



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Apostle Islands  
National Lakeshore

415 Washington Avenue  
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814

715 779-3397 phone  
715 779-3049 fax

## Apostle Islands News Release

**Release date:** Immediate  
**Contact(s):** Julie Van Stappen  
**Phone number:** (715) 779-3398, x102  
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### Public Input Sought to Improve Visitor Experience and Accessibility on Sand Island

**Public Open House December 12, 2013 from 5:00-7:00 pm**

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is developing a plan/environmental assessment (EA) for Sand Island that will help implement a portion of the park's General Management Plan (GMP) and Accessibility Transition Plan. The GMP calls for increased camping opportunities; ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible trails; a day-use area; and improved docking on Sand Island. The Accessibility Transition Plan recommends replacing the dock; creating an Accessible route to the island from the dock; creating an accessible route from the public dock to the light station; and modifying one group site and one individual site to provide features of Accessibility.

#### **Consistent with the GMP and Accessibility Plan, the Sand Island Plan/EA will address:**

- **Overnight and Day Use** - Visitors are currently routed through campsites to access trails and privies. Campsite demand exceeds availability. There are no day-use areas on Sand Island.
- **ADA accessibility**. There are very few facilities on the islands that are ADA accessible. Sand Island lends itself to providing ADA facilities (e.g., boardwalks, campsites) due to its lack of topography and close proximity to the mainland.
- **Docking**. The public dock at East Bay is in very poor condition and in need of replacement. Concerns with dock location and design include: it is being undermined by stream erosion, is in shallow water, traps sand, and does not provide protection from easterly and northeasterly winds. A coastal engineering study to provide guidance on dock location and design options is nearing completion. The modeling portion of the study has been completed and found that the best location for a new public dock is just south of the NPS Quarters. The new

public dock will be built in this location under all options, however, dock design will vary between options.

Attached maps show potential options for Sand Island, focusing on East Bay. During this scoping process, we welcome your input on these options, as well as other potential ways to address the issues identified above.

A Public Open House will be held December 12, 2013 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Park Headquarters, 415 Washington Ave., Bayfield, Wisconsin. A brief presentation will be given at 5:30 pm. Background information will be provided and Park staff will be available to listen to suggestions and gather comments. If you cannot make it to the open house, comments can be submitted online or through the mail. The public scoping period is from November 25, 2013 through December 23, 2013.

Submit your comments online at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/APISSandIsland>

Or mail to: Chief, Planning and Resource Management, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, 415 Washington Ave., Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814.

We will consider your comments and prepare a draft Plan/EA that will include a range of alternatives. The draft Sand Island Plan/EA will undergo a 30-day public review period, anticipated in early 2014.