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Ocean Beach Fire Program

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To address the persistent unsafe conditions stemming from recreational fires on Ocean Beach, the National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to implement:

- Permit System (Public would be required to obtain a permit to have a fire on Ocean Beach)
- Winter No Fire Period (No Fires on Ocean Beach during Winter Burn Period as per recommend by the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Air Quality Management District Spare the Air Program)

Following a reassessment of the program and implementation of the Revised Pilot Program in 2014, the NPS still has ongoing concerns regarding the fire program. To address these concerns and gain better compliance to the fire burning rules at Ocean Beach, the NPS is proposing to implement a permit system. The National Park Service (NPS) strives to maintain a clean and safe beach for all visitors while allowing for this recreational activity.

In addition, the NPS is proposing a "No Burn" period during the winter months (November 1 to February 28). This is a request made to the NPS from the San Francisco Bay Area Air Quality Management District as part of their Spare the Air program.

The City and County of San Francisco has obtained funding to support NPS management of the fire program at Ocean Beach. The scope of this support has not yet been defined.

NPS proposes to pilot these changes for 3 years using adaptive management practices.

On the evening of Thursday, September 24, the NPS hosted a public meeting (see Meeting Notices to the left under Project Links) to provide additional details on the proposed changes to the fire program. Please see the Document List link to the left under Project Links for a document that provides an overview of the proposed changes.

Based on input from the September 24 public meeting and stakeholder involvement, the NPS will formally propose the fire program changes the week of September 28. The proposed changes will be open for public review and comment for 30 days. After public review and comment the NPS will take into consideration public comments and make a final decision.

Contact Information

Questions regarding the proposed program can be sent to:


goga_planning@nps.gov



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Plan Process

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Following a reassessment of the Ocean Beach fire program and implementation of the Revised Pilot Program in 2014, a final public meeting was held on February 5th. Since that time the NPS has been working on developing the next steps for the Ocean Beach fire program.

On the evening of Thursday, September 24, the NPS hosted a public meeting (see Meeting Notices to the left under Project Links) to provide additional details on the proposed changes to the fire program. Following the public meeting a draft proposal and environmental document will be released to the public for a 30 day period of formal review and comment. At the end of 30 days, comments will be analyzed and a final plan and decision document will be prepared for signature by the park Superintendent and then released to the public. Upon the completion of the steps below, the final plan will be implemented.

* indicates the current step in the planning process

Step 1. Define purpose and need

Step 2. Develop proposed action

Step 3. Conduct external scoping and targeted outreach

Step 4. Refine proposed action and identify environmental impacts *

Step 5. Prepare draft environmental document

Step 6. Public review of draft environmental document

Step 7. Analysis of public comment

Step 8. Prepare final plan/decision document

Step 9. Release final plan/decision document to the public


Step 10. Implementation of final plan/decision



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Meeting Notices

[Golden Gate National Recreation Area](#) » [Ocean Beach Fire Program](#)

Public Scoping Meeting

Date	Start Time	End Time	Location
09/24/2015	6:00 PM	8:30 PM	County Fair Building Auditorium, Golden Gate Park 1199 9th Ave San Francisco, California 94122

We hope you can attend this public meeting, the doors will open at 6:00pm, and the presentation will begin at 6:30pm. For questions on any of the meeting topics email goga_planning@nps.gov.

Description:

Since our last public meeting on February 5th, we have been working on developing the next steps for the Ocean Beach fire program. As discussed in February, key elements of the proposed program include a permit system for beach fires, as well as a seasonal restriction on fires, to coincide with the Winter Spare the Air Season as defined by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Additionally, with the leadership of San Francisco Supervisor Eric Mar, great progress has been made on a partnership between NPS and the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to help assure the feasibility and sustainability of the beach fire program.

On the evening of Thursday, September 24, NPS will host a public meeting to provide additional details on the permit system and proposed seasonal restriction of beach fires. Please see the Document List link to the left under Project Links for a document that details the proposed changes.

Meeting Directions/Instructions:

URL/Webinar link:

<http://sfrecpark.org/destination/golden-gate-park/county-fair-building/>


Enter your starting address to get directions from Google Maps.



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Links

[Golden Gate National Recreation Area » Ocean Beach Fire Program](#)

Click on the links below for additional park/project information.

- [2014 Ocean Beach Fire Revised Pilot Program](#)
- [Current GGNRA Beach Fire and Campfire Regulations](#)
- [GGNRA Public Involvement Opportunities](#)

Note: Some of the files may be in PDF format and can be viewed using the Adobe Acrobat Reader software.


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Document List

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Select a document to review or comment:

-  [Proposed Fire Permit System Outline](#)
-  [9/24/15 Public Meeting Presentation](#)



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Proposed Fire Permit System Outline

In order to correct the issues and concerns associated with recreational fires at Ocean Beach the NPS proposes to implement the fire permit system outlined below. The permit system and associated changes would be evaluated periodically and communicated with the public.



Document Content:

 [Ocean Beach Fire Program Outline - September 2015.pdf](#) (124.1 KB, PDF file)

Disclaimer: Links within the above document(s) were valid as of the date published.

Note: Some of the files may be in PDF format and can be viewed using the Adobe Acrobat Reader software.

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GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Ocean Beach Fire Program

September 2015



In order to correct the issues and concerns associated with recreational fires at Ocean Beach the NPS proposes to implement the fire permit system outlined below. The permit system and associated changes would be evaluated periodically and communicated with the public.

Information on the Ocean Beach Fire Program proposal and the public review and comment period can be found at: parkplanning.nps.gov/OBfireprogram

The program would consist of the following main components:

1. Permit Reservation System


- Would use the Recreation.gov system and be compatible with mobile devices
- Could be obtained online or over the phone through the call center
- Would be available for two time periods daily, from 10am-3pm and 4pm-9pm
- Would cost between \$25 and \$35
- Permits would be made available up to 30 days in advance, with the ability to make a reservation within a few hours prior to the permit beginning
- Draft Permit Conditions:
 - Required for all fire pits at all times
 - Group size would be limited to 25 persons, with larger groups required to go through the existing Special Use Permit (SUP) process
 - Non-transferable
 - Permit holder would be required to be present at all times
 - Minimum required age for permit signatory would be 18 years old
 - Security deposits would not be required; however, full permit cost would be due upon reservation
 - Existing permits would be cancelled and no further permits made available if a Spare the Air Day is in effect
 - Per Recreation.gov refund policy, while permit cost would be refunded upon cancellation, processing fees would not be refunded

2. City and County of San Francisco Support

- Thanks to the support of Supervisor Eric Mar, an allocation of \$185,000 has been given to San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department in the FY15-16 budget to support the beach fire program
- Will provide support for necessary maintenance, trash removal, and cleaning associated with the fires as well as outreach and education

3. Seasonal Restriction

- Beach fires would not be permitted from November through February
- During Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Winter Spare the Air Season
- Would also allow the park to marshal limited resources and properly evaluate results
- Allows for a comprehensive cleaning of the beach
- Would lessen overall environmental impact of beach fires on the beach ecosystem and air quality
- Improves health and wellness of employees who maintain and enforce the beach fire program



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9/24/15 Public Meeting Presentation

These slides were presented at the September 24, 2015 public meeting discussion and listening session held at the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA.



Document Content:

 [Ocean Beach Fire Program Public Meeting Presentation 092415.pdf](#) (1004.8 KB, PDF file)

Disclaimer: Links within the above document(s) were valid as of the date published.

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Ocean Beach Fires

September 24, 2015



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Background

1972

- Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) established
- National Park Service (NPS) inherits custom of fires on Ocean Beach

1983

- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 36 §2.13(a)(1)
- Superintendent designates Ocean Beach for fires

2002

- City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) passes resolution 001-02
- Requests NPS/GGNRA create an effective system that reduces fires' impacts

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Background

2004

2005-06

2007

- NPS limits fires to area between stairwells 15-28
- Continue to see large amounts of trash and debris
- NPS proposes banning fires
- Extensive feedback asks NPS to reconsider
- NPS institutes 1-year Pilot
- Limits fires to pits
- 10pm curfew
- Collaboration with community partners

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Background

2013

- NPS reviews pilot program successes, opportunities, issues and sustainability

2014

- NPS implements a Revised Pilot Program with new rings, 9pm curfew, new signage, public outreach and monitors results
- Unable to address core concerns

2015

- Feb: NPS presents pilot results and proposes concepts for the future including permits, rest period, city partnership, and receives feedback
- Sept: NPS presents more detailed proposal for feedback and implementation

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Purpose & Need

- NPS and CCSF wants to develop a safe, manageable, and sustainable Ocean Beach Fire Program
- 2007 and 2014 Pilot programs were unsuccessful in addressing significant program issues. In summer 2014:
 - Almost 4,000 violations observed
 - Most common types of hazardous materials and debris were present between 50-90% of mornings

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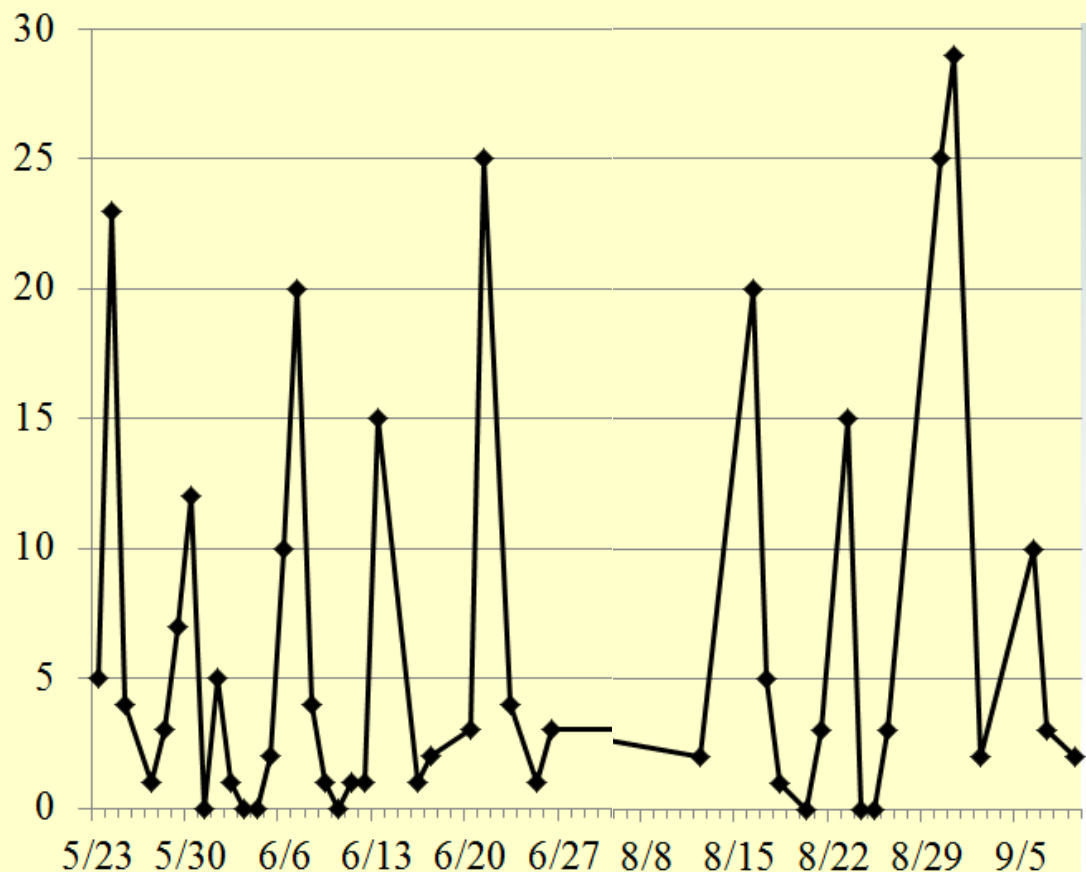


2014 Pilot Program

n = 48

Fires outside of rings

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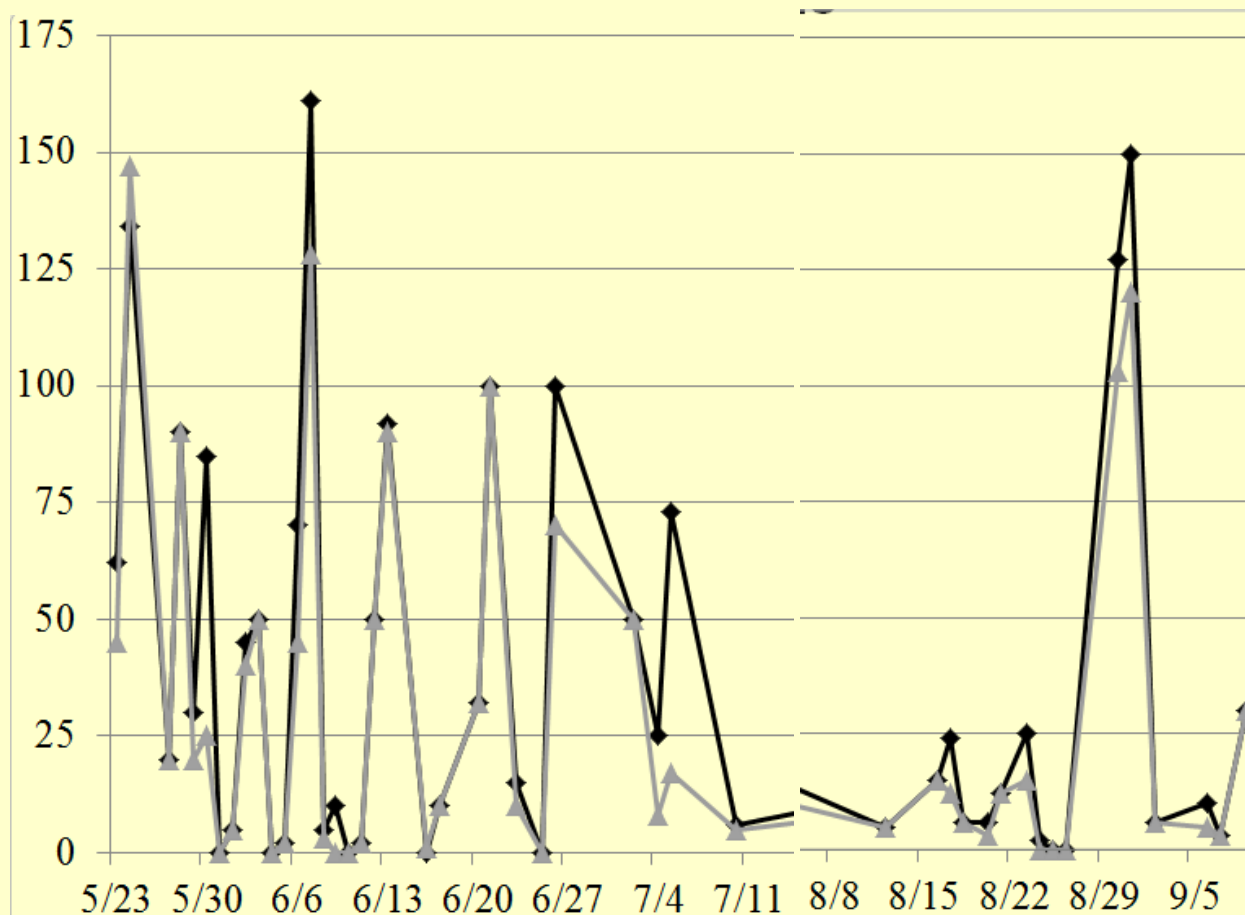
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2014 Pilot Program Alcohol & Glass Violations

n = 48

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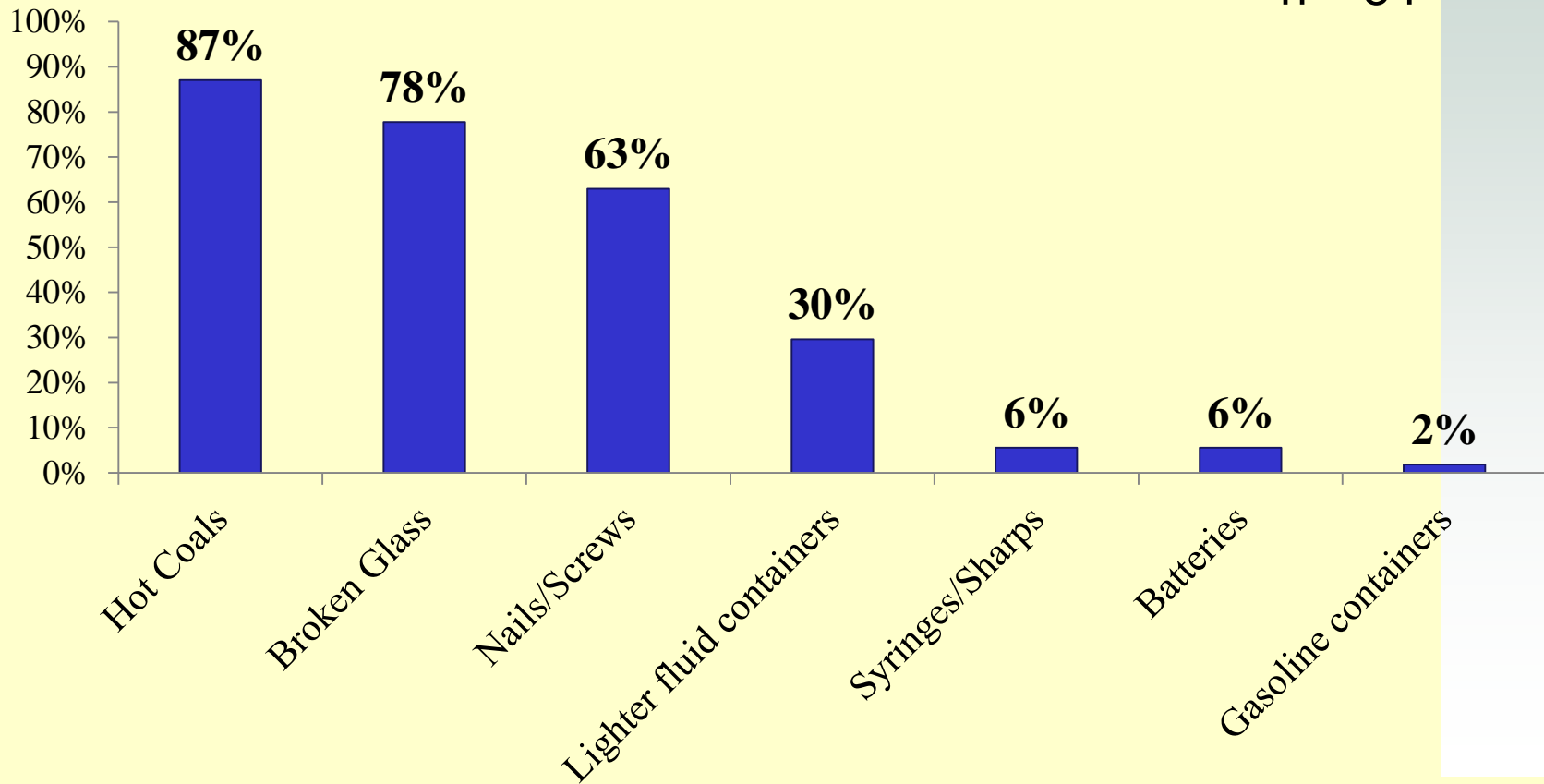
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2014 Pilot Program

Percentage of Times Items were Present Next Morning
Hazardous Materials n = 54



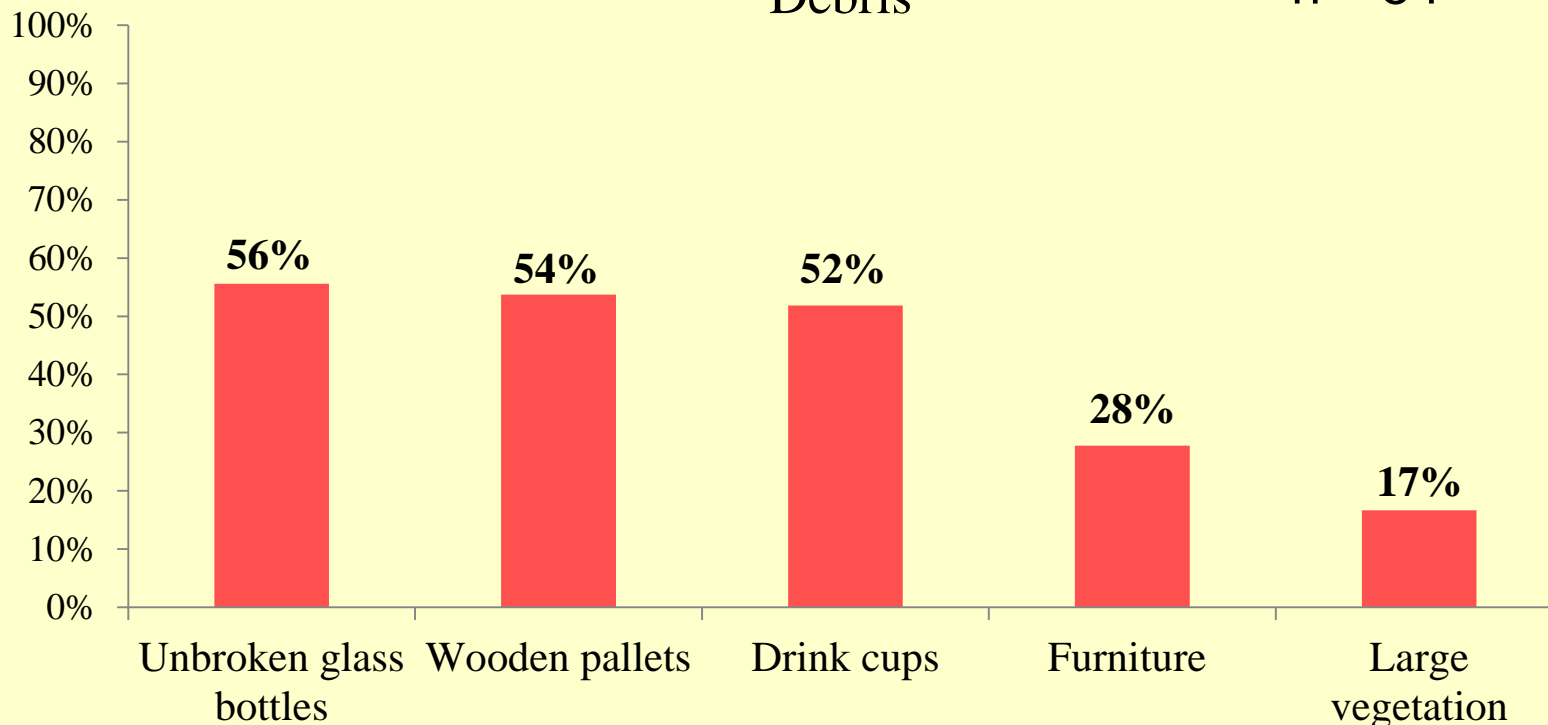
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2014 Pilot Program

Percentage of Times Items were Present Next
Morning
Debris n = 54





A Sustainable Program

- A reasonable level of maintenance required to keep the pits in good order; allows NPS to complete other important tasks in maintenance of Ocean Beach corridor
- Compliance with rules so that significant enforcement resources are not diverted from other issues of life and safety - officer and public not placed in risky situations
- Users take personal responsibility including planning appropriately for the materials to burn and a “leave better than you found” mentality
- Creating a community that will care for and share the Ocean Beach Fire experience, as well as its associated opportunities and effects



New Ocean Beach Fire Program Elements

1. Permit system
2. Winter rest period
3. San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department partnership
4. New pits and signage

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1. Permit System

- Required for every fire
- Available through "Recreation.gov"
- Obtained on web, mobile application or over the phone
- 12 fire rings available either 10am-3pm and 4pm-9pm
- Reserved up to 30 days or a few hours in advance
- Up to 25 people per pit/permit
- Permit holder is 18 years or older, agrees to rules, terms and conditions, and must be present
- Canceled permits receive partial refund
- \$25-35 ~ \$1-5 per person





2. Winter Rest Period

- Fires would not be allowed
- November through February
 - Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Winter Spare the Air Season
 - Existing lower demand period
- Improves financial feasibility
 - Enable more success during peak periods by reducing investment in non-peak
- Reduce overall impacts of beach fires
 - Allow for comprehensive cleaning
- Enable evaluation and program adjustment
- Provide employee for health and wellness

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3. NPS and CCSF Partnership

- Allocation of \$185,000
- San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department in the FY15-16 budget
- Support for
 - Maintenance, trash removal, and cleaning associated with the fires
 - Public outreach & education

Supervisor Eric Mar
District 1



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4. Replaced Pits and Signage

- 12 redesigned fire rings
 - Heat & corrosion resistant
 - Integrated signage

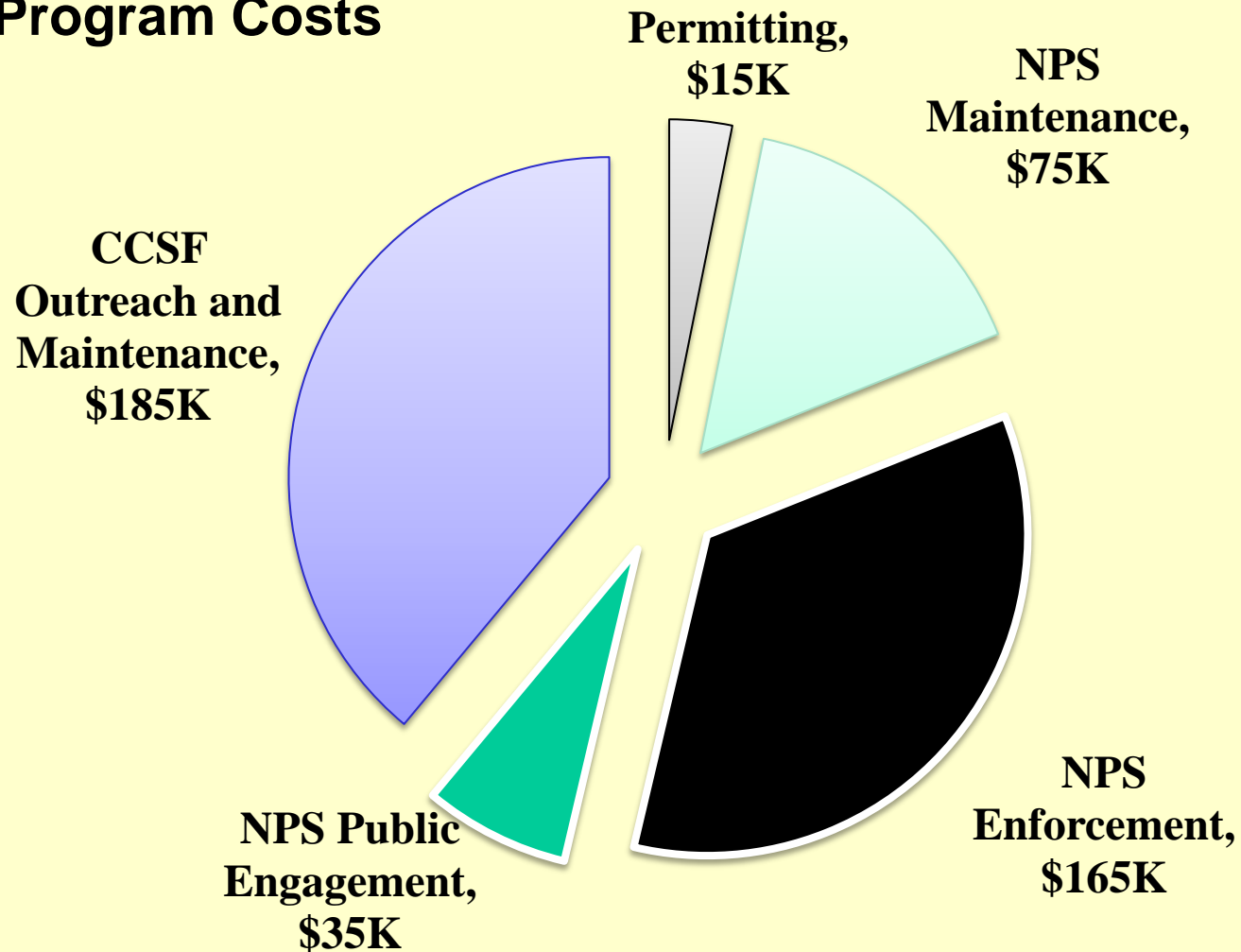


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Program Costs



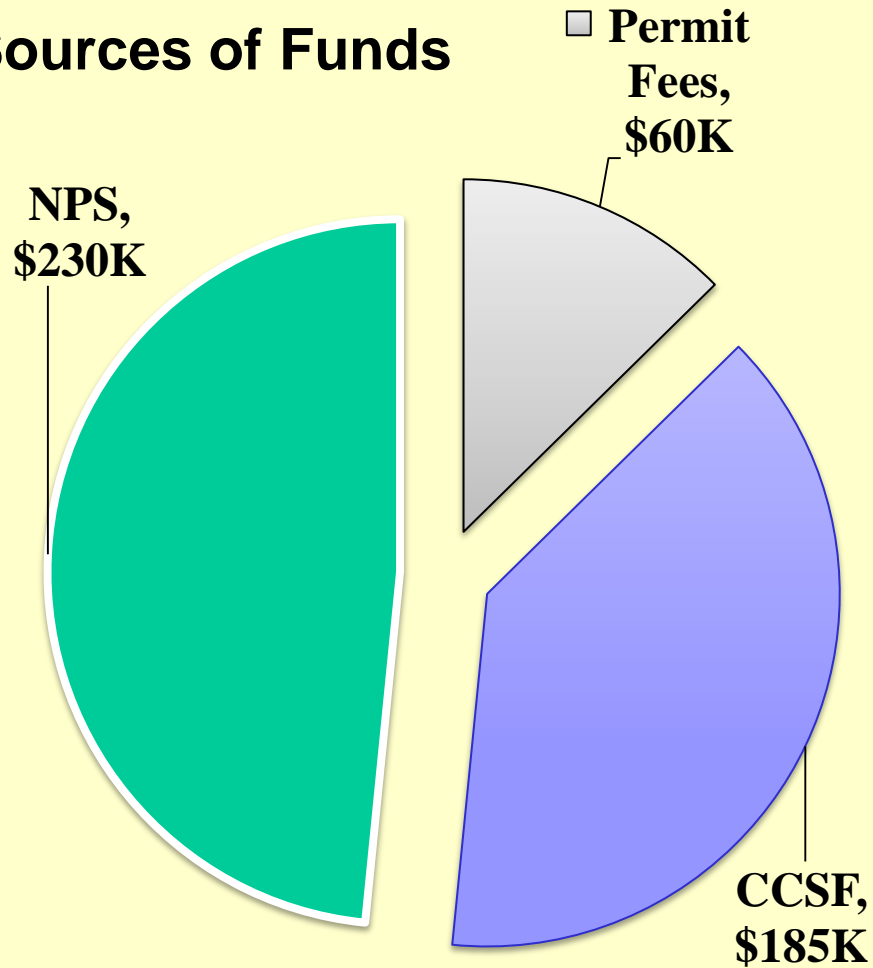
*Rough
Estimates*

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Sources of Funds



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Program Evaluation and Improvement

- Data collection & monitoring program similar to the 2014 Revised Pilot Program
 - Law Enforcement (evenings)
 - Maintenance (mornings)
- Rest period provides ideal opportunity for synthesis, review, and analysis
- Annual program review
- Annual public discussion and feedback

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Next Steps

- Based on input from this meeting and other stakeholders the NPS will formally propose the fire program changes in early October
- The proposed changes will be open for public review and comment for 30 days:
parkplanning.nps.gov/OBfireprogram
- After public review and comment the NPS will take into consideration public comments and make a final decision

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Question & Answer Panel

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Small Group Discussions



Closing Remarks

Latest information:
parkplaning.nps.gov/OBfireprogram