

Fire Island National Seashore General Management Plan

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Project Schedule

Year	GMP Milestones		
2006	**Project / Public Scoping**	Public Outreach	Research, Data Collection & Analysis
2007	Park Purpose, Significance and Themes	Public Outreach	Park Goals
2008	**Alternatives Development**	Public Outreach	Draft GMP/EIS — Internal Review
2009	Draft GMP/EIS Prepared for Publication	Public Outreach	**Draft GMP/EIS — Public Review**
2010	Final GMP/EIS	Public Outreach	Record of Decision (Spring 2010)

**** Opportunities for Public Participation****

Updated September 2007

Planning for the 21st Century

The National Park Service is preparing a new general management plan (GMP) for Fire Island National Seashore. The GMP, which will take about four years to complete, will lay out a vision for the future of the park and provide guidance for park management over the next 15 to 20 years. A new plan is needed to address a variety of new management issues that have emerged since the current plan was completed in 1977. The GMP will look at a full range of topics -- protecting resources, serving the public, and operating and maintaining the seashore's facilities and programs.

Your Participation in Fire Island's Planning Process is Important

Throughout the planning process we will seek public input and issue periodic newsletters and other correspondence to keep you informed as the planning process unfolds. We encourage you to share your ideas and concerns with us. Call, send a fax, write a letter, or e-mail your thoughts and suggestions to the planning team. Please include your name and address so we can stay in touch and keep you informed.

Send your comments to:

Superintendent
Fire Island National Seashore
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, NY 11772
Phone: 631.687.4750
Fax: 631.289.4898
E-mail: fire_island_gmp@nps.gov
Website: www.nps.gov/fiis

Description of Planning Milestones

These milestones represent the steps taken in the National Park Service's General Management Planning Process. The National Park Service's Director's Orders 2 (DO-2), entitled "Park Planning," provides overarching guidance on the content and preparation of these plans. At every stage of the planning process, the planning team will share information with the public and provide opportunities for direct public participation.

The planning process will be carried out by NPS planning and technical professionals, park staff, and private consultants.

Project /Public Scoping – Issues and opportunities to be addressed in the plan are identified by reviewing the current state of the park and through seeking input from the general public, key stakeholders, and other interested organizations and individuals.

Research, Data Collection & Analysis – Existing research and documentation regarding the park is reviewed; and data collection and analysis is undertaken as needed to address information gaps.

Park Purpose, Significance and Themes – The park's purpose relative to the intent of Congress and the park's national significance within the context of the National Park System are defined by the planning team. The understanding of the park's purpose and significance is an essential building block for park planning. Based on these statements, the planning team will also identify the park's primary interpretive themes—the stories that are central to conveying the park's significance. Taken together, these statements form the park's *Foundation for Planning* and will influence the definition of park priorities and management direction.

Park Goals – Statements that articulate the ideal conditions that park managers would strive to attain in perpetuity are developed by the planning team.

Alternatives Development – A range of feasible alternatives that address the pursuit of park goals will be developed. Planning alternatives often are developed in stages, beginning with broad management concepts (often referred to as *preliminary alternatives*) that are built upon with increasingly more detail to arrive at the fully developed management alternatives that will appear in the draft GMP.

The proposed management alternatives are subjected to extensive internal review and made available for public comment. A preliminary environmental analysis is also prepared. The planning team refines alternatives based on the outcome of internal and public reviews as well as the results of the impact analysis.

Draft General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) – The draft GMP/EIS is a complex document addressing the purpose and need for the plan, and describing the planning issues, existing conditions at the park (Affected Environment), the proposed alternatives, and their environmental impacts. The draft GMP/EIS must go through intensive internal review at the regional and national agency level before it can be released for public review.

Draft GMP/EIS — Public Review – The full draft GMP/EIS will be made available for public review for 60 days. During this time, formal public meetings will be held to accept comments from the public. After completing public review of the draft, the planning team will review the entire body of comments received and make any final changes to the plan. The team will also develop a formal document responding to substantive comments received during public review.

Final GMP/EIS – The final GMP/EIS will be released for final public review. The time allotted for this public review is referred to as the "No Action Period" and usually lasts 30 days. It offers the public a final opportunity to air their views before any further action is taken.

Record of Decision – Upon completion of the No Action period, the superintendent will make the final recommendation for the plan's approval. The approving official for Fire Island's general management plan will be the National Park Service's Northeast Regional Director. The document that formally concludes this process is called a "Record of Decision" (ROD). As its name implies, a Record of Decision documents the agency's final decision.