

A Year of Hardship – A Year of Hope

December 18, 2020

Dear Parks Conservancy Staff,

You have persevered through a year that has been like no other. You have provided people with inspiration at a time that was difficult to endure. You have stewarded lands and resources that brought great comfort and solace for the people who visited them.

Throughout the year, as trustees, we savored the opportunity to hear from some of you in board meetings, see you at park chats, exchange ideas during strategy focus groups, or even chance upon each other on a trail. Each time, we knew that you were bravely facing the hardships of being without colleagues who were furloughed and facing your own challenges as pay and hours were reduced.

You are making it possible to see the Parks Conservancy through to the other side of this harsh time, and your devotion and creativity bring every one of us great hope. Thank you for delivering the excellence that is your hallmark to new virtual programs, engagement activities for kids and families, StoryWalks to enjoy the outdoors, and to welcoming visitors at Muir Woods, the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz Island.

We admire and appreciate your devotion to further evolving the Parks Conservancy into an organization that rises to the challenges of today's social and civil questions. Sharing spaces and experiences in America's national parks – the most democratic of ideas – is where free expression and our history come together. We can be proud of the legacy that these lands recall while also revealing the untold stories of colonization's effect on the people indigenous to these places. You are leading us in being able to learn what must be different in order for the future to be equitable for all.

We know that the Parks Conservancy will continue to face challenging times in 2021 and applaud your focus in completing a terrific new strategic plan that can truly guide the way. Thank you for your resilience and devotion to a future where all people can find peace, joy and inspiration.

Very Sincerely on Behalf of the Board of Trustees, we wish you the best this holiday season.

Colin Lind, Chair
Board of Trustees
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy