



Canaveral National Seashore

General Management Plan

Fall 2003 Newsletter 1

Dear Friends,

Canaveral National Seashore is in the early stages of a process to develop a general management plan, a vision for the protection and management of the seashore for the next 15 to 20 years. As part of this process information is collected from the general public and interested parties regarding future management concerns. Some months ago we began the process by requesting your input during three public meetings and by asking for comments through a newsletter and the seashore's website.

This is our second in a series of planning newsletters and presents a summary of what we learned from you regarding resource preservation, visitor experience, and operations and facilities. This newsletter also presents draft statements that describe the purpose and significance of Canaveral National Seashore. We want to hear what you think about these statements that form one of the cornerstones guiding our planning process. Also, we want to understand what you want the seashore to be like in the future. What are your concerns, and what do you value most about the area?

I sincerely invite your participation in this planning effort. With your help we will develop a plan that will make a lasting difference in the long-term management of Canaveral National Seashore. You can participate by filling out and mailing the enclosed response form or by emailing your comments to [<CANA_gmp_planning@nps.gov>](mailto:CANA_gmp_planning@nps.gov).

We will keep you informed throughout the process with public meetings, postings on the Internet, and the draft plan. I thank those of you who have already offered comments, and I hope you will continue to share your thoughts with us throughout this planning effort. If you haven't commented yet, this is your opportunity to become involved.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Bob

Bob Newkirk
Superintendent
Canaveral National Seashore

WHY PREPARE A GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN?

A general management plan will define the fundamental management direction for Canaveral National Seashore for the next 15-20 years. It will focus on why the seashore was established and what resource conditions and visitor opportunities should be achieved and maintained over time. As a result, managers will be provided a framework for making decisions about resource protection, visitor use and services, and appropriate facilities at the seashore.

The plan will

- comply with public law
- create a vision and clear direction for the seashore's future
- establish priorities for allocating funding
- achieve park goals
- exchange ideas with the public
- forge and strengthen partnerships

The general management plan also will clarify the seashore's partnership role with others in the region to provide resource protection and visitor services. Stakeholders, including other land-managing agencies and the general public, will participate in developing and articulating a direction for the seashore's future.



Cation

A SUMMARY OF WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU

In November 2002 the National Park Service published a newsletter and hosted public meetings with park users and neighbors to understand their ideas and concerns for Canaveral National Seashore. Below is a summary of what we learned:

Resource Preservation

- Continue to protect and preserve the natural, archeological, and historic resources of Canaveral National Seashore
- Prevent degradation of water quality resulting from urban development
- Allow for recreational and commercial fishing, while maintaining sustainability of stocks and protecting nursery habitats
- Protect habitats for birds, wildlife, and manatees
- Protect and manage areas used for nesting by sea turtles and shorebirds
- Use fire management to control exotic species and improve habitat conditions

Park Access

- Encourage interpretive guide boat and eco tours in Mosquito Lagoon and its islands
- Use boating restrictions (such as wake speed or pole-on/pole-off areas) when needed for natural and cultural resource protection and public safety
- Disperse beach users throughout the 24 miles of beaches
- Allow for more beach use but do not create a feeling of overcrowding
- Keep the park open around the clock, especially the beaches, or open the park early enough to enjoy sunrise or early morning birding

Coordination of Government Agencies

- Improve public communications about area closures, seasonal restrictions, and changes in national seashore policy
- Coordinate with local communities and other government agencies concerning fire management and disaster recovery efforts
- Provide seamless coordination of all government agencies when managing for visitor use

Facilities and Services

- Improve facilities and services that support park users
- Continue to manage the seashore in a fairly undeveloped manner
- Provide more parking spaces, drinking water, showers, and improved restroom facilities at beach access locations (Apollo Beach)
- Provide more boat launches and docks with temporary tie-ups throughout Mosquito Lagoon
- Develop sites for large group activities in national seashore areas that are near local communities to accommodate family and organized outings, environmental education, and community events
- Provide facilities for picnicking, horseback riding, and hiking
- Offer a diverse range of camping opportunities - from vehicle/trailer camps to more remote and dispersed primitive camping sites on the islands and near beaches
- Consider locating a visitor center in or near Titusville, Florida
- Include more active and diverse, guided and unguided interpretive programs (e.g., boat tours, wayside exhibits, interpretive trails, guided walks and talks at the historic sites, and formal seminar programs)
- Upgrade current visitor center facilities to meet user's demands and improve interpretive exhibits
- Improve visitor orientation/information at locations inside and outside the national seashore
- Help visitors understand the boundaries of the park

If you have any other thoughts to add to the above summary, please include them on the enclosed mail-back response form or email your comments to
<CANA_gmp_planning@nps.gov>.



Caption

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

Purpose Statement

A purpose statement provides direction for management and use of each unit of the National Park Service. It also reaffirms the reasons why an area was established as part of the national park system. A purpose statement helps neighbors, visitors, cooperating agencies, and other interested parties understand the framework in which park managers make decisions.

The following purpose statement has been refined over time and is based on the seashore's enabling legislation (Public Law 93-626-January 3, 1975): "*Canaveral National Seashore's purpose is to preserve and protect the natural, scenic, scientific, ecological, archeological, and historical values and resources within the park and to provide for public outdoor recreational use and enjoyment of those values and resources.*"

Significance Statements

Significance statements build on a park's purpose and state why, within a national or regional context, the park's resources and values are important enough to warrant inclusion in the national park system. These statements identify the resources and values that are central to managing the area and express the importance of the area to our natural and cultural heritage. The following are the significance statements for Canaveral National Seashore:

- The 24-miles of beach within Canaveral National Seashore constitute the longest extent of undeveloped pristine beach along the Florida Atlantic Coast and provide opportunities for uncrowded seashore recreation.
- Mosquito Lagoon, part of one of the most diverse and productive estuaries in North America, is designated an Estuary of National Significance and an Outstanding Florida Water.
- The seashore contains prime habitat that provides sanctuary for sixteen federally threatened and endangered species of birds, mammals and reptiles, including nesting beach for several thousand endangered marine turtles.
- Canaveral National Seashore encompasses a transition zone that includes a variety of temperate and subtropical plant and animal species, found together only in east-central Florida, and classic elements of subtropical dune and hammock plant communities.
- The seashore's cultural resources reflect the span of human history in the Florida peninsula from 2000 B.C. to the early 20th century. These resources include over 100 identified Native American middens and burial mounds and four historic buildings associated with late 19th and early 20th century Florida settlement.

The National Park Service partners with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in managing portions of federal lands on and near NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The Fish and Wildlife Service currently is undergoing a planning process to produce a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) that will provide long-range guidance and management direction for Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge for the next 15 years. As with the seashore's general management plan, the CCP will outline a vision for desired conditions in the refuge and present strategies for achieving those conditions. For additional information on this planning process, visit the refuge's website at merittisland.fws.gov or contact 321-861-2368.

STEPS FOR COMPLETING THE GMP

The chart below outlines the steps for preparing the draft general management plan / environmental impact statement and a final plan for Canaveral National Seashore. The highlighted area is where we are now. For this step of the project, we hope you will give us your input by mailing the response form or sending an email.

	<i>Step</i>	<i>Planning Activity</i>	<i>Public Participation Opportunity</i>
	1	<i>Initiate Project</i> The planning team assembles, begins to identify the project's scope and issues, and customizes the planning process.	
We Are Here	2	<i>Define Planning Context and Foundation</i> Based on the seashore's enabling legislation, the team examines WHY the park was established and affirms the significance statements. Team members collect and analyze relevant data and public comments.	Read the newsletter and send us comments. Help us build a mailing list.
	3	<i>Develop and Evaluate Alternatives</i> Using staff and public input, the team explores WHAT the seashore should look like in the future and proposes a range of reasonable alternatives for achieving desired conditions.	Read the newsletter and send us comments. Come to public meetings.
	4	<i>Prepare a Draft Document</i> A draft general management plan /environmental impact statement is published. The draft document describes the alternatives and the impacts of implementing each. Based on the impacts and public input, a preferred alternative is identified in the document.	Read the draft plan and send us your ideas and comments. Come to public meetings.
	5	<i>Publish Final Document</i> Based on review by the National Park Service and the public, the team revises the general management plan/environmental impact statement and distributes a final plan. The plan is approved in a published Record of Decision.	Read the final plan, including National Park Service responses to substantive public comments and official letters.
	6	<i>Implement the Approved Plan</i> After the Record of Decision is issued, and as funding allows, the general management plan is implemented	Stay involved throughout the implementation of the approved plan.

Margaret DeLaura, Planning
Denver Service Center
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Pkwy
PO Box 25287
Denver CO 80225

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

FIRST CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PERMIT NO G-83