for national recreation area in Bay Area. Plan included Park Service veto power over future Presidio developments by Army.
- 1971, August 9 – House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation held hearings in San Francisco on H.R. 9498 and related bills.
- 1972, January 23 – William J. Whalen named general manager, Bay Area Parks
- 1972, May 11-12 – House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation held hearings in Washington, D.C., on H.R. 9498 and related bills
- 1972 – United States Congress published Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Hearings, ninety-second Congress on H.R. 9498 and related bills.
- 1972, July 28 – House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation passed bill authored by Rep. Phillip Burton (D-SF) to establish a 20,000-acre Golden Gate National Urban Recreation Area.
- 1972, September 5 – President Nixon visits proposed site of Golden Gate National Recreation Area to demonstrate his support.
- 1972, October 11 – House approved bill establishing the 34,000-acre Golden Gate National Recreation Area. (Bill passed without dissent).
- 1972, October 27 – President Nixon signed "An Act to Establish the Golden Gate National Recreation Area," (Public Law 92-589), which established Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Bill allocated

- \$61,610,000 for land acquisition and \$58,000,000 for development. On the same day, Whalen given responsibility for administering Golden Gate NRA, Point Reyes National Seashore, Muir Woods National Monument, and Fort Point National Historic Site.
- 1972, December – Gulf Oil Corporation sold Marinello property to The Nature Conservancy. Marin citizens formed the Marin Headlands Association, designed to persuade state to purchase all surplus lands along the south rim for safekeeping. It is this land that would be combined with Alcatraz and San Francisco Headlands to form initial basis for park.
- 1972 – National Park Service acquired Alcatraz Island.
- 1972 – National Park Service acquired Fort Mason, which had been used strictly for storage by the Army since 1962.
- 1973 – NPS released Fort Point: Historic Data Section, Fort Point National Historic Site, California (Edwin C. Bearss). Historic structure report.
- 1973, October – Alcatraz opened to the public under Park Service management.
- 1974 – Army closed Crissy Field to fixed-wing aircraft, restricting its use to helicopters.
- 1974, August 4 – Jerry L. Schrober named superintendent of South Area.
- 1974, December 26 – President Ford signed Public Law 93-544 adds 750 acres of contiguous private lands in Marin County to GGNRA.
- 1975 – NPS released Preliminary Information Base Analysis, North of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument and Point Reyes National Seashore (prepared by the SWA Group)
- 1975 – NPS released Preliminary Information Base Analysis, South Portion of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California (prepared by the SWA Group).
- 1975 – GGNRA established visitor center at park headquarters at Fort Mason.
- 1975, May – PFGGNRA and Park Service unveiled plans for expanding GGNRA south into San Mateo County.
- 1975, June 10 – City of San Francisco officially turned over 91.5 acres of city parklands to Golden Gate National Recreation Area. (Transaction involved lands around Fort Miley, Lands End and portions of Lincoln Park excluding golf course.)
- 1975, September – GGNRA released Golden Gate Recreational Travel Study.
- 1975, October 11 – Title of Bay Area General Superintendent changed to General Manager of Bay Area Parks
- 1976 – Congress declared about half of Point Reyes National Seashore as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- 1976 – NPS released Archeological Resources of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (Roger E. Kelly)
- 1976 – Outline of Planning Requirements approved (Doug Nadeau).
- 1976, May – The Fort Mason Foundation created, and given responsibility for guiding and shaping the development of abandoned warehouses and piers into a cultural center.
- 1977 – GGNRA acquired Cliff House for \$3.79 million.
- 1977 – NPS acquired Haslett Warehouse, located in center of Fisherman's Wharf/Ghiradelli Square tourist area. (Building acquired by State of California for railroad museum, but plans were derailed).
- 1977, January – Fort Mason opened to the public.
- 1977, May – NPS released Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Point Reyes National Seashore: Assessment of Alternatives for the General Management Plan.
- 1977, July 3 – Jerry Schober named Acting General Manager
- 1977, September 16 – San Francisco Maritime State Historical Park added to GGNRA.
- 1977, October 1 – Point Reyes National Seashore separated from GGNRA.
- 1977, October 22 – Title of General Manager discontinued.
- 1977, November – NPS released Historic Resource Study: Alcatraz Island, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (Erwin N. Thompson).
- 1978 – San Francisco Maritime Museum added to GGNRA.
- 1978 – GGNRA opened Cliff House Visitor Center.
- 1978 – California voters approved Proposition 13.
- 1978, April 23 – Lynn H. Thompson named superintendent.

- 1978, November 10 – Public Law 96-625 expands park by adding nearly 3,000 acres in Marin County under the “National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978.”
- 1979 – NPS released Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Collection Management Plan (prepared by Dan Riss).
- 1979 – NPS released Historic Resource Study: Seacoast Fortifications, San Francisco Harbor, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California (Erwin Thompson).
- 1979 – NPS released Inventory of Occupation Graffiti, 1969-1971: Alcatraz Island, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California (John Noxon).
- 1979, June – NPS released Golden Gate, Point Reyes National Recreation Area, National Seashore, California: General Management Plan, Environmental Analysis
- 1979, November – NPS released Historic Resource Study: Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California (Erwin Thompson).
- 1980, March 5 – Public Law 96-199 added lands in Marin County to GGNRA by extending park boundaries eight miles north to include Samuel P. Taylor State Park (2,450 acres) and Gallagher, Ottinger and Giacomini ranches (1,214 acres).
- 1980, March 5 – Division of Museum Services, NPS, released Museum Storage Plan, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (Donald R. Cumberland Jr.)
- 1980, June – NPS released A Civil History of Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore, California (Anna Coxe Toogood).
- 1980, June 1 – William Whalen named superintendent.
- 1980, September – NPS released Golden Gate National Recreation Area/Point Reyes National Seashore: General Management Plan, Environmental Analysis.
- 1980, September 8 – Public Law 96-344 added 1,096 acres to GGNRA in Marin County.
- 1980, September 19 – General Management Plan, GGNRA and Point Reyes NS approved (Planning Team DSC and GGNRA staff).
- 1980, December 28 – Public Law 96-199 expanded GGNRA into San Mateo County and along the coast to Half Moon Bay (2,000 acres) by including 23,000 acres of Sweeney Ridge.
- 1981 – NPS released Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California: Draft Natural Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (Judd A. Howell).
- 1982 – U.S. Air Force automated its radar tracking operations and released all but 2.5 acres of its 106.4 acre site atop Mount Tamalpais in Marin County to NPS. Site contained 53 abandoned structures and a complex utility system capable of supporting a community of 300. Many buildings contained asbestos, hindering removal plans.
- 1982 – Golden Gate National Park Association established.
- 1982 – NPS released Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California: Draft Natural Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (Judd A. Howell).
- 1982 – National Maritime Museum completed first Scope of Collections Statement
- 1982 – Federal Emergency Management Agency moved into Barracks 105 at the Presidio.
- 1982, January 10 – John H. Davis appointed general superintendent of GGNRA.
- 1982, March – NPS moved Western Information Center to Fort Mason from 450 Golden Gate Ave.
- 1982, May 5 – Mexican Museum opened in new quarters at Fort Mason Center.
- 1982, June 1 – NPS released Cultural Resources Management Plan (Patrick Christopher, James Delgado and Martin Mayer). Cover title: Preliminary Cultural Resources Management Plan for Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- 1982, June 4 – NPS released Addendum, Natural Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- 1983 – NPS released Structural and Seismic Evaluation of the Structures in the Fort Mason Pier Area (Phase I: a study of the structures; Phase II: recommendations for and costs of correcting deficiencies) (John A. Blume & Associates, Engineers).
- 1983 – Congressman Phillip Burton dies.
- 1983, March 17 – Land Protection Plan approved (Doug Nadeau).

- 1983 – Golden Gate prescribed burn program is begun.
- 1984 – Joe R. McBride wrote Forest Management Plan for the Presidio and East Fort Baker.
- 1984 – NPS released Historic Structures Report: Fort Barry Buildings 960, 961, 962.
- 1984, October – Tanker Puerto Rican burned after passing under Golden Gate Bridge. Ship sank on Nov. 3 and resulting oil spill reached GGNRA beaches.
- 1984, October 13 – Revised Natural Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment approved (Judd Howell).
- 1985 – GGNRA established Golden Gate Raptor Observatory.
- 1985 – San Francisco Port of Embarkation designated a National Historic Landmark.
- 1985 – *Balclutha* (only full-rigged ship in National Maritime Museum collection) designated a National Historic Landmark.
- 1985 – NPS released Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark District: Historic American Building Survey Report.
- 1985, January – Ferryboat *Eureka* designated a National Historic Landmark.
- 1985, March 12 – Fire Management Plan approved (Terri Thomas).
- 1985, September 29 – Brian O’Neill named acting superintendent.
- 1985, October 10 – GGNRA announced plans to restore Crissy Field.
- 1986 – Alcatraz Island declared a National Historic Landmark.
- 1986, February 16 – Brian O’Neill named superintendent.
- 1986, August – NPS released Marin Headlands, Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Interpretative Prospectus (Harpers Ferry Center: Division of Interpretative Planning).
- 1987 – NPS released Interpretive Prospectus – Alcatraz.
- 1987 – Golden Gate restricts bicycles to designated trails within park.
- 1987 – Self-guided tours of Alcatraz Island began.
- 1987, June – U.S. Coast Guard received GGNRA permission to relocate search and rescue function from Station Fort Point near south end of Golden Gate Bridge to East Fort Baker, immediately northeast of the bridge. This freed up five-acre site surrounded by Crissy Field.
- 1988 – United Nations designated GGNRA an International Biosphere Reserve.
- 1988 – Golden Gate National Park Association sponsored "Alcatraz the Future – Concept Plan and Guidelines," a planning and design effort to visualize the GMP and Interpretive Prospectus.
- 1988 – New visitor center built at Muir Woods.
- 1988, June 27 – Public Law 100-348 created the San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park (SAFR) and transferred the museum and historic ships from GOGA to the new park. Measure intended to enhance ability of maritime park to compete for scarce funding within NPS, and relieve GGNRA of expensive maintenance commitments to ships.
- 1988, December – Defense Department released Base Realignments and Closures: Report of the Defense Secretary’s Commission.
- 1988, December 29 – Presidio of San Francisco on the list of military bases recommended for realignment or closure under “Base Closure and Realignment Act,” Public Law 100-526.
- 1989 – Bay Area Ridge Trail is dedicated.
- 1989 – NPS released Submerged Cultural Resources Assessment: Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and Point Reyes National Seashore (James Delgado and Stephen Haller).
- 1989, April – Congress approved “Base Closure and Realignment Act,” with Presidio closure no later than September 1995.
- 1990 – Coast Guard opened new life-saving station at Fort Baker in Marin County.
- 1990 – Federal prisoners began working on Alcatraz Island projects, under supervision of Federal Bureau of Prisons and National Park Service.
- 1990 – NPS released Base Closure of the Presidio of San Francisco: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (U.S. Engineers, Sacramento District).

- 1990 – NPS released *The Top of the Peninsula: A History of Sweeney Ridge and the San Francisco Watershed Lands, San Mateo County, California* (Marianne Babal), a historic resource study.
- 1990, May – Presidio Planning Guidelines released to the public.
- 1990 – NPS initiated first phase of the GMP on Alcatraz, the opening of the southern end of the Island, known as Agave Walk and parade ground. After concerns expressed by two local Audubon Society chapters, NPS withdrew the project.
- 1991 – Scope of Collection Statement approved (Diane Nicholson).
- 1991 – NPS released *San Francisco Point of Embarkation: Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service* (prepared by the Architectural Resources Group). Historic Structure Report.
- 1992 – GGNRA signed Golden Gate Operations and Maintenance Programmatic Agreement with Western Regional Office of the NPS (WRO), the California State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.
- 1992 – NPS released Historic Resource Study: *El Presidio de San Francisco: A History Under Spain and Mexico, 1776-1846* (John Phillip Langellier).
- 1992 – Visitor center at Fort Cronkhite relocated to rehabilitated Fort Barry chapel.
- 1992 – GGNRA released Alcatraz Cultural Landscape Report draft.
- 1992, April 22 – Statement for Management, GGNRA, approved.
- 1992, June – NPS released Historic Gardens of Alcatraz, a botanical study.
- 1992, June 9 – Public Law 102-29 added Phleger Estate to GGNRA.
- 1992, August – NPS released *Presidio of San Francisco, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California: Special History Study, Presidio of San Francisco: An Outline of Its Evolution as a U.S. Army Post, 1847-1990* (Erwin N. Thompson and Sally B. Woodbridge).
- 1993 – NPS released Draft General Management Plan Amendment, *Presidio of San Francisco: Presidio Building Leasing and Financing Implementation Strategy: A Supplement to the Draft General Management Plan Amendment, Presidio of San Francisco*.
- 1993, March – Army relinquished management of Presidio Forest, Lobos Creek Valley, and Coastal Bluffs to Park Service.
- 1993, April – Presidio became home to U.S. headquarters for Mikhail Gorbachev's Gorbachev Foundation.
- 1993, July 9 – GGNRA released Alcatraz Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment, prepared by LSA Associates, Inc.
- 1993, September – NPS assumed complete control of Crissy Field.
- 1993, October – NPS released *Creating a Park for the 21st Century: From Military Post to National Park: Draft General Management Plan amendment, Presidio of San Francisco*.
- 1993, October – Update of Presidio National Historic Landmark is approved.
- 1994 – NPS released *Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Collection Management Plan*.
- 1994, March – NPS assumed control of Presidio housing.
- 1994, July – NPS released Final General Management Plan Amendment, Environmental Impact Statement, *Presidio of San Francisco*.
- 1994, July – NPS released *Presidio of San Francisco, Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Comments and Responses, Final General Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement*.
- 1994, September 30 – U.S. Army transferred all remaining parts of the Presidio to the Park Service.
- 1995, May – NPS released *A Good Life: Dairy Farming in the Olema Valley: A History of the Dairy and Beef Ranches of the Olema Valley and Lagunitas Canyon, Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore* (D.S. Livingston), a historic resource study.
- 1996, June – Jones & Stokes Associates published *Environmental Assessment for Crissy Field Plan for NPS*.
- 1996 – GGNRA and GGNPA began work on restoration and interpretation of Crissy Field, one of the largest restoration projects ever undertaken by the Park Service.
- 1997, July – GGNPA guides began leading tours of Alcatraz.
- 2000 – More than \$31 million raised for restoration of Crissy Field.
- 2000, April – Conference, led by Park Service, Presidio Trust, and GGNPA, discussed Presidio interpretation.

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