Frank Dean  
President & CEO  
Yosemite Conservancy

Frank became president of Yosemite Conservancy in 2015 after nearly six successful years as superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Since then, he has overseen the completion of noteworthy projects to benefit Yosemite National Park, including the Conservancy’s successful $20 million fundraising campaign to restore the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and the addition of 400-acre Ackerson Meadow, a once privately owned area of vital habitat that was purchased and donated to the park in 2016.

From 2009 to 2015, he directed operations and was instrumental with improving park partnerships at the GGNRA, which is one of the largest national parks in an urban area and includes renowned visitor destinations such as Muir Woods, Alcatraz Island, Marin Headlands and Crissy Field. Frank worked hand-in-hand with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the Presidio Trust to conserve and improve the GGNRA.

Among his many accomplishments, Frank fostered an innovative partnership with the Golden Gate Bridge District and the Parks Conservancy to provide modern visitor facilities at the iconic bridge, initiated a new multiple agency and nonprofit partnership to protect the Mt. Tamalpais ecosystem, initiated an innovative visitor reservation system at the popular Muir Woods, and established a major capital program to preserve facilities on Alcatraz.

Prior to serving at the GGNRA, Frank was superintendent of Saratoga National Historical Park and assistant superintendent at Point Reyes National Seashore. He was also a park ranger in Yosemite, Sequoia and Grand Canyon national parks.

Frank serves on the board of the National Park Service Friends Alliance, and just completed his service as a board member of SPUR in San Francisco. He received the Silver Trowel Partnership Award from Slide Ranch in 2014, and the Courageous Park Superintendent Award in 2015.

Frank earned a bachelor’s degree from San Francisco State University in Geography and a Master of Public Administration from the University of San Francisco. He lives in Sonoma County, California with his wife Diane and their two children.

About Yosemite Conservancy

Yosemite Conservancy inspires people to support projects and programs that preserve Yosemite National Park and enrich the visitor experience. Thanks to generous donors, the Conservancy has provided $119 million in grants to the park to restore trails and habitat, protect wildlife, provide educational programs, and more. The Conservancy’s guided adventures, volunteer opportunities, wilderness services and bookstores help visitors of all ages connect with Yosemite. Learn more: yosemiteconservancy.org or 1-415-434-1782.