

Families should have priority over native plants.

The NAP (Natural Areas Program) puts the desire of a few to re-create San Francisco's landscape of 150 years ago ahead of the Recreation and Park Department's mandate to provide recreational facilities for the families of SF.

NAP claims nearly one-third of all city-managed parkland as "natural areas" although the term "unnatural areas" is really more accurate. NAP intends to destroy healthy non-native plants and trees (and animals) and replace them with native plants which have disappeared from current ecosystems because they have failed to evolve to meet the changes in our environment. NAP intends to defy nature, and so, without intensive management, these "natural areas" will fail. State Urban Forestry experts tell us "Natural Areas" should be created in small areas of undeveloped or underdeveloped SF parklands, NOT large tracts of prime recreational areas with established flora and fauna as currently proposed.

There are countless numbers of environmentalists in San Francisco who believe, for the reasons stated above, the NAP as proposed should be summarily rejected. These environmentalists have been labeled "wildlife villains" by some well-known environmental organizations who are lobbying hard for NAP. We would point out that CBD, and Brent Plater in particular, seem unable to conduct an intelligent dialogue based upon facts rather than name-calling, when a legitimate difference of opinion may exist.

The NAP Management Plan is over 700 pages long and can be referenced at: http://www.parks.sfgov.org/site/recpark_index.asp?id=1896 For a condensed version and some "straight talk" about NAP – and to submit comments via email (for those of you who may not be able to attend the meeting but would still like to comment), please visit <http://naprap.home.mindspring.com> A sample letter that you can cut and paste into an email to City officials is also included on the NAPRAP website.

Alternatively, an easy way to access the NAPRAP website is to Google NAPRAP.

“JUST SAY NO” TO THE NAP

The Recreation and Park Commission will meet in a special session to discuss the final draft Management Plan for the Natural Areas Program (NAP). This may be the last opportunity to rein in an out-of-control program:

MON, August 21 – 8:30 AM – Rm 416, City Hall

Here are just a few concerns about the NAP:

- Operated (and continues to operate) with no oversight. They do what they want without accountability to anyone.
- Tree removal — NAP has already cut down thousands of trees. NAP proposes to cut down an additional 18,400 "mature" trees (their classification for trees 15' tall or greater). There will be untold numbers of smaller, non-native trees, saplings and seedlings, destroyed in 1/3 of the public park land of San Francisco:
From their website: *"Seedling or Sapling: Young trees that are less than 15 feet tall. Seedlings and saplings are not included in the calculation of the number of trees within the Natural Areas, trees to be removed, or basal area because they are not considered trees."*
- Increased erosion
- Overuse of herbicides
- "Removal" (i.e., killing) of feral cats, and ALL OTHER non-native flora & fauna
- Restriction of park access (closure to both humans and their pets in approximately 1/3 of the S.F. park acreage)
- Little follow-up and poor maintenance
- Overall cost of the program. Since their operating funds come directly from Rec & Park budget, is it any wonder why our City parks are in such a sorry state of disrepair & neglect?
- Continues to be a HUGE waste of taxpayer's dollars (to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars).

NAP significantly decreases legal off-leash areas in City parks. This, while the number of dogs is increasing, is in direct conflict with the Dog Guardian ordinance the Supervisors passed in 2005. The ordinance requires dog guardians to provide their dogs with adequate exercise appropriate to their breed, which in some cases includes swimming. NAP eliminates all areas where dogs are allowed to swim in SF City parks.

Please, if at all possible, plan to attend the meeting and tell the Commission that you oppose the NAP Management Plan as currently proposed. Urge them to scale the program back significantly; to produce a realistic program that can succeed in the goal of preserving remnants of native plants; and demand that the commissioners adopt guidelines for real oversight of this program.

Please forward this to individuals or groups who share your love of our parks, and encourage them to attend this very important meeting.