



Replacing the Fort Hancock Dock at Gateway National Recreation Area Proposed Action Summary Sheet

Purpose

To enhance alternative transportation options at Sandy Hook while providing a platform for increased collaboration with the park’s educational partners.

Need

- Support park partners’ educational missions at Sandy Hook
- Increased need for infrastructure to support law enforcement and emergency operations at Sandy Hook

The NEPA Planning Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) outlines the required environmental planning process that the National Park Service (NPS) must follow to ensure informed decision-making. This law has been described as the most important and far reaching environmental and conservation measure ever enacted. The Council on Environmental Quality provides regulations for the implementation of NEPA. The NPS has specific guidelines on how these regulations apply to NPS units through Director’s Order 12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis and Decision Making.

The Environmental Assessment that will be developed to comply with NEPA is expected to be ready for public review late summer 2009. At that time, additional public involvement opportunities will be available.

Proposed Action

In keeping with the park’s goal of supporting green transportation alternatives, the NPS has initiated plans to enhance water access and ferryboat service at Gateway National Recreation Area’s Sandy Hook Unit. Under consideration are a new pier with wave attenuation devices, a floating ferry dock, improved parking, and a waiting area for ferry passengers. In addition, boat slips and a boat ramp could be provided for the various public and educational institutions that occupy the adaptive use historic buildings at Sandy Hook, including the Marine Academy of Science and Technology, Rutgers University, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The new pier would be placed in the same location as the existing pier and barge, behind the Fort Hancock Chapel.

Public Comment

The NPS invites the public to provide written comments about the project via email (gate_public_affairs@nps.gov), in writing (Superintendent, Gateway N.R.A., Sandy Hook Unit, 58 Magruder Road, Fort Hancock, NJ 07732), or on the park’s Planning, Environment, and Public Comment web site: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gate>.