

Potential Centennial Challenge Projects & Programs

Centennial Trails Forever

Recreational Experience



Preliminary Description
Park Name/Acronym:
Golden Gate
National Recreation
Area (GOGA)

Contact Name:
Brian O'Neill

Approximate fiscal year for start up and completion:
FY 08–10
Proposal #53732

Brief Description

The Trails Forever initiative is well underway as a pilot program. It is an established success in revitalizing trails, engaging Americans, reaching new communities, reconnecting people with parks, and building the capacity of volunteers and other resources to sustain park trails and related programs through the next century. Trail projects have been completed throughout the park; thousands of acres of natural habitat have been restored and cultural resources preserved; stewardship programs are reaching diverse audiences and underserved youth and families. A “community trailheads” program provides links to new audiences in city neighborhoods and is ready for expansion. And a new urban campground will be revitalized to provide outdoor experiences and nature education for underserved youth—offering their first national park experience.

The “Signature Project” funding identified would: 1) implement the revitalization of the park’s Coastal Trail and connector trails; 2) restore habitat and protect cultural resources along the entire corridor; and 3) link the program to youth and volunteer stewardship programs such as Urban Trailblazers, Teens on Trails and a new Trail Keepers program. With this combination of elements, the initiative fulfills the signature project goal “to help prepare the national parks for another century of conservation, preservation and enjoyment.” The trail systems are being revitalized in a manner to sustain them into the future—with the latest standards of trail restoration and resource conservation. The volunteer stewardship program, Trail Keepers, is gaining enrollment and effectiveness. An endowment is planned for the future of this initiative.

Donors and volunteers are at the ready to take this initiative to a new level of success and make this pilot program a sustainable effort of public engagement, outreach and park stewardship.

This initiative can deliver a promising and early success with record milestones and outcomes within a three year period and would address habitat restoration, pre-design, design and construction of key trails along the 17-mile, California Coastal trail and its connections in each of the three counties surrounding the park, San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin.

Potential Partner(s)

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy is the official partner in this initiative. The Conservancy is working directly with the National Park Service, Presidio Trust and local schools, volunteer organizations and community groups in fulfilling the goals of this initiative.

Estimated Costs

- NPS Share..... \$6.864 million
- Partner Share..... \$6.864 million

TOTAL Cost\$13.728 million

Anticipated Timeframe

Project Status:

This project is ready to go with virtually all necessary approvals in place, plans approved, construction documents ready, volunteers engaged, donors at the ready.

Group volunteers through the Trails Forever Program are helping maintain the park’s trail at Sutro Baths.