



# Canaveral National Seashore News

## Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Friends:

For many of us, Canaveral National Seashore holds a special place in our lives and our hearts. Each year over one million people visit our pristine shores, tour the historic Eldora State House, enjoy peaceful walks to Turtle Mound and Castle Windy, while others marvel in the natural diversity of Mosquito Lagoon. Since the park was created in 1975, the staff of Canaveral National Seashore has been privileged to offer this rare jewel to the Nation.

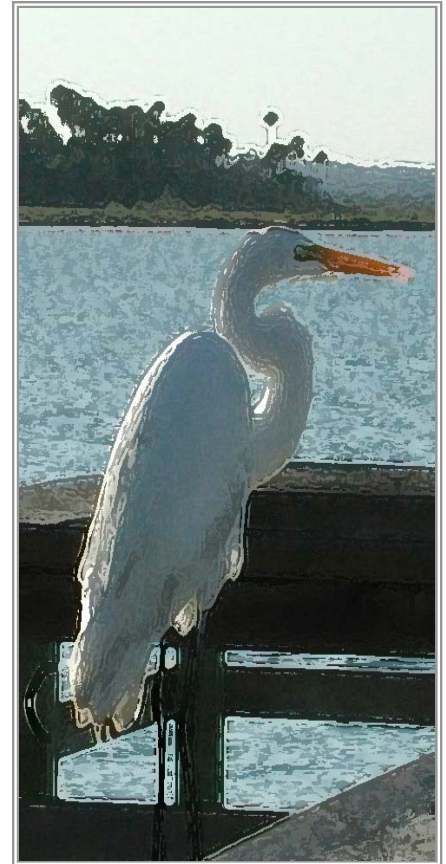
As we move forward in the 21st century the National Park Service is initiating a major planning effort throughout all of its Parks, Seashores, National Monuments and Historic Sites. For Canaveral National Seashore it is time to update our original General Management Plan (GMP) completed in 1981. This GMP will reaffirm many aspects of the Park and help to address many new concerns and pressures that impact the resources here. This plan will help guide the future management of the lands and waters in the Seashore's boundaries.

Some of the questions that we will focus on and address are:

- What should we do to ensure that the natural, archaeological, historical and cultural resources of the Park are properly protected?
- What can we do to ensure that the visitor has a quality experience?
- What level of use is appropriate for the different areas of the Park, keeping in mind the mandates set forth by Congress?
- What efforts can be initiated with our neighbors and partners to address issues that affect the local economy?

We invite you to help us with these issues and other questions that pertain to the planning process. Our goal is to develop a plan that will protect the resources of the Park, meet the needs of our visitors in an intuitive and creative manner, and address the concerns of our neighbors. To achieve this we encourage YOU to participate in the planning process. It will not succeed without your involvement. Your concerns, issues and ideas are important to us.

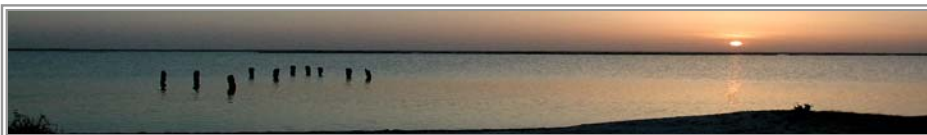
We are now in the "scoping" stage of the process. It is your opportunity



White Heron at Visitor's Center Dock overlooking Mosquito Lagoon.

to help us plan for the future of Canaveral National Seashore. What do you believe the plan should address? What is your idea of SUCCESS? We look forward to your participation. Lets work together to provide appropriate stewardship of these lands and waters so future generations can enjoy the Seashore as we do.

Robert Newkirk  
Superintendent,  
Canaveral National Seashore



# General Management Planning

## What is a general management plan?

A general management plan (GMP) provides a vision for the future of a park and a practical framework for decision making. It provides guidance on how to best protect park resources, how to provide for quality visitor experiences, and how to manage visitation and visitor use. It involves identifying goals based on the legislative intent of the park, analyzing existing conditions and future possibilities, and determining the best course of action to accomplish these goals. The plan does not include facility design, resolve all issues, or guarantee funding for the park. Rather, it describes the general path the National Park Service (NPS) intends to follow in Canaveral National Seashore over the next 10 to 15 years.

## What is general management planning?

Planning is a decision making process. General management planning constitutes the first phase of a tiered planning and decision making process used by the National Park Service to clarify and articulate the goals and objectives to be achieved at a park. Recommendations made in a General Management Plan are based on an analysis of



Typical Oak Hammock Trail

existing and potential resource conditions and visitor experiences, environmental (including natural, cultural, and socioeconomic) impacts, and analyzes all alternatives with each environmental impact statement. The National Park Service strives to maintain an up-to-date GMP for each unit of the national park system. GMP's are developed in consultation with National Park Service program managers, interested parties, and the general public and focus on why the park was established and what resource conditions and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained over time.

General management planning constitutes the broadest level of decision making at the park-level and, as suggested by its name, provides only *general* guidance about the best way to achieve the resource protection and visitor experience goals it recommends. Specific details regarding facility construction, interpretive program development, and maintenance techniques are examined in much greater detail during subsequent implementation planning and design processes.

## How is the planning process conducted?

There are typically four steps in the general management planning process: The first is called 'scoping', or information gathering and goal setting; the second is alternative development and analysis; the third is preparation and publication of a draft general management plan/environmental impact statement; and the fourth step is revision and publication of a final general management plan/environmental impact statement.

General management planning is conducted by an interdisciplinary team of park managers and technical experts who consult with other knowledgeable persons inside and outside the National Park Service *and* with the general public.

In the first step the planning team studies the legislation establishing the park, the body of laws and policies directing management of the national park system, park specific administrative commitments, and special mandates that affect how the park is managed. This is done to clarify the goals and objectives of the park that *must* be achieved because they are mandated by a higher authority. Goals and objectives mandated by a higher authority are collectively referred to as *musts* in general management planning.

Once these musts are clearly understood, the planning team will examine the park's mission, purpose, and significance statements to ensure that they adequately represent legislative intent, provide a sound foundation for decision-making at the park, and reflect the overall values of the general public. In addition, the planning team will endeavor to identify, through a process called 'scoping', the range of optional goals and objectives that park staff, technical experts, current and potential visitors, other governmental agencies, traditional users, regional residents, and the general public *want* the park to achieve. The broad range of optional goals and objectives are collectively referred to as *wants* in general management planning.

As might be expected, some of the things that different people will want to happen at the park will be mutually compatible and others will not. The most appropriate mix of these will be determined using the best information available by a systematic analysis of resource values and land uses. Potential alternatives will be developed and their impacts rigorously explored. In reaching decisions concerning future management of park resources, planning teams seek, to the extent possible, to reach agreement among the park staff, the NPS leadership, other agencies with jurisdiction by law or expertise, and the public.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Contact Information:

### Canaveral National Seashore General Management Plan

Randy Cave, GMP Coordinator  
Canaveral National Seashore  
308 Julia Street  
Titusville, FL 32796

Phone  
386-423-2197

E-mail  
Randy\_Cave@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



## **Planning**

...Continued from page 2

### **Will the plan include an Environmental Impact Statement?**

Yes. NPS policy directs that an environmental impact statement (EIS) be prepared for all general management plans. The analysis of GMP alternatives will meet the program standards for NPS implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related legislation, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and others.

### **Will the public and other government agencies be consulted during the planning process?**

Public involvement in the planning process is essential to learn about the concerns, issues, expectations, and values of existing and potential visitors, park neighbors, people with traditional cultural ties to lands within the park, concessionaires, cooperating associations, other partners, scientists and scholars, and other government agencies. Through public involvement the National Park



Service will share information about the planning process, planning issues, and proposed management actions; learn about the values placed by other people and groups on the same resources and visitor experiences; and build support among local publics, visitors, Congress, and others for implementing the plan.

General management planning is conducted as part of cooperative regional planning whenever possible. NPS participation in cooperative regional planning is undertaken in the hope of better coordinating and focusing the independent and autonomous efforts of multiple parties. NPS participation in such planning efforts will not be intended to prevent reasonable uses of private lands and will acknowledge the rights and interests of other landowners.

### **Will the plan consider potential impacts resulting from its recommendations on areas outside the park?**

While being consistent with NPS management policies and park goals, plans will identify and consider potential effects outside as well as inside the park boundaries and will identify ways to enhance beneficial effects and mitigate adverse effects to the maximum extent possible.

The plan considers the park holistically (in its full ecological and cultural contexts) as a unit of the national park system and as part of a surrounding region and identifies the importance of partnerships with others in protecting park resources and providing appropriate visitor services. The general management plan also identifies connections among the various park programs and park management districts. This helps avoid inadvertently creating new problems in one area, while attempting to solve problems in another.

### **How often is a General Management Plan revised?**

General management plans will be reviewed and revised as necessary to keep them current. It is anticipated that such reviews will be needed every 10- 15 years or sooner if conditions change more rapidly. An approved general management plan may be amended, rather than revised, if conditions and management prescriptions over most of the plan area remain essentially unchanged from those present when the plan was originally approved.

### **Why are General Management Plans done for parks that have no apparent problems?**

Even in parks with strong traditions and entrenched patterns of use and development, decision makers will benefit from occasionally stepping back and reassessing their overall goals, particularly if resources are threatened, sites are crowded, or the park's built environment requires extensive rehabilitation or maintenance. This gives everyone with a major stake in the park an opportunity to revalidate the park's role in the nation and in the region and to reconfirm that the kinds of resource conditions and visitor experiences being pursued are the best possible mix for the future.



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

**Canaveral National Seashore**  
General Management Plan  
308 Julia Street  
Titusville, FL 32789

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Fill out Return Address information, and check box for mailing list inclusion.

**GMP Coordinator**

Randy Cave  
386-423-2197

[Randy\\_Cave@nps.gov](mailto:Randy_Cave@nps.gov)  
Canaveral National Seashore  
GMP  
308 Julia Street  
Titusville, FL 32789

**Photography and Artwork**

Robert Baker  
Randy Cave  
Ethnographics

## Public Participation Reminders.....

The 57,000 acres of CNS are part of the National Park system, which consists of 385 areas in 49 states and 4 U.S. territories totaling more than 84,000,000 acres. The Seashore's 24 miles of beaches, dunes, hammocks, and submerged lagoons contain the northernmost locations for several tropical and sub-tropical environmental systems. Vegetation and animal life are diverse and some of the Seashore's resident and migrant animals are included on Federal lists of threatened and endangered species. Over 100 Historic and prehistoric or aboriginal resources are included within the boundary of Canaveral National Seashore

The lands set aside by Congress (Public Law 93- 626) "...to preserve and protect the outstanding natural, scenic, scientific, ecological, and historic values of certain lands, shoreline, and waters of the State of Florida, and to provide for public outdoor recreation

use and enjoyment of same..." The 1974 House of Representatives Report (#93- 1497) states "A National Seashore in the Canaveral area will not be intended to provide high density recreation uses. Instead,... To afford opportunity for leisure activities in an undeveloped, uncrowded setting."

We look forward to your participation in the General Management Process. Feel free to contact us for questions or clarifications about public involvement, issues, or concerns about the Park.

**WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE SEASHORE!**

Thanks,  
Randy Cave  
[Randy\\_Cave@nps.gov](mailto:Randy_Cave@nps.gov)