



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore



Dear Friends:

You are invited to participate in the planning and preservation of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Wisconsin. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore protects unique resources, islands, forests, wildlife and other natural features, safeguards and interprets the area’s cultural history, and provides for public education, appreciation, and the recreational use and enjoyment of these resources.

The current General Management Plan for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore was completed in 1989. With major changes in visitor use patterns, new developments such as the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, and the potential changes resulting from the recent wilderness study, this plan is outdated.

This year we will begin to develop a new general management plan to set long-term directions for the overall management and development of the park for the next 15 to 20 years. The new plan will help us make decisions on the direction of resource management, visitor use and interpretation, and facilities management. The plan should be completed in the next four years.

We are looking forward to working with you to craft a general management plan that will capture the connections visitors have had with the Apostle Islands over the years and that will continue to protect and enhance the park’s resources and visitor experiences. We hope you will join us to express your thoughts, ideas, and vision so that together we can make Apostle Islands National Lakeshore a wonderful resource for the future.

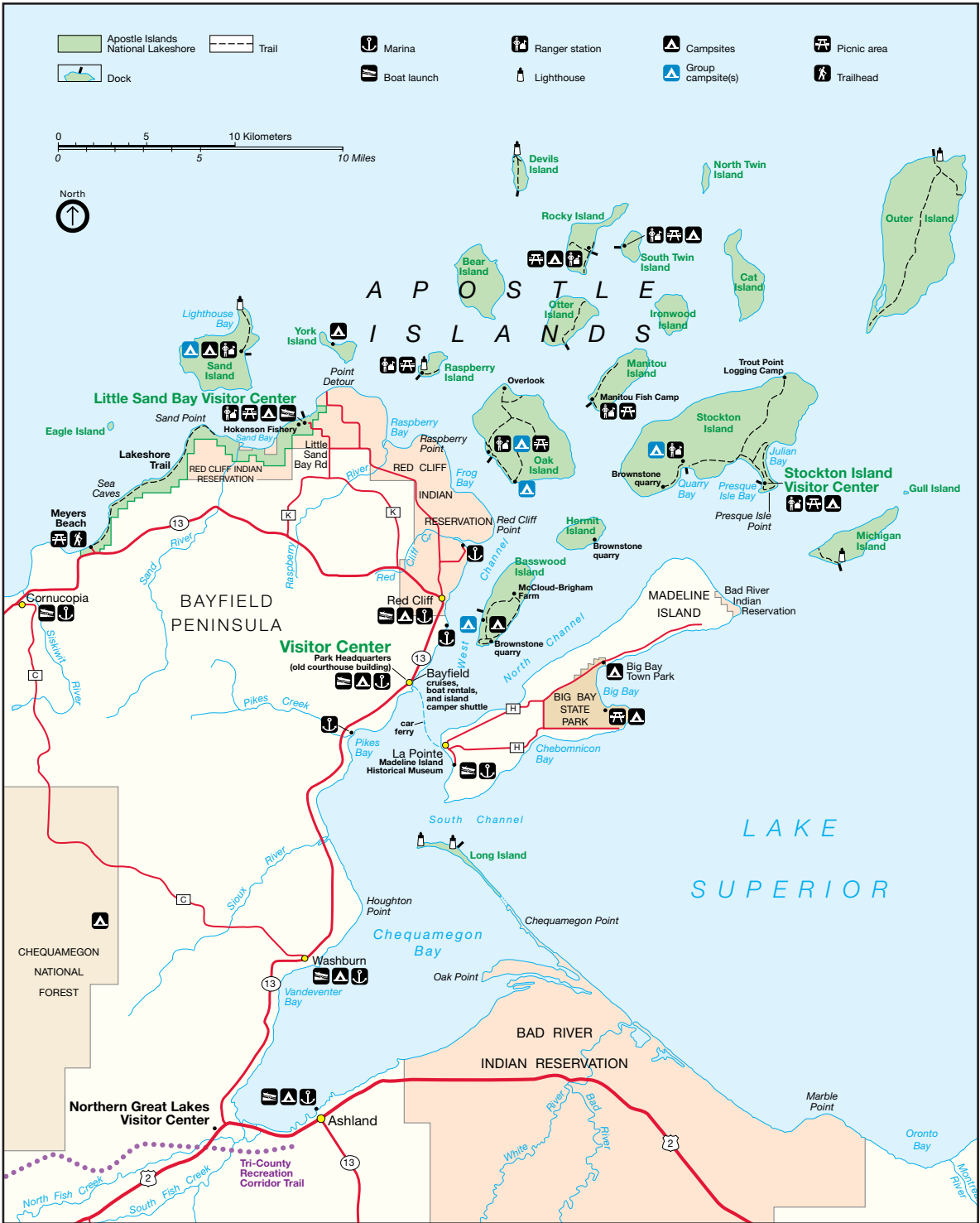
Bob Krumenaker
Park Superintendent, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

What is a General Management Plan?

General management plans identify the overall direction for the future management of units of the National Park Service (NPS) and other agencies. Such plans take a long-range, broad, conceptual view, answering the question “what kind of place do we want this area to be?” General management plans provide a framework for managers to use in making decisions about such issues as how best to protect resources, what levels and types of uses are appropriate, what facilities should be developed, and how people should gain access to the park. All concepts, strategies, and actions in a general management plan must be consistent with the reasons for the area’s establishment—its purpose, significance, and mission. Federal legislation, such as the National Park Service Organic Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, and NPS policies also direct what the plan can and cannot consider.

The *Apostle Islands General Management Plan* will not resolve all the issues facing the park, provide detailed facility designs and management actions, or guarantee funding. Rather, this plan will describe the general path the National Park Service intends to follow in managing Apostle Islands National Lakeshore over the next 15 to 20 years. The plan will identify desired resource conditions and visitor experiences that would be appropriate for each part of the park and the strategies for achieving those conditions. It also will identify general locations where certain types of development would be appropriate and other areas where it would not be appropriate. Specific questions regarding how these desired conditions will be achieved will be answered in new or revised implementation plans, such as resource stewardship plans and wilderness/backcountry management plans that will be prepared after the *General Management Plan* is completed and approved.

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and NPS policy, the *General Management Plan* will be combined with an environmental impact statement. *The Apostle Islands General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* will identify significant issues and concerns, present a reasonable range of management alternatives, and analyze the environmental consequences of each of the alternatives.



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How to be Involved

You are encouraged to respond to the questions on the enclosed card via the National Park Service’s Planning, Environment and Public Comment system which is accessible at <http://www.nps.gov/apis/gmp.htm>. If you do not have internet service, please feel free to fill in your responses on the postage-paid form, fold and tape it, and drop it in a mailbox. All planning newsletters will also be posted on this website.

If you live in the region, there will be five public open houses the week October 18, 2004.

Schedule

	Planning Activity	Dates	Public Involvement Opportunities
1	Set the stage for planning: Reaffirm purpose, significance, and mission of the park; determine issues and concerns	Fall 2004 to Winter 2004	Attend public meetings and voice your concerns.
2	Develop preliminary management alternatives: Identify a range of reasonable alternatives for the park’s future, assess their effects, analyze public reactions, and select a preferred alternative	Spring 2005 to Fall 2005	Provide comments on the initial alternatives by using a response form. Attend public meetings and provide comments.
3	Prepare and publish Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement: Prepare draft describing the planning, alternatives, and impacts; distribute to the public	Fall 2005 to Fall 2006	Provide written comments on the draft document. Attend public meetings and provide comments.
4	Revise and publish Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement: Analyze comments, prepare responses to comments, revise draft document, distribute to the public	Fall 2006 to Fall 2007	
5	Implement the approved plan: Prepare and issue Record of Decision and implement plan as funding allows	Winter 2007 and beyond	Stay involved throughout the implementation of the approved plan.

A Public Planning Effort

We welcome your comments and suggestions and hope to see you at one of the meetings listed below. There will be a brief presentation at the beginning of each meeting.	
Monday October, 18, 2004 6:00- 8:00 PM	Apostle Islands Visitor Center Bayfield, Wisconsin
Tuesday October, 19, 2004 6:00 - 8:00 PM	Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center Ashland, Wisconsin
Wednesday October 20, 2004 6:00 -8:00 PM	Crown Plaza Hotel 4402 East Washington Ave. Madison, Wisconsin
Thursday October 21, 2004 6:00-8:00 PM	Four Points Sheraton Capitol Hotel 400 Hamline Avenue North St. Paul, Minnesota
Friday, October 22, 2004 4:00-6:00 PM	Holiday Inn Downtown 200 West 1st Street Duluth, Minnesota