



Extension of Paseo del Morro

Dear Friends,

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Municipality of San Juan, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, plan to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate options and potential impacts of extending the Paseo del Morro National Recreational Trail from its current end at Castillo San Felipe del Morro to the Lomita de los Vientos area, near Fort El Abanico at Castillo San Cristóbal. The extension of the Paseo will involve construction on areas that are not within the boundaries of the San Juan NHS and under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Municipality of San Juan. The park and the Municipality, with the assistance of the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA), have already conducted meetings with the residents of La Perla and other interested parties to insure that their needs are considered as we evaluate the potential effects of the extension of the Paseo through the La Perla community.

The extension of the Paseo del Morro National Recreational Trail was first proposed by the National Park Service as part of the mitigation measures taken as a result of the Morris Berman Oil Spill Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment completed in 2006. This restoration plan contemplated the extension of the recreational trail in seven phases of which two, based on the findings of the Environmental Assessment, are already completed. The next phases are covered within the scope of this Environmental Impact Statement and is the reason why the NPS and the Municipality are seeking your involvement and participation.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with information about the project and related issues and to ask for your help. This project is important for the creation of recreational, educational and access opportunities to the 1.5 million visitors who visit San Juan National Historic Site, Old San Juan as well as the neighboring communities. The project is important to the future of the park and the old city. That is why we are seeking your input on the proposed project and the alternatives and issues to be included in the environmental impact statement. Please plan to attend public meetings on February 5, 2013 on the Community Center at the La Perla Community Center, and on February 6, 2013 at San Juan NHS Headquarters on Castillo San Cristóbal. You will have the opportunity to speak with the staff from the Municipality and the park, ask questions, and comment on this project. If you cannot attend the meeting, you may also submit comments electronically via the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> or by sending mail to:

Office of the Superintendent
San Juan National Historic Site
501 Calle Norzagaray
San Juan PR 00901

Please provide your input on or before March 15, 2013. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Walter J. Chavez,
Superintendent, San Juan National Historic Site

Project Purpose, Background and Scope

Project Purpose and Background

The existing Paseo del Morro is a National Recreational Trail located in San Juan National Historic Site at the northwestern tip of the Old San Juan Islet. It provides a waterfront route that connects important areas such as Paseo La Princesa and Puerta de San Juan. The proposed action consists of the extension of the existing Paseo from its current terminus point at the Floating Battery area to the San Juan Bautista Plaza located in front of the state Capitol.

In 1981, the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) installed a breakwater shoreline revetment to protect the historic fortifications from erosion and damage caused by the constant impact of the sea. In 1999, the tourism office proposed to the NPS and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a project to rehabilitate the shoreline and a rudimentary shoreline trail already in existence. In 2006, the NPS and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, in compliance of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Oil Pollution Act, prepared a Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment to address restoration of the natural, ecological and recreational damage caused by the T/B Morris J. Berman grounding and oil spill off the coast of San Juan, Puerto Rico, on January 7, 1994. The preferred alternative in this Environmental Assessment was the extension of Paseo del Morro National Recreational Trail in seven phases.

The NPS, the Municipality of San Juan and the Commonwealth propose to extend the Paseo del Morro over several jurisdictions to provide access to the northwest coast of the Old San Juan Islet, to create recreational public space along the corridor, protect the historic walls of Castillo San Felipe del Morro and the Santa María Magdalena de Pazzis Cemetery, and encourage visitation and tourism within the area of potential effect which include the La Perla neighborhood. The possible impacts of the project and reasonable alternatives for it need to be analyzed and assessed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Proposed Action and Alternatives

The environmental impact statement will evaluate the possible environmental effects of the proposed extension of the paseo as well as other reasonable alternatives. A range of alternatives will be considered, including a no-action alternative. At the conclusion of the process the National Park Service, the Municipality of San Juan, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will make a decision

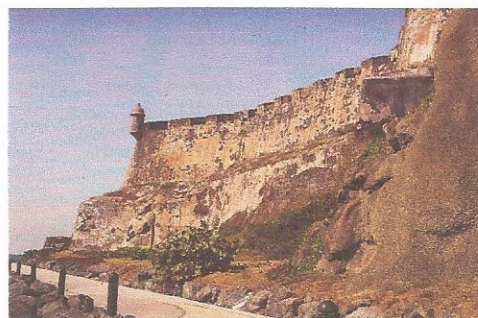
regarding the possible extension of the paseo.

Scope

This study will consider impacts on cultural and natural resources, including potential archeological sites, geologic resources, vegetation, air quality, wildlife, special status species, etc. It will also consider impacts on visitor use and experience, socioeconomic environment and, transportation.

While the Municipality of San Juan is sponsoring the study, the National Park Service is the lead on this federal action. As the lead agency, the National Park Service will have decision authority over implementation. This project will likely involve a number of agencies, jurisdictions and stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels. To develop a realistic plan, the National Park Service will seek input from other resource and technical agencies and stakeholders, included but not limited to the following:

- Municipality of San Juan
- Environmental Quality Board
- Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Institute of Puerto-Rican Culture
- Army Corp of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

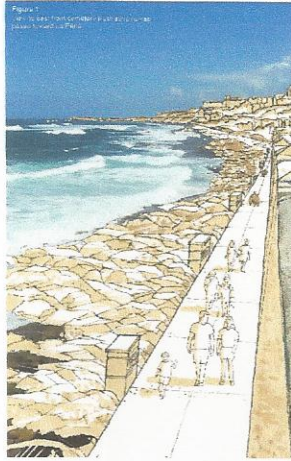


Existing Portion of Paseo del Morro near Castillo San Felipe del Morro.

We Want to Hear From You!

At this time, the Superintendent of San Juan National Historic Site is announcing a public comment period to solicit public feedback on this project. During this period the public is invited and encouraged to comment on the proposed project and identify any issues or concerns so that the National Park Service can appropriately consider them.

There are a number of ways to participate in this process and make your voice heard. You may submit your comments electronically by going to the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/saju>). From the list titled: "Current Projects" select "Environmental Impact Statement for the Paseo del Morro National Recreational Trail Extension" and finally select the link "Open for Comment". A paper copy of this newsletter may be requested by calling the park at 787-729-6777, extensions 243 and 267.



Finally, we invite you to attend the public meetings that will be held on:

February 5, 2013
Centro Comunal de La Perla (antiguo Matadero)
Comunidad de La Perla
San Juan PR, 00901

6:00-8:00 p.m.

And

February 6, 2013
Park Headquarters
San Juan National Historic Site
501 Calle Norzagaray
San Juan PR, 00901

4:00-6:00 p.m.

If you are unable to submit comments electronically, please submit written comments by March 15, 2013, to the following address:

National Park Service
San Juan National Historic Site
501 Calle Norzagaray
San Juan PR, 00901

Please contact the park at 787-729-6777, extensions 243 and 267 for any questions with regards to this matter.

Site Analysis

Introduction

As indicated in the San Juan National Historic Site Management Plan, the National Park Service is currently conducting a study to assess the feasibility of extending the Paseo del Morro National Recreational Trail. This study will evaluate the trail's current condition, identify areas for improvement, and determine the best way to extend the trail to the Atlantic Ocean. The study will also consider the impact of the trail extension on the historic site and the surrounding community.

The study will be conducted in three phases. The first phase will involve a field survey of the trail and the surrounding area. The second phase will involve a review of the trail's history and the surrounding community. The third phase will involve a final report and recommendations.

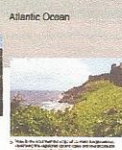
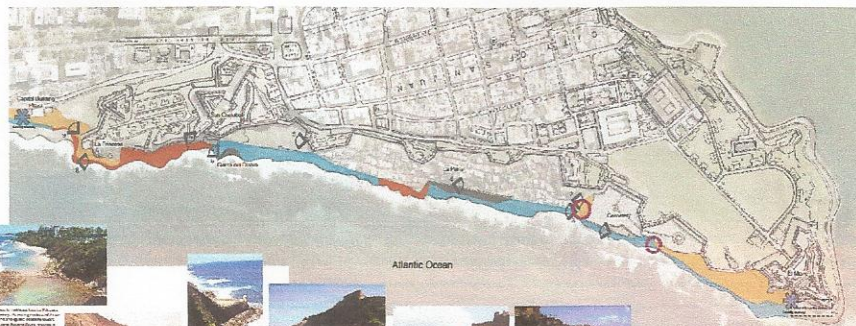
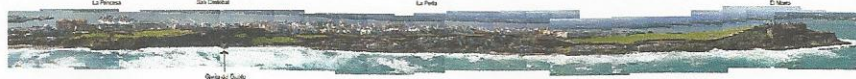
The study will be completed by the end of the year. The results of the study will be used to develop a plan for the trail extension. The plan will include a map of the trail, a description of the trail's features, and a list of recommendations for the trail's improvement.

The study will be a valuable resource for the National Park Service and the surrounding community. It will provide information about the trail's history and the surrounding community, and it will provide recommendations for the trail's improvement.

The study will be a valuable resource for the National Park Service and the surrounding community. It will provide information about the trail's history and the surrounding community, and it will provide recommendations for the trail's improvement.

The study will be a valuable resource for the National Park Service and the surrounding community. It will provide information about the trail's history and the surrounding community, and it will provide recommendations for the trail's improvement.

The study will be a valuable resource for the National Park Service and the surrounding community. It will provide information about the trail's history and the surrounding community, and it will provide recommendations for the trail's improvement.



San Juan Promenade Extension
 From El Morro to Capitol Building Plaza

San Juan National Historic Site
 National Park Service



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

San Juan National Historic Site
501 Calle Norzagaray
San Juan, PR 00901

First Class Mail
Postage and Fees
PAID
City, State
Permit Number

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Project Schedule

Steps	Planning Activity	Dates	Public/Agency Involvement Opportunities
1	Scoping: Identifying planning issues and opportunities	February 5-March 15, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend public scoping meeting• Submit written comments by March 15, 2013
2	Prepare Draft Environmental Impact Statement	March 2013-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agency and SHPO consultation
3	Public review of Draft Environmental Impact Statement	Summer 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Draft Environmental Impact Statement and provide comments to the National Park Service• Attend public meetings
4	Prepare Final EIS and Release to the Public	Fall of 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review NPS decision
5	Final Plan/EIS Completed	Early 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed plan