



Newsletter #2 –Spring 2007

Planning Team Develops Preliminary Draft Management Alternatives

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends:

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site is seeking public comments and suggestions on three preliminary management concepts for long-term resource protection and visitor services at the historic site on Roanoke Island, North Carolina.

These alternatives are not final. They are being made available to our partners, neighbors and stakeholders so that the National Park Service can benefit from your review and comment prior to the development and distribution of the formal public review draft of the General Management Plan (GMP) and Environmental Impact Statement.

Please tell us what you think. Use the enclosed response card to provide us with your comments. No postage is necessary. Simply fold and staple or tape closed the completed card and drop it in a mailbox. We would appreciate your comments by **July 31, 2007** to be considered in this phase of the planning project.

There will be additional opportunities to comment on the alternatives as we continue the planning process. The draft GMP/EIS will be made available to the public and distributed for review. The NPS will also conduct public meetings to receive additional comments. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mike Murray



About Fort Raleigh

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site is located on the north end of Roanoke Island, which is situated between the coastal mainland of northeastern North Carolina and the "Outer Bank" or barrier island known as Bodie Island. The site's authorized boundary contains 512.93 acres. The land varies in elevation from sea level to 20 feet. Erosion from wave action is resulting in a loss of parkland where the shoreline has not been protected by riprap or groins. The Secretarial order of April 5, 1941, established Fort Raleigh National Historic Site to preserve land declared to be of national significance as a portion of the colonial settlement or settlements established in America by Sir Walter Raleigh, 1587- 1591. The Order also recognized the agreement made

between the Roanoke Island Association and the United States for the annual presentation of Paul Green's symphonic drama, *The Lost Colony*, in the open - air amphitheater at the site. The Secretarial Order of January 3, 1952, and the Act of November 16, 1990, expanded the boundary of the site. The 1990 Act expanded the authorized size of the site by approximately 335 acres, of which approximately 202 acres have been acquired; this more than tripled the size of the site. This Act also broadened the purpose of the site to include: (1) the first English colony in the New World and (2) the history of the Native Americans, European Americans, and African Americans who lived on Roanoke Island, North Carolina. Most of the land added to the site is forested and unde-

veloped. However, some portions of the authorized boundary remain in private ownership and have been and continue to be developed as private residential communities.

PARK PURPOSE

Park purpose statements are based on the specific legislation and associated legislative history for each park. The purpose of Fort Raleigh National Historic Site was defined by Congress in Public Law 101- 603, November 16, 1990 as follows:

“The purpose of Fort Raleigh National Historic Site shall be the preservation and interpretation of:

- (1) the first English colony in the New World; and
- (2) the history of the Native Americans, European Americans, and African Americans who lived on Roanoke Island, North Carolina.

Section 3 of the Act directs the Secretary to undertake research on the history and archeology of the site in consultation with scholarly and other historic organizations.

PARK SIGNIFICANCE

Park significance statements place each park within its current regional, national, and international context. They provide a means to recognize important resources or characteristics that were perhaps not recognized at the time of establishment. Significance statements also identify the resources and values that the National Park Service is entrusted with managing and protecting. They express the importance of Fort Raleigh National Historic Site to our natural and cultural heritage. They also provide important direction for park resource management and preservation in accomplishing the park’s purpose.

- Fort Raleigh commemorates the first English attempts at

colonization in the New World and the mystery surrounding the disappearance of the colonists.

- Fort Raleigh is home to the Lost Colony production, the nation’s first outdoor symphonic drama, performed in the Waterside Theater since 1937.



2006 Lost Colony performance starring Lynn Redgrave. Photo Courtesy Roanoke Island Historical Association.

- The site recognizes an important step on the Underground Railroad and an effort to establish a freedmen’s colony on Roanoke Island.
- It interprets the early wireless radio experiments of Reginald Fessenden at the north end of Roanoke Island between 1901 and 1902, and
- Fort Raleigh preserves the cultural heritage of Native Americans, European Americans, and African Americans who have lived on Roanoke Island.

The Planning Process

The Fort Raleigh GMP team has completed the initial scoping phase of the planning process. We met with federal agencies, state and local agencies, and a variety of partners, stakeholders, and other interested parties. The result was a wide-ranging list of concerns and suggestions for NPS to consider in developing the GMP.

The GMP Team received approximately 124 comments and suggestions

during scoping. These suggestions fell into about five general categories that the National Park Service can address in the Fort Raleigh GMP.

- **Land Protection:** The park needs to clarify its boundary and future acquisition plans in light of ongoing residential development of lands on the north end of Roanoke Island.
- **Partnerships:** The need to continue supporting the important partnerships with the Roanoke Island Historical Association and Elizabethan Gardens, and expand the effort to encourage partnering with other entities for historical and archeological research.
- **Adequacy of Visitor Facilities:** These comments generally related to the size and condition of the Lindsay Warren Visitor Center and the condition of exhibits at the pond area near the Manns Harbor bridge. Subsequent to these comments being received by the park, the National Park Service approved funding for and has begun initial planning and design for major repairs and rehabilitation of the visitor center.



Freedmen’s Colony exhibit at north end pond.

- **Expanded Interpretive Mission:** How should the park incorporate the broad range of interpretive topics added to its mission by Public Law 101- 603.

- **Shoreline Erosion:** Shoreline erosion due to storms and high energy tides and currents has the potential to destroy cultural resources. Erosion has accelerated during the winter of 2006- 2007, partly as a result of increasing development outside NPS land, threatening cultural resources more than ever.



Shoreline erosion at Fort Raleigh.

Management Zoning

Management zoning is the method used by the National Park Service to identify and describe the appropriate variety of resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved and maintained in the different areas of a park. Each management zone has a corresponding description outlining the goals for the desired conditions of natural resources, cultural resources, and visitor experiences of that zone. The management zones also establish the range and levels of management, access, development, and visitor services appropriate in achieving those goals. Management zones guide short- term operations and long- term decision making. They inform managers, visitors, neighboring landowners, and communities on how different areas of the national monument will generally be managed.

The planning team developed four management zones for the national monument. Then these zones were applied to the areas within the park boundary in different configurations corresponding to the emphasis of

the preliminary management alternatives. The zones are generally described below with more details in the table on the following page. On the maps for each alternative the zones appear in different colors corresponding to the colored bar under the name of each zone below.

Visitor Services Zone

Areas with a high level of visitor access and activity and a primary focus on visitor orientation and education.

Administrative Zone

Areas with administrative offices, maintenance facilities and park operations.

Waterside Theater Zone

Areas managed for preserving the waterside amphitheater and grounds and the infrastructure that are part of the Lost Colony drama production.

Resource Preservation Zone

Areas with minimal development that display the forces of nature and natural resources while protecting and preserving cultural resources and cultural resource discoveries.



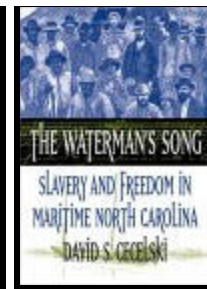
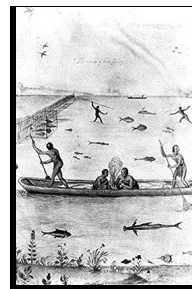
Lost Colony production at the Waterside Theater, summer 2006. Photo Courtesy Roanoke Island Historical Ass'n.

Summary of Management Zones ("X" in box indicates facility or activity is appropriate for that zone.)				
	VISITOR SERVICES ZONE	ADMINISTRATIVE ZONE	WATERSIDE THEATER ZONE	RESOURCE PRESERVATION ZONE
TYPES OF FACILITIES & DEVELOPMENT				
Administrative Office Buildings	X	X	X	
Museum/Research Center		X		
Benches	X	X	X	X
Bike Racks	X	X		X
Boardwalks				X
Boat Docks				X
Comfort Station (restrooms)	X	X	X	
Concession Facilities	X		X	
Employee Housing		X		
Hiking Trails	X			X
Equestrian Trails				X
Mountain Bike Trails				X
Fishing Piers				
Group Shelters	X		X	
Maintenance Buildings		X		
Paved Parking Areas	X	X	X	X
Paved Roads	X	X	X	
Picnic Pavillions	X			
Picnic Tables	X			
Sidewalks	X	X	X	X
Theater & Associated Buildings			X	
Trails – Natural Surface	X			X
Visitor Centers	X	X		
Wayside Exhibits	X	X	X	X
VISITOR ACTIVITIES				
Backpacking				X
Birdwatching	X	X	X	X
Cycling	X			
Dog walking	X			X
Fishing				X
Group Interpretation	X		X	X
Guided tours	X	X	X	X
Hiking – day	X		X	X
Horseback Riding				X
Kite Flying				X
Mountain biking	X			X
Park orientation	X	X	X	X
Photography	X		X	X
Picnicking	X		X	X
Skateboarding			X	
Running	X		X	X
Scientific or archeological research (by permit)	X	X	X	X
Sunbathing	X			X
Swimming				X
Viewing cultural resources	X	X	X	X
Viewing pro grams	X	X	X	X

Alternative A

General Theme

Continue current management policies and practices. There is no application of the zones in the no action alternative. This alternative is generally used as a way to evaluate the effects of the other alternatives and is also useful in understanding why the NPS or the public may believe that changes are necessary.



In all alternatives, including the no-action alternative, the park's interpretive mission has been expanded by law to include the history of African Americans, Native Americans, and European Americans on Roanoke Island.

Visitor Experience

- The visitor would continue to be oriented to the site through exhibits and a film at the Lindsay Warren Visitor Center located near the reconstructed earthen fort.
- Individual exploration and discovery would characterize most visitors' experience at most locations within the national historic site supplemented by periodic ranger led tours and interpretive talks.

Resource Conditions

- Continue protection of Waterside Theater and Dough Cemetery shorelines.
- Maintain current trail system.
- Allow natural processes (e.g. shoreline erosion) and excavate threatened archeological resources.
- Make minor aesthetic improvements at pond area.

Visitor Center

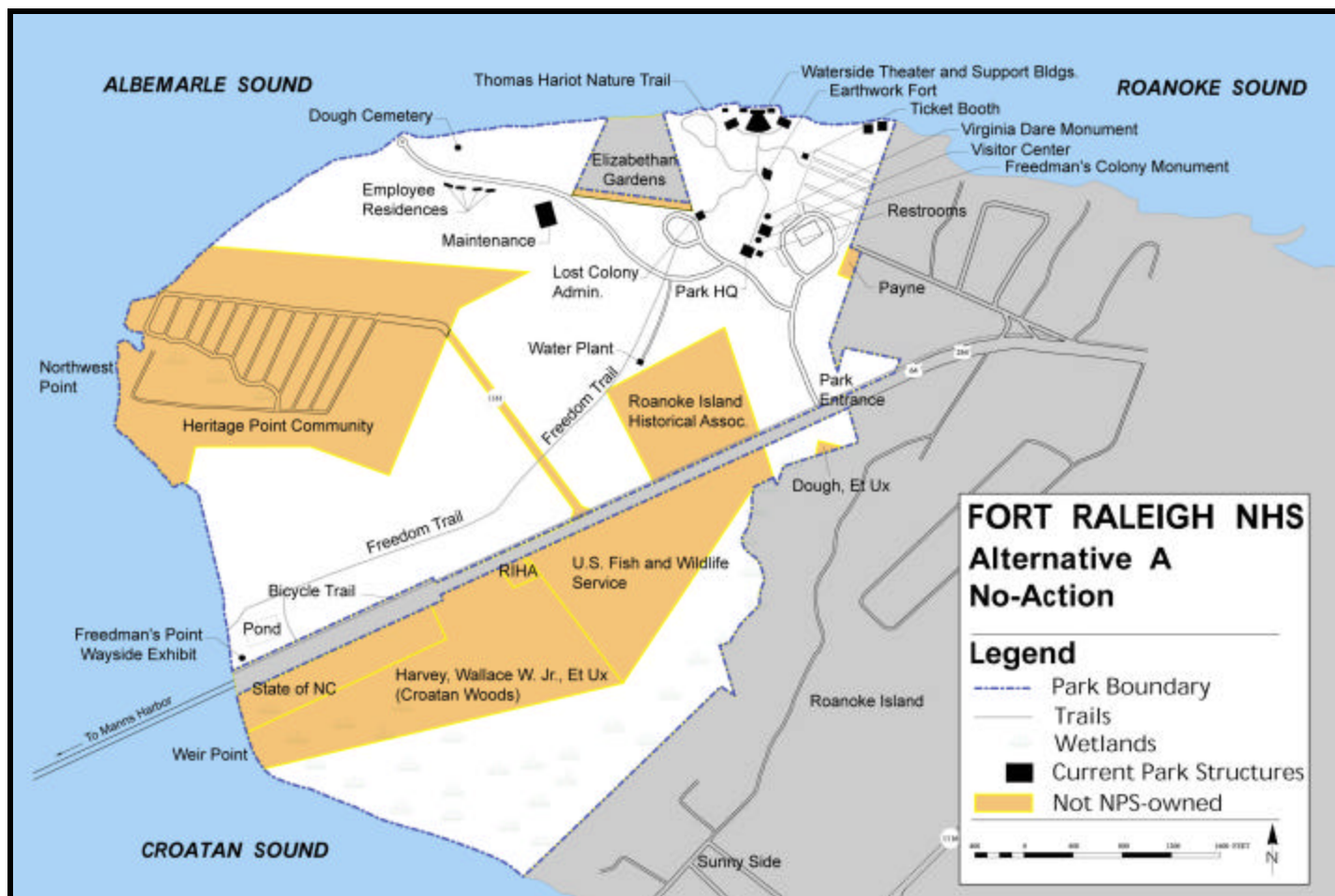
- Repair, rehabilitate, and maintain the Visitor Center in its present location and footprint.

Administrative Headquarters Building

- Rehabilitate and repair existing administrative offices.

Expanded Interpretive Mission

- Continue films and exhibits at Lindsay Warren Visitor Center.
- Maintain Freedmen's Colony & Underground Railroad exhibits at pond area.
- Utilize wayside exhibits, ranger talks and other methods.



Alternative B

General Theme

Emphasizes minimal facilities, staffing, and non-traditional methods for providing visitor orientation, visitor services, and interpretive messages and programs.



All alternatives would continue protection of the Waterside Theater shoreline (left) and this alternative would make minor aesthetic improvements to the pond area (right) at the north end of Roanoke Island.

Visitor Experience

- Visitor is encouraged to learn about the park at various sites rather than at a central location.
- Emphasis on self-guided visitor exploration and discovery rather than ranger led walks and interpretive programs.

Resource Conditions

- Allow natural processes (e.g. shoreline erosion) and excavate threatened archeological resources.
- Continue protection of Waterside Theater and Dough family cemetery shorelines.
- Reduce heavily landscaped areas. Allow to revert to natural conditions or convert to low maintenance plantings.
- Make minor aesthetic improvements at pond area.
- Establish themed interpretive zones and connect with a formal, paved, accessible trail system.

- Redesign existing trails to clarify confusing patterns.

Visitor Center

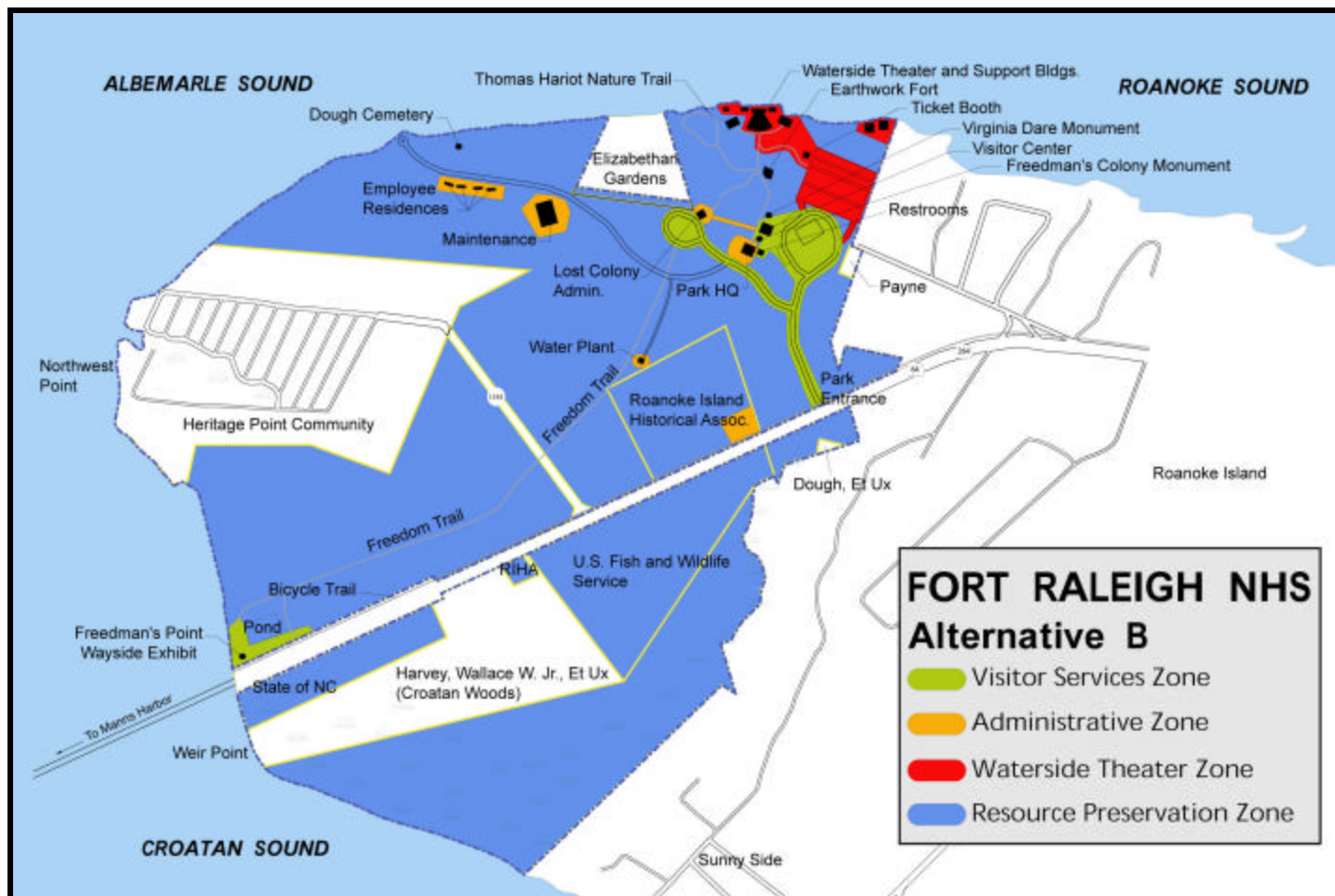
- Repair and rehabilitate structure within existing footprint.

Administrative Headquarters Building

- Repair and rehabilitate Outer Banks Group headquarters building within existing footprint.

Expanded Interpretive Mission

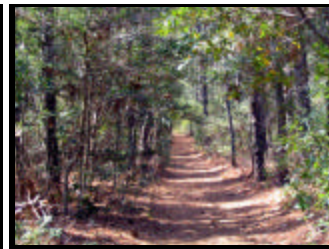
- Expand and rely on partnerships to tell the various stories.
- Create interpretive zones (Native American, African American, European American) connected by an interpretive trail system.



Alternative C

General Theme

This alternative would concentrate visitor services, including orientation and programming of the expanded interpretive themes in the existing visitor center and the adjacent plaza area.



This alternative would permit natural processes such as shoreline erosion (left) to continue. Threatened archeological resources would be excavated. The administrative HQ building (center) will be repaired and rehabilitated under all alternatives. The existing trail system (right) would be maintained.

Visitor Experience

- Expand personal interpretive service program efforts.
- Visitors spend more time on site than currently through expanded interpretive efforts and availability of drinks and snacks at the park.
- Visitors continue to be oriented to the site and to learn about multiple themes in one central location.

Resource Conditions

- Allow natural processes (e.g. shoreline erosion) and excavate threatened archeological resources.
- Continue protection of Waterside Theater & Dough Cemetery shorelines.
- Enhance pond area with improved parking and landscaping.
- Maintain current trail system. Bring bike trail into park.

Visitor Center

- Rehabilitate and repair existing structure. Initial project

planning is underway.

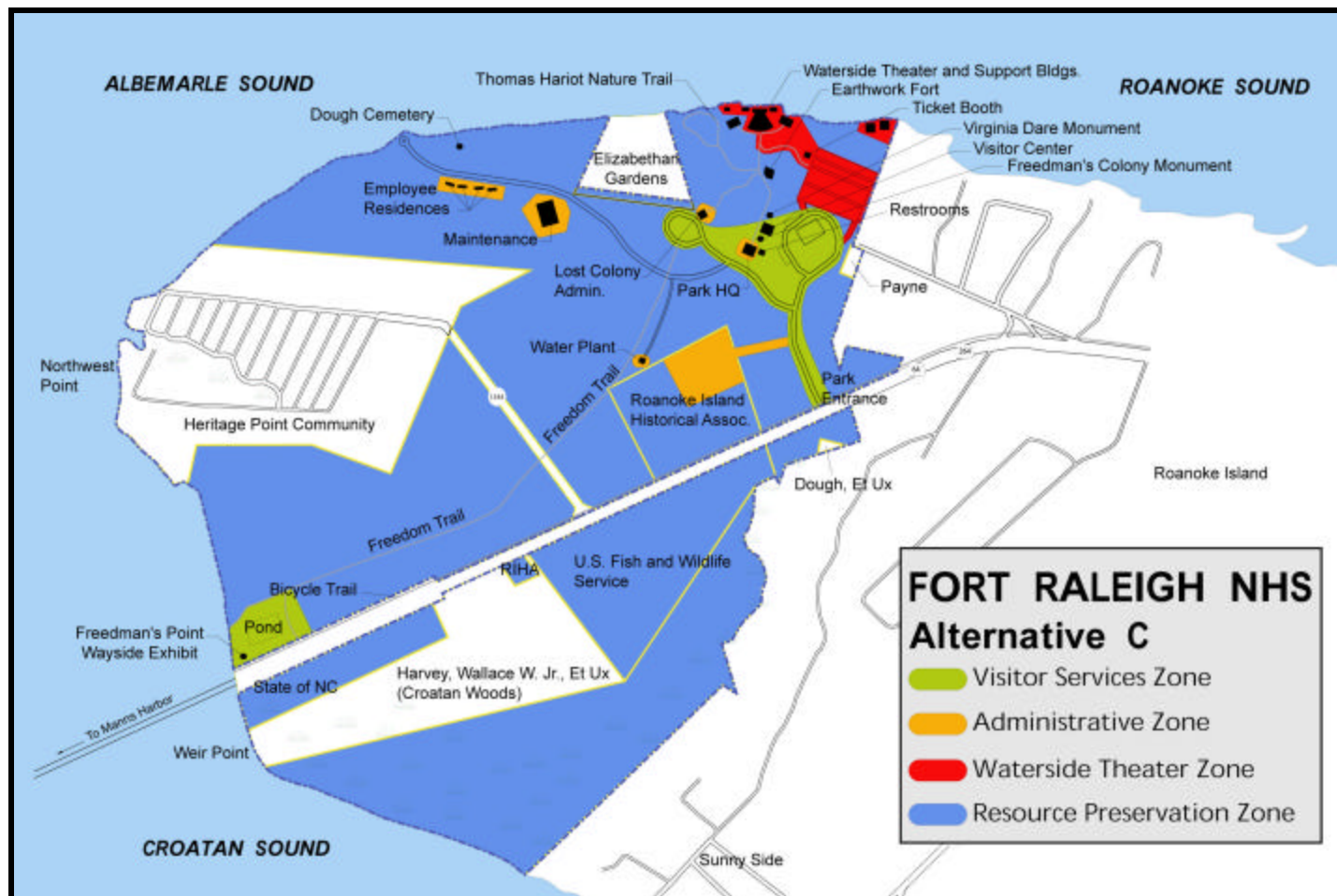
- Update and expand the exhibits. Produce an improved interpretive film.

Administrative Headquarters Building

- Rehabilitate and repair existing structure. Initial project planning is underway.
- Use a portion of rehabilitated HQ building for archival and research purposes.
- Conduct a feasibility study of various alternatives for relocating park HQ.

Expanded Interpretive Mission

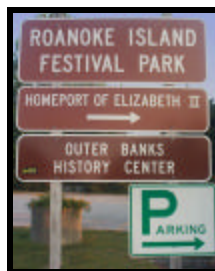
- Develop interpretive media in the visitor center complex to include interpretation of the Freedmen's colony, the Underground Railroad, the Fessenden radio experiments, and Native American themes.



Alternative D

General Theme

Modify existing management practices and policies to address issues and concerns raised during public scoping. Repair and renovate existing facilities rather than replace them or add new ones.



This alternative would rehabilitate and redesign the existing visitor center (left) and establish new partnerships to implement the park's expanded interpretive mission.

Visitor Experience

- Visitors access the park's outlying resources independently but those visits would be enhanced by the installation of new wayside exhibits and the production of new site bulletins.
- There would also be regularly scheduled ranger tours and interpretive talks to supplement individual exploration and discovery.
- More opportunities to learn about different interpretive themes through partnerships.

Resource Conditions

- Evaluate various methods of protecting shoreline from erosion.
- Continue protection of Waterside Theater and Dough Cemetery shorelines.
- Relocate RIHA administrative facility from current location to a site near the Waterside Theater.
- Make minor aesthetic improvements at the pond area.

- Convert landscaping to low maintenance plants and other elements.

Visitor Center (VC)

- Rehab and expand current VC within existing footprint & increase carrying capacity of existing auditorium.
- Revamp VC and exhibit plan to address 1990 legislation.

Administrative Headquarters Building

- Rehabilitate and repair the existing HQ building within the existing footprint.
- Enlarge HQ parking area.

Expanded Interpretive Mission

- Expand and rely on partnerships with other agencies to tell the various stories.

