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National Park Service  
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Canaveral National Seashore  
Florida



# Canaveral National Seashore

General Management Plan

Fall 2003 Newsletter 1

Dear Friends,

Canaveral National Seashore is in the early stages of a process to develop a general management plan, a vision for the protection and management of the seashore for the next 15 to 20 years. As part of this process information is collected from the general public and interested parties regarding future management concerns. Some months ago we began the process by requesting your input during three public meetings and by asking for comments through a newsletter and the seashore's website.

This is our second in a series of planning newsletters and presents a summary of what we learned from you regarding resource preservation, visitor experience, and operations and facilities. This newsletter also presents draft statements that describe the purpose and significance of Canaveral National Seashore. We want to hear what you think about these statements that form one of the cornerstones guiding our planning process. Also, we want to understand what you want the seashore to be like in the future. What are your concerns, and what do you value most about the area?

I sincerely invite your participation in this planning effort. With your help we will develop a plan that will make a lasting difference in the long-term management of Canaveral National Seashore. You can participate by filling out and mailing the enclosed response form or by emailing your comments to <CANA\_gmp\_planning@nps.gov>.

We will keep you informed throughout the process with public meetings, postings on the Internet, and the draft plan. I thank those of you who have already offered comments, and I hope you will continue to share your thoughts with us throughout this planning effort. If you haven't commented yet, this is your opportunity to become involved.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

**Bob**

Bob Newkirk  
Superintendent  
Canaveral National Seashore

## WHY PREPARE A GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN?

A general management plan will define the fundamental management direction for Canaveral National Seashore for the next 15-20 years. It will focus on why the seashore was established and what resource conditions and visitor opportunities should be achieved and maintained over time. As a result, managers will be provided a framework for making decisions about resource protection, visitor use and services, and appropriate facilities at the seashore.

### The plan will

- comply with public law
- create a vision and clear direction for the seashore's future
- establish priorities for allocating funding
- achieve park goals
- exchange ideas with the public
- forge and strengthen partnerships

The general management plan also will clarify the seashore's partnership role with others in the region to provide resource protection and visitor services. Stakeholders, including other land-managing agencies and the general public, will participate in developing and articulating a direction for the seashore's future.



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## A SUMMARY OF WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU

In November 2002 the National Park Service published a newsletter and hosted public meetings with park users and neighbors to understand their ideas and concerns for Canaveral National Seashore. Below is a summary of what we learned:

### Resource Preservation

- Continue to protect and preserve the natural, archeological, and historic resources of Canaveral National Seashore
- Prevent degradation of water quality resulting from urban development
- Allow for recreational and commercial fishing, while maintaining sustainability of stocks and protecting nursery habitats
- Protect habitats for birds, wildlife, and manatees
- Protect and manage areas used for nesting by sea turtles and shorebirds
- Use fire management to control exotic species and improve habitat conditions

The National Park Service partners with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in managing portions of federal lands on and near NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The Fish and Wildlife Service currently is undergoing a planning process to produce a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) that will provide long-range guidance and management direction for Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge for the next 15 years. As with the seashore's general management plan, the CCP will outline a vision for desired conditions in the refuge and present strategies for achieving those conditions. For additional information on this planning process, visit the refuge's website at [merittisland.fws.gov](http://merittisland.fws.gov) or contact 321-861-2368.

## STEPS FOR COMPLETING THE GMP

The chart below outlines the steps for preparing the draft general management plan / environmental impact statement and a final plan for Canaveral National Seashore. The highlighted area is where we are now. For this step of the project, we hope you will give us your input by mailing the response form or sending an email.

	<i>Step</i>	<i>Planning Activity</i>	<i>Public Participation Opportunity</i>
	<b>1</b>	<b><i>Initiate Project</i></b> The planning team assembles, begins to identify the project's scope and issues, and customizes the planning process.	
<b>We Are Here</b>	<b>2</b>	<b><i>Define Planning Context and Foundation</i></b> Based on the seashore's enabling legislation, the team examines WHY the park was established and affirms the significance statements. Team members collect and analyze relevant data and public comments.	Read the newsletter and send us comments. Help us build a mailing list.
	<b>3</b>	<b><i>Develop and Evaluate Alternatives</i></b> Using staff and public input, the team explores WHAT the seashore should look like in the future and proposes a range of reasonable alternatives for achieving desired conditions.	Read the newsletter and send us comments. Come to public meetings.
	<b>4</b>	<b><i>Prepare a Draft Document</i></b> A draft general management plan /environmental impact statement is published. The draft document describes the alternatives and the impacts of implementing each. Based on the impacts and public input, a preferred alternative is identified in the document.	Read the draft plan and send us your ideas and comments. Come to public meetings.
	<b>5</b>	<b><i>Publish Final Document</i></b> Based on review by the National Park Service and the public, the team revises the general management plan/environmental impact statement and distributes a final plan. The plan is approved in a published Record of Decision.	Read the final plan, including National Park Service responses to substantive public comments and official letters.
	<b>6</b>	<b><i>Implement the Approved Plan</i></b> After the Record of Decision is issued, and as funding allows, the general management plan is implemented	Stay involved throughout the implementation of the approved plan.