

Fort Monroe National Monument

Foundation Document

Public Comment Analysis Report

May 2012

SUMMARY

This document provides a summary of the public comments received concerning the *Foundation Document* that is currently being developed for Fort Monroe National Monument (NM). The objective of this Foundation Document is to establish the purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, interpretive themes, and future planning needs of Fort Monroe National Monument. The document serves as the foundational planning document from which the park will be developed.

Public involvement has been incorporated into the development of the Foundation Document. Information concerning how the public views Fort Monroe NM and its future was received in two ways during the official public comment period, which opened on March 28, 2012 and closed on May 4, 2012.

The first was through the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. The public was asked to share their ideas on what is most important about Fort Monroe National Monument through four topic questions. A total of 136 correspondences were received in PEPC.

In addition to comments received through PEPC, the second avenue in which the public could provide their ideas about the future of Fort Monroe NM was during three public open house sessions held on April 30, 2012. The public open house sessions were held at the Chamberline Hotel, adjacent to Fort Monroe, and were hosted by the Superintendent of Fort Monroe NM and other National Park Service staff. There were approximately 200 attendees total.

Within PEPC and during the public open house, four topic questions were presented to the public. Each question is listed below followed by a summary of the corresponding responses. Over 75% of correspondences received were from the state of Virginia. Over 4% were from Maryland, just under 3% from Florida and 1.5%, respectively, from Washington DC, Kentucky, and Texas. Correspondences were also received from twelve other states each accounting for less than 1% of the total correspondences received.

Topic Question 1: What is most important about Fort Monroe National Monument?

The history and integrity of the Fort were identified as most important to Fort Monroe. Commenters expressed a keen interest in the maintenance of the structures and open spaces that tell the history of the Fort. The breadth of heritage and histories described and represented at the Fort were identified as most important, as they combine to tell the story of how the United States was shaped. Commenters value that Fort Monroe encompasses histories of colonists, American Indians, enslaved Africans, and the military. Commenters also identified access to open spaces and the waterfront as most important to Fort Monroe. Commenters noted that the Fort provides these opportunities in a unique way not

available elsewhere in the area. Many commenters listed recreational opportunities available from the Fort as most important and believed the natural history of the Chesapeake Bay is important as well.

Topic Question 2: What are the greatest threats to Fort Monroe National Monument?

Encroachment caused by nearby development was cited most often as the greatest threat to Fort Monroe. Commenters listed potential commercial development of housing adjacent to the Fort as well as development throughout the peninsula as cause for this concern. The lack of preservation of the larger landscape and historic sites surrounding Fort Monroe as a whole was cited by commenters as the reason why development is a great threat. Many commenters expressed the belief that bay front lands, which separate the two portions of the National Monument should be incorporated into the boundary and protected from development. Additional threats cited by commenters include a lack of funding for the preservation and restoration of the Fort, flooding caused by sea level rise and other effects of climate change, and a lack of security which subjects the Fort to potential vandalism and other abuses.

Topic Question 3: How have you used Fort Monroe in the past? What uses would you like to see at Fort Monroe?

Commenters most often reported partaking in the educational programs available at Fort Monroe, including visiting the Fort grounds and the Casemate Museum. Commenters also reported frequently recreating on the beach and in surrounding waters as well as within the open spaces of the Fort. Picnicking and observing nature were often listed as popular activities. Concerning what visitors would like to see at Fort Monroe, most listed further expansion of recreational opportunities such as camping, dog walking, fish and swimming. Also frequently listed as future desires were the expansion of education programming and updating of current content and displays. Specifically, commenters want to see more areas of the Fort opened to the public and for the Casemate Museum to be expanded. Strong sentiments for the Fort to become a National Park rather than a National Monument were also present in comments. Commenters believe that opportunities for recreation and education can be further expanded with a National Park designation. The need for improved transportation services was listed as well. The purpose of improved transportation would be to connect Fort Monroe to more surrounding communities.

Topic Question 4: What should the American people know about Fort Monroe? What are its most important stories?

Commenters most frequently described the impressive breadth of history evident at the Fort as something Americans should be aware of. Commenters cited the diversity of histories that can be told from the Fort and the important role the Fort has had in shaping the US both historically and culturally. Specific examples of stories and events that can be told through Fort Monroe were listed by commenters and vary from colonials to American Indians to enslaved Africans to the Civil War, as well as the many other military endeavors which took place in or surrounding Fort Monroe.

Public comments received during the three open house sessions held on April 30, 2012, at Fort Monroe are listed on the following pages 3-17.

Question 1: What is most important about Fort Monroe National Monument?

Session 1 (10:00am – 12:00pm)

- Our historic and national heritage for preservation interpretation
- History is our teacher
- Moated fort – why isn't this known? Important to get word out
- History of this area goes further back than Fort
- Layers of history – different eras
- J. Michener's Chesapeake
- Natural history; Difference from Jamestown (J. Michener) geomorphology
- Indigenous people, Indian Village, be truthful about history, including slavery
- Future, looking forward
- Strategic location on Chesapeake Bay
- Hampton Roads – how does Fort Monroe fit in regional context?
- Military impact, different uniforms
- Musical performances in different uniforms
- Playgrounds, space for children, and more beautiful place
- International girl/boy scout jamboree – future venue opportunity (recent youth planning, engagement)

Session 2 (2:00pm – 4:00pm)

- History of American Hampton Roads from 1607 – present , 1609 – Fort established (2 *comments*)
- Military – stories of military and families (2 *comments*)
- English-American settlements
- African-American
- Unified vision – presenting history, natural setting, resources and ownership; NPS, FMA, City
- Site is extraordinary – Indians, John Smith, everyone since! History comes from the location
- Strength is breadth of history – layers in context – not isolated fort (2 *comments*)
- Natural resources and open space, including view sheds in a metro area is amazing (3 *comments*)
- Public ownership demands public access to all roads on Fort Monroe and waterfront - not privatized (2 *comments*)

- Re. Lee's time here, Quarters 17, building Fort Wool should be interpreted historically correct not politically correct. United Daughters of the Confederacy interested in participating in interpretation at FTM of LEE (2 comments)
- Civil War story interpretation should be inclusive (2 comments)
- Fort Monroe peninsula a place where diverse groups from beginning - Indian, English, people of color (2 comments)
- Interpretive themes: Contraband story of fleeing enslaved Confederate soldiers, arc of slavery, theme of rights/freedoms (stimulate foreign interest – visitation) expansion of rights: beginning and ending of slavery and stories between. Connections with Phoebus, VA the most resident theme in American history – 10,000 houses there to reconstruct? (4 comments)
- William Trucker – First African American and his descendants, preserving point comfort in recognition of arc of America story, story of America and specifically Africans being brought here (2 comments)
- Ancestral stories, soldiers, US Colored troops formed here
- Value – preservation of open green space and Chesapeake Bay access (4 comments)
- Chesapeake Bay – Open and free access from Fort Monroe (entire Fort area) to bay, part of history, uncluttered in perpetuity from John Smith till now (2 comments)
- Harbor of the Colonies, Point Comfort manned since 1608, no piracy, enabled commerce, beginning of economy here
- Kecoughtan (Kicotan, Kikotan, Kiccowtan, etc)) Indian presence – history did not start in 1607 (2 comments)
- James Monroe, first physical manifestation of Monroe Doctrine
- Civil War, main staging area and deep water port. How did supplies come in? Logistics! Workers impact of this place on Civil War Nation, how was it pivotal?
- Native Americans here for 12,000 years until 1607
- North Beach recreation access for all Americans as was as post, camping trailheads, recreation, RVs.
- Unity of peninsula, not chopped up (retail, housing, recreation)
- Indian villages on mainland like contraband villages and tie all history together
- Unified telling of history
- Include veterans
- Breadth of history – all important
- Connect 2 sections of National Monument
- Make best use of buildings we have (no new building) and maintain open space
- Protect from flooding (2 comments)
- Need a center for contraband, colored troops, records, etc.
- Aggregate of history significance here. Whole is greater than the sum of its parts and its individual parts
- Architecture, Fort, Fort Wool, village
- Daily life of a soldier through all periods
- Fort Algernon and early fortifications, archeological resources

- Good seafood restaurants utilizing sustainable seafood in Hampton
- Jefferson Davis imprisonment at Casemate and Carroll Hall – no longer exist
- Employment opportunities

Session 3 (7:00pm – 9:00pm)

- Role in the emancipation of Americans (3 comments)
- Totality of history and resources, array of historic, natural, scenic and recreational resources (2 comments)
- Appropriate use of resources. Financial sustainability within reason. Conservation ethic for all uses – residential, business, commercial. Highest and best use of resources.
- Longevity of fortification since 1609 at this site, protecting on of most important seaports for over 400 years (4 comments)
- Site of first Africans brought to this continent in 1619. Site where slaves first made free, started and ended here (3 comments)
- Natural resources – environmental sensitivity – birds, marsh system, fisheries rookery. (3 comments)
- Reason for construction of Fort Monroe and system of defense
- View from fortress walls toward Bay is very important because fortress built to defend Bay and scenic view (Wherry blocks view).
- Totality of history “collage of stories” landing, bay, fort, entire peninsula (2 comments)
- Entrance to English speaking American history (2 comments)
- This site’s (Point Comfort) role in national defense - more than Civil War – WWI, WWII (4 comments)
- Bay scape (2 comments)
- Interaction between Army (Fort Monroe) and nearby Navy in harbor defense (2 comments)
- Non-Fort story without tangible resources – first landing slaves, contraband, John Smith

Question 2: What are the greatest threats to Fort Monroe National Monument?

Session 1 (10:00am – 12:00pm)

- Mother Nature
- Lack of money
- No picnic benches, public access
- City of Hampton, interests of Fort Monroe, don’t want outside impacts or condos (Buckroe, Phoebus), etc.
- Over development is a threat
- No development, due to strict rules, regs. Dereliction, lack of use, windows lost

- Keep accessible economically for development
- Destructive redevelopment (ex. Apartment buildings)
- Lack of appropriate planning
- Travel through existing neighborhoods
- Perception of surrounding area
- Weak control of overdevelopment
- Lack of fire and police enforcement
- Parking – lack of facilities such as restrooms
- Lack of signage – infrastructure
- Keep “things” that have historical value
- No high-rises
- Litter is an issue/threat

Session 2 (2:00pm – 4:00pm)

- Encroachments and separation
- Threats to historical perspective and integrity, historic ambience (*2 comments*)
- Knowledge of the park and its resources
- Politicians and political pressures
- Excessive commercial development or out of context; Wherry Quarter in particular (*6 comments*)
- Lack of occupancy of all historic buildings, re. Fort Hancock, beyond NPS boundary (*3 comments*)
- Hurricanes, flooding, storms (*3 comments*)
- Park boundary to grow if needed
- Lack of regional appreciation for resources – political buy-in to the park
- Lack of access to resources outside of the NPS boundary (*2 comments*)
- Adequate funding and marketing of the park, energy for the park (*3 comments*)
- Loss of information, spirit of inclusion for resources, partners, residents, etc.
- Fear that any and all development is negative
- Privatization of Wherry Quarter
- Federal funding for the park
- Over development inside and outside of the NPS boundary
- Need for parking, tour guides, park facilities, hotels, restaurants in the Hampton Region
- Traffic and access to the Fort
- Combined funding for the Fort Monroe area, FMDA money is important, Feds, State, FMDA, need to work together
- Loss of open space
- Development in Phoebus, VA as a gateway community is an opportunity for the park
- Museum related to natural resources of the region - opportunity
- Relationships: Phoebus, VA and Park, NPS, City and FMA - opportunity

- Old buildings, what will happen to them? No demolition, to be reused and in active use: Wherry Quarters need to be demolished, land use planning (2 comments)
- Deterioration of coastal defense structures and moat; need to be maintained
- Selling of property (2 comments)
- Loss of access to waterfront
- Lack of funding for NPS overall and facilities and maintenance
- Challenge that FMA has for balancing income production and preservation of historic character
- Poor planning or too much planning and no action
- Nonnative, exotic vegetation
- Inholdings, spaces between NPS boundaries leaves areas vulnerable to development
- Diminishes the experience for park visitors, makes management more difficult
- Loss of access to the boardwalk and the gazebo with the purchase of Generals Row
- No national chains, work with local businesses to ensure consistent character
- No new development, utilize existing structures (2 comments)
- Critical buildings are outside of the NPS boundary
- Not thinking long term

Session 3 (7:00pm – 9:00pm)

- Opening road between Old Point Comfort and Buckroe beach to automobile traffic – threat to nesting birds. Would make road a heavily used thoroughfare.
- Lack of access to pedestrians, bicycles from Old Point Comfort to Buckroe and Phoebus
- No study of climate science relating to flooding of entire area – Fort and neighboring communities (Hampton Roads Area is sinking) 2" sea level rise = 1" subsidence. Check with VA Institute of Marine Science and others
- Loss of beachfront at Wherry Quarter will defeat whole concept of National Monument and will preclude Fort Monroe from ever becoming a National Park designation. NPS should exert more influence over development = limit, create open corridor. (3 comments)
- Lack of action to utilize resources currently on National Monument property – and timely transition. Need to use the Park now. Lose momentum.
- More awareness of progress of park planning and availability in local, surrounding area, more advertising, ex. Public announcements, etc.
- Previous cultural, people – be all inclusive, including Native American people 1619 – brought slaves to Old Comfort Point. Lack of awareness, connection.
- Lack of NPS's forcefulness in dealing with FMA in protecting and expanding National Monument (2 comments)
- Disconnect between Fort and natural area because it's not contiguous. Separation between lands makes it less usable, inviting (2 comments)
- Ignorance about Kecoughtan story and African American experience from 1619 to present
- Development!
- Not enough control over developers

- Too much vehicle traffic in complex
- Allowing unmanaged uses to become established (ex. Parking in certain areas, athletic field uses, heavy access - both people use of dune – overuse of fragile resources)
- Hidden costs; availability of funds, maintenance of buildings (2 comments)
- Political agendas
- Neighborhood Watch for security
- Make it true public park for all to enjoy; don't limit areas to certain groups; don't want restrictions for certain recreational activities. Stay open-minded
- Tight restrictions on development
- No easy public money available – federal/city debt; recession
- Lack of respect for history of Fort Monroe and its resources; littering, inappropriate behavior
- Need safety for waterfront = lifeguards
- Lack of EMS response; may need fire protection
- Too much pavement for trails; leave some trails porous surface
- Sea level rise; need plan to retain beach at Northern end of Dog Beach = sand migration, Keep Bayside wetlands
- Lack of NPS funding -if NPS funds disappear
- Phoebus entrance may prevent people from returning
- No way to arrive/access other than roads through Phoebus
- Maintaining protection from storms, reestablishing sea grasses, all natural areas for shoreline/natural habitat
- Ownership of Wherry Quarter by VA and its possible development. NPS should set as goal acquisition of Wherry Quarter and batteries Parrott and Irwin (4 comments)
- Enough funding? (2 comments)
- Three partners work together well (2 comments)
- Fort Monroe needs to be innovative for tourism – very dense region concern other nearby historic places (ex. Mariners Museum)
- People who don't want growth
- Overdevelopment
- Hurricanes/sea level rise/storm damage (2 comments)
- Poor planning in surrounding area
- Lack of public access to natural res. In NPS area (ex. Dog Beach)
- Lack of ongoing public communication plan including internal; long process – need public support; keep website live and current
- Unclear decision making process; bureaucratic and underrepresented – need all stakeholders present
- Over commercialization – i.e. No Busch Gardens
- Inaccurate history and underrepresented history
- Apathy and neglect, difficult to find where to find meetings; information (2 comments)
- Lack of volunteer program or opportunity

- Need to see security, police protection and know is governing agency, no single oversight

Question 3: How have you used Fort Monroe in the past? What uses would you like to see at Fort Monroe?

Session 1 (10:00am – 12:00pm)

- Get comfortable buses
- Learn crafts (ex. Woodshop) include kid's glassblowing, sail making, toy making. Many local skills and crafts in the area
- Need RV park – reactivate, tent camping, very important
- Sports Car Club of America (future venue)
- Bring ferries back, alternative to bridge
- Canoe/kayak launch at Phoebus at Mill Creek
- Reenactment of Monitor – Merrimack
- Need to extend bus routes into Fort Monroe
- Utilize the University of Virginia and Hampton University to come up with the best “planning” of Fort Monroe. Have ownership/free participation
- Need a small hotel for visitors
- Look at existing parks - managed as a Fed/State level for an example of how to manage a park
- Parking for trailers @ boat launch
- Pool, sailboats, sunsets, biking, animal graveyard, fishing, like Norman Rockwell painting
- Gated community
- Put yourself in the shoes of a family “Why would you go here”?
- “Nature and technology” – iPods and iPhones – engage the youth
- Kids should be asking their parents to come to Fort Monroe
- Technology and biking go together
- “Vehicle Free” inside the Mote – pedestrian and bike only!
- Remove parade ground parking, raise parade ground – project from flooding (good drainage), think smart development i.e. no basements on barrier
- Bike concession – tandems and choices
- RV park to small
- Boat races, sailboats, weddings, 4th of July Fireworks, fishing
- Ecofriendly place
- Bicycle friendly
- Greatest opportunity – starting from scratch
- Mary nature and technology; interactive

- Showplace for interpretive technology, smartphones to online = premier place for interpretive, storytelling showcase
- Bikes on buses, use City of Hampton buses, distances from bus stop too far to walk; add bike racks on buses

Session 2 (2:00pm – 4:00pm)

- Concerts, amphitheater; variety for different cultures, Officers Club open; lectures, rentals – be sustainable (*4 comments*)
- Occupy empty buildings, homeless vets to live, maintain (*5 comments*)
- Optimum health center for vets/families/others; organic foods; stress relief; massage/spa: reflexology, hydrotherapy; vets facility funded – why not FOMR – housing for vets – adaptive reuse (*4 comments*)
- Nature center for post-traumatic stress; expand marina – restaurants and small business (*3 comments*)
- Boat rentals (*3 comments*)
- Casemate museum – expand library and research center, presentations on units that served here; Smithsonian connect (*4 comments*)
- Weddings
- More fishing opportunities – moat, mills, creek, second fishing pier, longer hours and free fishing (*5 comments*)
- Reopen post theater – classic film or live performances (*3 comments*)
- Walking, biking, courting, social, military Ceremonial, concerts (*4 comments*)
- Restrooms will be needed – sufficient. Costumed interpreters & other areas (*5 comments*)
- Historical reenactments (N. Beach), recognition of namesake – President James Monroe (*4 comments*)
- Open access to beaches/bay, education and activities, layers of history preserved (*4 comments*)
- Advertisement of activities going on; signs on interstate, Mellen, Mallory & Mercury – TV, News, Signs (*2 comments*)
- Over 33 years – active duty army, retiree, volunteer for over 12 years at Casemate museum and other activities
- Camping on beach, airfield and parade ground (boy scouts) 24 year user, troop 31 meets on post (*2 comments*)
- Photo shoots – magazines, travel writers – more filming thru via tourism
- Service disabled vets small business set asides established in contracting (*4 comments*)
- General's quarters into B&B's - need parking (*2 comments*)
- Interactive recreation use of Route 258, Mercury Bridge – fishing, clamming, jogging, close vehicular traffic and force traffic thru Phoebos; pedestrian bridge (*4 comments*)
- Canoe/kayak gateway entrance (Mellen) at vacant restaurant property (*6 comments*)
- Re-open community center, gym, bowling, pool
- 4th of July celebration

- Past uses – confederate ceremonies @ chapel, casemate, Jeff Davis park & arch. Family has entertained troops WWII. Home guard WWII training area, festivals, ceremonies, open houses, dining, beach. Would like to see – restaurants depict historical times, themed WWII, civil war, colonial war, WWII, 1812. Weddings, receptions, military/business retreats, classy lodging (Sanderling), tourist homes/B&Bs, camping and RVs; museum complex: contraband, natural history, museum of confederacy, Hampton history, VA war, war histories museum.
- Small unique shops
- Regimental settler's trade post (DOD quarter- masters) trade to supply soldiers and families; blacksmiths, carpenters, wood workers, tools & resources of the period. Hampton and other local universities involved for history research; like a living museum. Classes during week and on weekends, elder hostel, etc. As learning about history; lab for re-enactments, deep water port for tall ships, costumed interpreters.
- Hampton Cup boat races ;power boats *(2 comments)*
- Public access to all roads in FOMR locality parking near destinations, parking inside moat
- Cruise ship stop
- Tour boat – Norfolk, Fort Wool and FOMR
- Expand RV campground
- Construction of national slavery museum – whole story of African American story *(7 comments)*
- Biking and walking trail around FORM, perimeter connect to Buckroe B. thru North Beach-exercise stations *(9 comments)*
- Public tennis courts
- Family vacations and reunions meeting for association, state, etc. *(2 comments)*
- New Hygeia Hotel and spa – grand
- North Beach – Indigenous for Kecoughtan environmental education indigenous values – resources and values are same *(2 comments)*
- Multi-generational drive-in theater, no development on beach-Oceanside *(3 comments)*
- Stuff in existing buildings – adapted and reused, walking, looking at water not lots of commercial
- Remain mostly green, North beach – history of Native Americans (hunting); early colonial – John Smith (trail); Chesapeake Bay natural history & challenges to preserve Bay

Session 3 (7:00pm – 9:00pm)

- Summer day camps for kids
- Walking, fitness, discovery, guests/business destination in the future: preserve natural areas and fitness; history come alive, costumed and visitors can be in history, not passive, be doing, billboard of everyday events *(4 comments)*
- Beaches and marshes, recreation and nature programing, open for drinks, fishing, not closed or off limits, historical re-enactments, food *(4 comments)*
- RV park expanded *(5 comments)*
- Trails and way sides *(3 comments)*
- Camping tents *(3 comments)*

- Fishing, free concerts (3 comments)
- African American history and American history (2 comments)
- Don't want to see casinos, condos, resort hotels (2 comments)
- Weddings, fireworks (3 comments)
- Dog beach open to animals (free off leash use) year round, fenced in control access (6 comments)
- Safe bicycling (3 comments)
- Accessible launches (2 comments)
- Kayak launch (lots) – docks, smooth access (2 comments)
- Museum - open air interpretive military, programming (USCT troops)
- Circuit – historic quadrangle, Civil War, slavery, emancipation, contraband, May 24. (3 comments)
- Family reunions
- African American 1619/ Ellis Island
- Boardwalk -access not restricted by club
- Playgrounds
- Meditation – historic reflection/contemplation, celebrate jubilee day (Juneteenth-emancipation watch night)
- Outdoor activities -walk, swim, fish, expand areas for activities (2 comments)
- Bird watch, marine/fish viewing, water trail -John Smith, non-motorized water, re-establish coastal forested area, natural plants, natural trails (3 comments)
- Fitness events – adventure race – human powered obstacles, rock walls
- Toilets – more, clean (3 comments)
- Interpretive hiking trails, races 5-10K, sustainable materials, maximize re-enactors - Civil War; Star Gazing; Annual festival, like folk life (7 comments)
- Walking, biking loafing/loitering linked together whole peninsula to Phoebus – walking biking center of H-Roads (3 comments)
- Spend night at FOMR: history, building B7B, themed, cell; beach use-facilities cottage Sanderling Inn, walking district to beach, determine optimal beach use (3 comments)
- Camping/cottages, museum, bike, concert, wedding, pet cemetery, water trail/tour – natural geography make economic senses, entertainment – evening/day, regattas, open beach, fishing (5 comments)
- Let it all be Federal - too many cooks (2 comments)
- Casemate museum – maintain, changing and hands on exhibits, interactive
- Concern- past exclusive use, not as many safety concerns (swimming) – need EMS and lifeguards/ beach rescue fire stations
- Exterior of battery open to public (think minimize safety hazards)
- Past – fishing, weddings, meditation/reflection, concerts (4 comments)
- Resort area now, think what is compatible, camping, attract people

- Designated for cultural recognition, Native Americans, African Americans, contraband, educational moments
- Focus on children – activities (work with Hampton rec), no child left inside (get off iPads)
- Fort should be nexus for related historical points throughout Hampton area (*2 comments*)
- Open space (*2 comments*)
- Point of origin for Country, city, harbor, etc.
- Bayshore beach (North of Dog beach) outside park boundary. Interpretation at North beach that recognizes that history
- Proximity and combination of architectural and historic treasures and waterfront open space on the Chesapeake bay
- Fortress has to be focal point (the destination) and Walkerfield – use as airfield
- Virginia Indian history and link to Hampton University
- Living history – period costumed interpretive
- Authenticity and functional
- Life safety on beaches – In a community that doesn't know how to swim
- Water trails with nature interpretive
- Continuity of N. Monument – unified into 1 boundary
- Casemate museum
- Marina complex access for transient and local
- Access to Mill Creek – environmental education opportunity
- Soft landing on N Beach for kayak experience
- John Smith story (Frail) anchor point in Bay because water and vehicular access
- Livable, walkable, community – maintain that don't lose by interjecting too much traffic
- Open public access to bay, boating, fishing, swimming

Question 4: What should the American people know about Fort Monroe? What are its most important stories?

Session 1 (10:00am – 12:00pm)

- Contraband story
- Freeing slaves; bringing in slaves
- Connection between Fort Monroe and WWI, and WWII. Phoebus' role in region as a military base
- Engineering (functioning wet moat is unique)
- Defensive strength
- 1607 – 9 Fort Algernon; long history
- The Chamberlin (hotel history)

- Point Comfort
- The uniqueness of The Chamberlin
- The natural surroundings that still exist; in Chesapeake; Get story out, a wilderness area at the north side
- How many soldiers were left for/in the Pheobus area
- Moated Fort and how it was constructed
- As a symbol of military strength (never attacked, because so strong knew it was not worth attacking)
- Long history of the hotels on the island
- Lighthouse history at Point Comfort
- Seafood industry is coming back in the Bay
- Fort Wool story
- History of construction and brickmaking
- Artillery batteries
- Fireworks reflected in Mill Creek, heat lighting, Chamberlin open to the public
- Chamberlin – appointment with the public, desire to visit historic building, wedding, etc. Also home to residents
- Chamberlin is a historic “place”
- Coming to see the big boats – childhood memories
- Refinery – history (historian recently presented on this topic)

Session 2 (2:00pm – 4:00pm)

- Freedom story (2 comments)
- All inclusive story (2 comments)
- Part of American Indian – cultural landscape of Kecoughtan (2 comments)
- Restore landscape to pre-colonial contact – North Beach area
- Story of the wooden fort
- Coastal defense story (2 comments)
- Story of 1812 (2 comments)
- Story of George Washington starts here (2 comments)
- Story of Monroe – acting to build (2 comments)
- Story of first physical manifestation of the Monroe Doctrine (2 comments)
- The Great White Fleet
- The importance of the waterways
- Hygeia, Chamberlin. As destination places – Beginning of Virginia tourism (2 comments)
- Contraband story (4 comments)
- Military history – Coastal military school – strategic fort for multiple battle ways (2 comments)
- 1863 – Federal Fire Service was established by John Barch (2 comments)
- Casemates history – uses hospitals, housing, officers club, etc. (2 comments)
- Pet cemetery

- Location relative to water/bay/Hampton Roads
- History – arrival in 1600 thru civil wars – history of African Americans (2 comments)
- Info on Army versus Colored Calvary
- Tell the story of “National Slavery Museum” (2 comments)
- Tell the story of First Commerce at Hamptons – beg. Of North America trade was at this area. Due to manning of the Fort since 1609. Making this area a safe zone
- Use of slaves to build structures
- Engineering/design – the largest fort in the 3rs system – clarify that this was a combo of Fort Monroe and Fort Wool (Calhoun)
- And Story of the failed design and incomplete construction of Wool (Calhoun) by R.E. Lee
- 12,000 years of Native American use of land
- Jefferson Davis at Fort Monroe
- Lee’s house interpreters – first child – family story, stable in the basement. His contributions to Fort Monroe and Fort Wool. As English in the U.S. Army - brought stone barn [?] from Maryland. (Speak with Mike Cobb – curator @ Hampton History Museum)
- Lee- the concept of why Lee would not attack Fort Monroe
- Tell the story of why it was built after the War of 1812 (2 comments)
- 1823 to 2011 – the history of the U.S. army @ Fort Monroe
- Public involvement in Fort Monroe during WWI and WWII, i.e. entertainment helping the soldiers (2 comments)
- Story – Thousands pushing for freedom. As a central story of people demanding rights
- Lincoln story – where he stayed (2 comments)
- Ancient Oak – 500 or more years old
- Many layers of history from pre-1600’s to current
- Context of the Fort in the Bay. It’s importance in history and the environment (the Bay’s importance too)
- Only Monument/NPS Park on the Bay
- The railroad system, tourists, circus (2 comments)
- History of the YMCA
- Story of how the fortress was built to defend the Bay
- The view of the Bay from the fortress, very important as a story
- The view of the Fortress from the land and from the Bay
- To tell the story need to remove the existing housing that is currently blocking the view of the Bay from the monument (fortress)
- Documentary film – 1600 to 1823 (part 1) and another from 1823 – 2011 (part 2)
- Consider a small business set aside – services added

Session 3 (7:00pm – 9:00pm)

- Multicultural frontier beginnings (2 comments)
- The emancipation stories of Americans

- Slaves can come to Monroe to feel safe
- Ties to Hampton University
- The importance of the colonial trade, the lighthouse and the importance of Hampton Roads
- How people utilized the natural geography
- How Native American Indians lived in a coastal condition
- How did the native Americans get along with their neighbors
- Fort Monroe has endless stories, including today, an abundance that never ends (*2 comments*)
- Diversity of the history
- Heavily experiential opportunity with the landscape and the structure
- Jefferson Davis was imprisoned here (*2 comments*)
- Contraband story(*3 comments*)
- Story of where the guns were built, provide examples of the guns
- Gate of American history
- The Fort was never out of Union hands
- Part of the oldest English speaking community in Hampton
- How the Bay was created by a meteor
- Part of the “Gateway” network
- Story of the Bay after WWI and WWII
- The building of the Fort by Lee and the history prior to the civil war
- Illustrate what was going on within the Fort during the Civil War, i.e. Richmond timeline “the fall of Richmond” a story line that is similar and concise
- How Lincoln personally directed the Union attack
- Make the story of contraband more visible/approachable for the public
- The importance of the entire island. How the island effected the greater region
- Napoleon engineer (military) was responsible for the design
- History of Lee
- Fort Monroe and Fort Wool fortifications
- History of the ferries and the steam ships
- Story of the base being turned over. How the base was on the island
- Environmental importance of the Bay/Island (*3 comments*)
- First location of African Americans
- Environmentally sensitive area – Rookery Mound
- Natural and regional significance of the Chesapeake bay
- War of 1812 and its significance to the construction of Fort Monroe and Fort Wool (Calhoun)
- 17th Century history including Fort Algernon
- Idyllic and unusual “island” in the middle of a million people. It allows people who never have access to beaches and vistas, a place to come. Schoolchildren and their families can learn about wildlife or perhaps go boating to experience and enjoy about the landscape and waterscape
- How it’s connected and relates to Norfolk. Why did you build here? What’s at Fort Story? It’s a system of Forts. What’s being protected?

- What's the story of submarines in the Bay? German U-boats?
- The story of the Native American Kecoughtan people
- Wooden village replica exists with the city. Would be good if NPS told the story. How is the story going to be told?
- The story of the African Americans at Point Comfort/ Fort Monroe
- Prefer that the Fed's tell the story
- The arrival in 1619 of the Angolans "white lion" - tell the story
- The story of the African's who physically built Fort Monroe
- The story of Harriet Tubman
- The story of slab town and the grand contraband camp
- Hampton University and its connection to freed slaves and American Indians and their education
- Captain John Smith story – major anchor point
- Opportunities: sea level rise and the degradation of the Bay and the restoration of the Bay (Mill Creek Side)

End.