

Fire Island

National Seashore
National Park Service
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ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR INTERPRETATION

1989

Fire Island National Seashore
Annual Statement for Interpretation
1989

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INTRODUCTION

Public Law 88-587 established Fire Island National Seashore

"... for the purpose of conserving and preserving for the use of future generations certain relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features within Suffolk County, New York, which possess high values to the Nation as examples of unspoiled areas of great natural beauty . . .".

The Seashore encompasses 19,550 acres, the majority of which are located between the Fire Island Lighthouse at the western boundary to Smith Point on the eastern boundary. Located within the Federal property area are 17 private communities that are exempted from condemnation provided the property is in compliance with current Federal zoning standards. Additionally, the Park includes the Headquarters complex, the Maintenance facility and the Patchogue Terminal Site, located on the mainland in Patchogue and the William Floyd Estate located in Mastic Beach. Areas of specific interest, including cultural, natural and recreational areas are located throughout the Seashore's boundaries.

Of prime cultural interest are the William Floyd Estate and the Fire Island Lighthouse. The Sunken Forest at Sailors Haven, the National Wilderness Area and Fire Island High Dune area at Smith Point and the Salt Marsh area at Watch Hill are areas of prime natural history interest. Recreational activities are featured all along the Seashore and include swimming, fishing, clamming, beach use, hiking, boating.

PART I
BASIC INFORMATION FOR PROGRAM PLANNING

A. Overview of Primary Themes and Objectives

Parks are managed by a multitude of documents. Foremost of these documents are legislative acts that govern the Park Service and acts that relate directly to the establishment of the Park. In the day-to-day operations of the park, there are a number of long and short-range documents that guide park staff in fulfilling the mandates of legislation. Fire Island National Seashore's primary planning documents related to interpretive activities are the General Management Plan, the Interpretive Prospectus, and the Resource Management Plan. These long-range planning documents are excerpted below to introduce the basic goals of Fire Island National Seashore.

1. GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The GMP was recommended for approval in 1977. A majority of the goals are ongoing in the Park; some of the goals initially established have been completed.

The National Park Service will manage Fire Island National Seashore in accordance with the legislated mandate to preserve the island's natural resources while providing diverse recreational opportunities. The following objectives will be used to guide management and operation of the national seashore:

- * To provide for the preservation of unspoiled beaches, dunes, and natural features for the use of future generations.
- * To protect and preserve natural plant and animal communities.
- * To manage Fire Island in ways that will enhance natural processes and mitigate the impacts of human interference with these processes.
- * To control visitor use in areas of prime wildlife habitat as required to maintain wildlife populations.
- * To maintain and/or restore all areas not required for public or administrative use to a natural condition using aesthetically appealing and environmentally compatible methods.
- * To identify and preserve cultural resources.
- * To maintain acceptable water quality in marinas and adjacent waters through management of visitor use.
- * To advise and consult with appropriate agencies concerning offshore oil drilling and production and to ensure National Environmental Policy Act compliance for any related activities that may occur within national seashore jurisdiction.
- * To continue to work with U.S. Coast Guard and other involved agencies in the detection, monitoring, and cleanup of any sludge or other pollutants brought ashore by wind and wave action.
- * To foster public understanding and appreciation of Fire Island's natural and cultural resources.

- * To provide for the continued reduction of vehicle use until such use is at an absolute minimum.
- * To maintain and provide only those dune crossings (vehicular and pedestrian) required for the proper use and preservation of the area.
- * To allow vector control activities within federally managed properties of the national seashore in times of established public health emergencies.
- * To provide a full range of quality interpretive activities that emphasize the natural feature and processes of the seashore's lands and waters, man's relationship with his environment, and the historical and other cultural values of the area.
- * To coordinate a full program in environmental education with local schools so that the area can be used to its fullest advantage as a place where children from all walks of life can experience, enjoy, and learn from a natural setting the relationships between man and the barrier beach, and his impacts.
- * To place underground all aerial utility lines.
- * To utilize Fire Island's resources in providing recreational facilities and opportunities that are generally unavailable elsewhere in the region while maintaining the serenity and beauty of the barrier island.
- * To provide for the continuation of traditional low-density recreational activities.
- * To make the national seashore accessible to a cross section of the national and regional population.
- * To encourage cooperation in the management of adjacent recreational lands to prevent unnecessary duplication of facilities and to provide the greatest diversity of recreational opportunities on Fire Island.
- * To provide and enhance a harmonious relationship between the exempted seashore communities and the National Park Service.
- * To integrate planning and management for Fire Island National Seashore into regional planning and economic considerations.

Fire Island National Seashore has been divided into units to facilitate management and to improve operations. Each unit will have specific management objectives.

2. INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS

The Interpretive Prospectus was approved in 1978. Although some of the information contained in the document is outdated, as a planning document there are a number of still current goals. The following excerpts, for all management units other than the William Floyd Estate, are taken directly from the Interpretive Prospectus. The major planning document for the William Floyd Estate is the "Description of Selected

Alternative." A majority of the goals described in these documents are ongoing in the Park; some of the goals initially established have been completed.

2 a. FIRE ISLAND LIGHT STATION

The Fire Island Light Station will be acquired from the U.S. Coast Guard in 1978. Its historical and natural resources will be extremely important for the national seashore. It is near the heavily populated communities of the west end of Fire Island and visitors using Robert Moses State Park. It is accessible from established ferry and excursion boat routes. It has great potential to serve a public heretofore unreached by the services of the national seashore. The physical facilities and natural resource base lend themselves to historical and natural history interpretation and environmental education services.

Lighthouse

The Fire Island Light Station was active from 1858 until 1974. It has changed little in use and appearance over the past 120 years. It is recommended that the exterior of the keeper's residence and the lighthouse be eventually restored to a condition representative of the "pre-electrification" specifically in the 1891-1939 period.

The lighthouse has been literally the focal point of interest in the tract for the past 120 years. Ideally the oil lamp and clock, the traditional lighting technology, should be on display. Until such time as an oil lamp and related equipment can be located, the existing electrical mechanism will be used for display. Once the oil lamp is acquired, it will be installed without being lit or otherwise activated. Findings of the Historic Structure Report will further define the identity of the exact period of use and the mechanism to be ultimately placed in the upper gallery.

For the immediate future, it is recommended that the lighthouse be stabilized in its present condition. This would consist primarily of repairing the reinforced concrete shell covering the surface. Visitor use cannot begin until this work is completed.

The lighthouse is of interpretive importance not only for itself but also for the panoramic view from the top. Because the electric lantern and lens must be protected from vandalism, visitors will be allowed into the upper gallery only when accompanied by park interpreters conducting guided tours. There will be restricted access to the first gallery so that visitors may have the opportunity of viewing the seashore from the balcony. For visitor safety, it may be necessary to screen the balcony.

The Fire Island Light Station may have been unique in that at one time there was a stone passageway connecting the keeper's residence with the tower. Reconstruction of this passageway is recommended, returning a possibly unique historical structure to its former place, controlling access to the tower, and providing an alternative much preferable to a fence.

Interpretation will be by personal services and sales folder.

Keeper's Dwelling

The keeper's dwelling also dates from 1858. It is presently used for park employee housing. The exterior is largely historically intact; the interior has undergone several modifications. Adaptive use as a maritime museum and interpretive center is proposed.

The exterior dimensions of the residence are 58'9" x 36'2". There are two main floors, an attic, and a basement. It is proposed that the ground floor be used as the main public contact area, the upper floor be used for administrative purposes (eliminating the need for handicapped access), and the basement used for an auditorium and heating.

The General Management Plan (1977) projects 1,000 visitors a day by 1987.

The visitor use portion of the keeper's dwelling will contain an information desk, cooperating association sales area, rest rooms, and exhibits interpreting the maritime history of Fire Island.

Auditorium

The basement auditorium will be accessible by stairs and either an elevator or stair chair, will have a capacity of about forty, and will have motion picture and slide projection capability. Programs can be started from within the auditorium or by remote control from the information desk.

Information/Orientation

Near the information desk will be an orientation map of Fire Island National Seashore and dispensers for free informational handout materials. Interpretive schedules and additional information about interpretive programs will be displayed on a letter insert bulletin board and a chalk board. A public address system will have a microphone at the information desk and loudspeakers in the various visitor use rooms. On the exterior of the keeper's quarters, there will be a push-button activated speaker tuned to the Weather Bureau's current taped weather forecast.

Cooperating Association Sales Area

The size of the sales area is related directly to the amount of environmental control possible and desirable. If sales materials can be protected from salt air and humidity, then the sales area will be larger; if not, it will be smaller with limited titles as at other island interpretive facilities.

Exhibits

The following exhibits are proposed for the main floor maritime museum:

(1.) Life Saving

The first shipwreck of record at Fire Island occurred in 1657. A Wreck Master was appointed in 1787. The Life Saving Service was established in 1847 and six life saving stations were located on Fire Island within present National Park Service lands. In 1915, the Life Saving Service was merged with the U.S. Coast Guard. More than 110 vessels have wrecked or grounded in Fire Island waters.

This exhibit will tell about Fire Island shipwrecks, victims and rescuers, and the surfmen who manned the life saving stations. This exhibit will occupy an entire room within the keeper's residence.

The centerpieces of the exhibit will be the life car discovered in the sands just west of the

lighthouse in 1977 and a hull timber from the schooner "Bessie A. White." The schooner, carrying 300 tons of coal, went aground in 1922. Partially buried for many years, the remains of the hull were completely uncovered by a storm in the winter of 1978.

Exhibit depth will be provided by photographs, newspaper clippings, excerpts from life saving station logs, and first person accounts, possibly using an audio device. If one can be found, a Life Saving Gold Medal and the story of how it was won will provide a fine focus.

Visitors will have the opportunity of experiencing the terrors of a shipwreck, at least in their imaginations. A breeches buoy or lifecar will be suspended on a rope a short distance above the floor. Visitors may climb into the rescue device and feel the rope sway beneath their weight.

One rope will connect visuals of the beach with surfmen and bystanders on one end and a sinking ship on the other. Sounds of wind and surf and groaning timbers will heighten the imaginary terror.

(2.) Lighthouse

The first Fire Island lighthouse was constructed in 1827. The second, constructed in 1858, was operated until 1974. Presently, the Coast Guard operates a xenon flash tube atop the Water Tower at Robert Moses State Park.

The centerpiece of this exhibit will be the view from the top. In a walk-in exhibit, visitors will see a 360 degree back-lighted transparency of this view. The present view will fade into a scene from the past, where there were no resort communities on the island and Fire Island Inlet was much closer to the light. By this device, the changing scene at Fire Island can be interpreted, and handicapped persons and others who choose not to climb to the top of the tower can experience to some degree the panorama available from that vantage point.

Graphics on the exterior of the exhibit and on room walls will interpret the two Fire Island lighthouses and the new flash tube, why they were needed, how they work, and something about the life of the keeper.

(3.) Weather

At the seashore, weather is of interest to almost everyone -- not just today's weather, but the weather through the years that has shaped and reshaped the configuration of the island.

A scrapbook listing of 20th century storms and their effects on Fire Island and vicinity, embellished by photographs and newspaper clippings, will provide an interesting "musing" experience. Data is available in the Environmental Inventory (1975). One individual storm will be treated in an exhibit. Three candidates include the unusually severe hurricane of September 21, 1938, the most severe storm on Long Island since 1893; the hurricane of September 12, 1960, which caused extensive damage on Fire Island; and the storm of February 5, 1978, which many visitors will have experienced personally. Newspaper clippings and photographs provide ample documentation of all three storms.

Platform

The lighthouse and keeper's dwelling are supported by a stone platform 149' x 96'6" and about 8' high. Presently accessible by stairs, a low angle ramp will be constructed for the use of handicapped individuals.

A large anchor was uncovered on the Fire Island beach near Smith Point in 1978. Because of its size (c.3,000 pounds), it is recommended that the anchor be displayed outside, near the base of the platform where the visitor access will be located. The best display will have one anchor fluke buried in the sand, as if the anchor had been lowered by a ship, with a chain or cable extending from the anchor to a point on top of the platform wall. A small sign will provide information about the anchor's size, origin, age, etc.

Cultural Trail

Structures and the remains of structures are scattered around the lighthouse tract. These include the foundations of the 1827 lighthouse, the Naval and Coast Guard Radio Annex, a cistern, a boathouse, and many smaller remains.

While the park intends to remove some items as part of a general cleanup, much will remain to arouse the curiosity of park visitors.

It is proposed that a boardwalk, similar to those used for nature trails at other island locations, meander through the structures and remains. Interpretation will be by means of small signs telling briefly what each was used for and when. Visitors will be encouraged to stay on the boardwalk. It is not necessary that items to be interpreted be immediately adjacent to the boardwalk.

The national seashore may acquire a surfboat formerly used by the U.S. Coast Guard. This should be displayed in the boathouse adjacent to the trail. Visitors will be able to enter the boathouse to examine the surfboat up close.

Nature Trail

A nature trail to be located between the lighthouse and the State Park is proposed for interpreting the landforms and associated natural features of interest. The trail, about one mile long, will be oriented primarily in a north-south direction so as to traverse the maximum number of topographic forms and vegetation types. A boardwalk will allow the maximum number of visitors to use the trail with minimum environmental disturbance.

It will be so constructed as to accommodate wheelchairs, otherwise similar to other boardwalk trails on the island.

From beach to bay, the trail will go from primary dunes overlooking the beach down into the swale, up secondary dune ridges associated with previous inlet locations, and down to the tidal marshes on the shore of Great South Bay.

Vegetation types to be interpreted include beachgrass grassland, beach heather dwarf shrub, bearberry dwarf shrub, pitch pine woodland, cranberry bog, and bayside tidal marsh. This is a good place to interpret plant succession on Fire Island, since the oldest land traversed by the trail can have been in place little more than one hundred years. This area may be the Sunken Forest of the future if the succession can proceed without

interruption and if the dunes grow high enough to afford sufficient protection.

Interpretation will be by sales folder.

Wayside Exhibits

Two wayside exhibits are proposed, one to interpret the ruins of the 1827 lighthouse, the other treating the dynamic processes of barrier islands.

They will be located along the proposed boardwalk nature trail near its beginning. These two stories will be available to park visitors who do not intend to walk the entire trail.

(1.) 1827 Lighthouse

The first Fire Island lighthouse was operated from 1827 until 1858. The exhibit will show what the lighthouse looked like, give its dimensions and effective range, and tell why it was replaced. This wayside will also serve as the start of the nature trail. Additional information about the first lighthouse will be contained in the trail folder.

The area surrounding the 1827 ruins has been designated an archaeologically sensitive area and should receive maximum protection during restoration work on the 1858 light station. It is recommended that the tower base be stabilized in its present condition. Access will be by boardwalk with a viewing area next to the tower base. Visitors will be asked not to climb into or on the structure. A fence would mar the scene and is not recommended.

(2.) Dynamic Processes of Barrier Islands

This wayside exhibit will be located near the beginning of the proposed nature trail, on higher ground so that the State Park water tower is visible. The exhibit itself should be low, so as not to block the view or intrude unnecessarily on the natural scene.

Fire Island is moving to the west and north. The westward movement is in response to the east to west longshore currents, filling Fire Island Inlet on the east side, and cutting it back on the west side. The inlet was once immediately adjacent to the 1827 lighthouse and has moved almost five miles to the west, beyond the State Park water tower. The northward movement is due to the diversion of longshore currents through Fire Island Inlet and back to the east in Great South Bay, and to the occasional overwash from storm tides. Islands in Great South Bay and marshes on the north edge of Fire Island have derived their sediments from these processes. A number of available charts show the configurations on western Fire Island at various times in the past.

Naval and Coast Guard Radio Annex

The annex was in place by 1936. The upper story was added in 1941. It was used for Navy radio communications in the 1930's, as a Coast Guard station during World War II, and, for a short time after the war, for experimental Voice of America broadcasts.

Communications Equipment

The communications equipment within the annex is of a type no longer used. It is part of the history of the lighthouse area and, in a few more years, may be important in itself as a relic of a bygone era. The material will be evaluated as soon as possible for historical and interpretive value. Then a decision can be made as to its disposition and possible use of a portion of the annex for interpretive purposes.

Environmental Education

One wing of the annex will be used solely by school groups for environmental education programs. It will accommodate day use and live-in groups. The potential for such use is great because of the year-round vehicle access. Facilities for day use groups include rest rooms, auditorium/classroom with motion picture and slide capability, and work facilities for 60 to 70 persons. Overnight groups will require the same facilities for 40 persons, plus dormitory, kitchen, and dining room. This use does not preclude use of a portion of the annex for park employee housing.

2. b. SUNKEN FOREST

Interpretation at the Sunken Forest will acquaint visitors with aquatic life forms, formation of the maritime forest, vegetative types, the relationship of vegetation to maintenance of the barrier island, and various recreational pursuits.

The existing 1 1/2-mile interpretive trail will be maintained. The interpretive center will be remodeled on the inside and enlarged by the addition of a small multipurpose room. The outdoor amphitheater will be refurbished and will continue to be used for group orientation and other interpretive purposes. Environmental education and associated lodging will be discontinued following establishment of the environmental education facility at Talisman. Day use environmental education classes will continue to visit the Sunken Forest. In 1976, maximum summer visitation was 2,300 per day. The maximum daily 1987 visitation level proposed is 2,500 per day.

Sailors Haven Interpretive Center

The existing interpretive center is admirably suited for the purpose. The restful atmosphere of this converted beach house provides an ideal setting for natural history interpretation.

Information/Orientation.

There will be a small information desk of a simple, space-saving design with provision for free handout materials. The desk will be provided with a telephone and park radio. An orientation map of Fire Island will be nearby. On the exterior of the building will be a push-button activated speaker tuned to the Weather Bureau's current taped weather forecast.

Cooperating Association Sales

The sales area will be small with a limited number of sales items. It will be designed so that one person can operate both the information desk and the sales area.

Multipurpose Room

It is proposed that the floor space of the interpretive center be increased by the addition of a small multipurpose room with a capacity of forty. An air of informality will save space if visitors are seated on a floor carpet and on a single bench around the perimeter of the room. Folding chairs will be stored for use when appropriate. The room will have motion picture and slide capability. It will often be used by school groups on day visits to the island.

Exhibits

The following exhibits are recommended:

(1.) Island Cross-section

This exhibit will provide a clear cross-sectional view of Fire Island from ocean to bay in the Sunken Forest vicinity. The primary focus of this exhibit will be the patterns of landform and vegetative cover imposed by the environment. The underwater beach has its own distinctive profile that contrasts with the flat bay floor. The exposed ocean beach is virtually devoid of vegetation. Beachgrass begins on the primary dunes. In the swale behind the primary dunes is a mosaic of bare sand, beachgrass and beach heather, shrubs, and thickets. A secondary dune line, well stabilized by vegetation is covered by thickets that grade into the Sunken Forest on the back side of these dunes. The forest continues a short distance to the north until it reaches the top of the intertidal zone, where the salt marsh begins and gradually deepens to the open water of Great South Bay.

The size and variety of vegetation is determined by the amount of protection from salt spray afforded by the landforms and by the length of time the area has been undisturbed. Beachgrass is salt tolerant and occupies the most exposed environment. The vegetation is more varied in the swale, but this location is still exposed to the pruning effect of salt spray. When a break occurs in the primary dunes, blowouts can occur in the swale, returning an area to the beginning stage of the successions, bare sand.

Sunken Forest occupies the location that has had the most protection for the longest period of time. Even the shape of the top of the forest canopy is determined by the environment. The aerodynamic shape of the top of the canopy allows winds to pass over without major effect, an important factor in tree survival. The Sunken Forest has a pattern of its own, a vertical pattern. The understory consists of woody vines (including catbrier and poison ivy), shrubs, and saplings that may someday make it to the top of the forest. Above the understory is a relatively clear area, with the trunks of trees forming columns connecting the understory with the canopy.

Almost every square inch of canopy is filled with leaves seeking the sun. The top of the canopy is sculpted into shapes similar to breaking waves.

(2.) Fire Island Mosaic

This exhibit will focus on the individual portions of the mosaic portrayed in the island cross-section, treating one significant thing about each.

The Great South Beach is "great." The linear view up and down the beach is impressive. Stretching in an unbroken line east and west, the end cannot be seen.

The primary dunes stand on the boundary between ocean and land. Beach grass grows to the very edge of this boundary and, by stabilizing the edge of the land, make the rest of the mosaic possible.

The swale has its own mosaic. Gradual and sudden environmental transitions are reflected by the vegetation. Bare sand, grassland, dwarf shrub, and thicket occupy their own small patches and enlarge their territories to their environmental limits.

Bogs occur in depressions where the water table is close to the surface. Cranberries are the delightful surprise. The Sunken Forest is significant for its beauty and for its very existence.

The Environmental Inventory states :

"Similar maritime forests of broadleaved trees once occurred on the landward sides of many other barrier islands along the eastern seaboard, but extensive erosion and the development of these islands for resort use have reduced the forests to a few scattered relics, most of which are now preserved in parks and wildlife refuges."

The tidal marsh is the home of waterfowl, herons and egrets, and red-winged blackbirds, and is the natural habitat of the inveterate birdwatcher. The Great South Bay is renowned for its shellfish and waterfowl.

(3.) Aquarium

A tank containing various live marine organisms seined from the bay has been one of the most popular Fire Island exhibits and will be continued. Label interpretation will touch lightly on the importance of salt marsh and bay as nursery and economically important biomass. The aquarium provides entry into a world the visitor cannot see.

(4.) Beach Box

The beach box has also provided successful interpretation at Fire Island. A sand box containing shells, starfish, driftwood, bottles, etc., collected from the beach provides a wealth of interpretive material with a single label: "PLEASE TOUCH." The beach box provides entry into the world we can see if we look for it.

Sunken Forest Nature Trail

The existing self-guiding Sunken Forest nature trail will be retained. Exhibits and markers will not be erected, except for a single compass rose similar to the one presently at Old Inlet boardwalk, to be painted on the boardwalk at the square in the middle of the forest.

2. c. TALISMAN

Talisman will be developed as a major environmental education center with overnight lodging for forty

persons. A determination will be made as to what type structure will be appropriate for this location, taking into account factors of land form, weather, and required facilities (dormitory, kitchen and dining area, auditorium/classroom with slide and motion picture capability, rest rooms). A building with a 360° outside view classroom would provide continuing contact with the environment on days when classes spend time indoors.

In 1976, maximum public use on national seashore lands amounted to 400 visitors per day. The use projection for 1987 is 700 per day. Permanent facilities are not contemplated. Interpretive programs are presently given two days a week in summer and these will be continued.

2. d. WATCH HILL

Public use has reached a maximum of 1,500 visitors per day in summer, expected to increase to 2,000 per day by 1987. Existing facilities include a bathhouse, individual and group campgrounds, food-marina store, snack bar, elevated pedestrian dune crossing, ferry slips, marina, lifeguard station, picnic area, interpretive trail, ranger station, interpretive center, and visitor information center. All of these facilities are connected to one another by boardwalk; all share a modern architectural style; all compete with the natural recreational setting and with Service interpretive programs. Watch Hill is a competitive environment; National Park Service interpretive facilities must be competitive. Unlike Sailors Haven, Watch Hill is not a place for leisurely enjoyment of exhibits. Watch Hill is a place for doing. The park interpretive staff conducts an exciting interpretive program at Watch Hill. The interpretive center must also be exciting, and must key on the exciting personal services programs available.

Watch Hill Interpretive Center

The following are proposed:

Refurbishing

If possible, the interior dimensions of the interpretive center need to be changed. The space appears to be higher than it is wide. This is probably an optical illusion, but the eye is drawn up and up to the ceiling, which should not be the interpretive focus. Bright cool colors should be used on the walls in designs that will appear to increase the linear horizontal space. The existing information desk will be replaced with a very simple streamlined desk. This will allow for more efficient service to visitors and also increase the available floor space. The small cooperating association sales area will be similarly streamlined.

Exhibits

The following are recommended:

(1.) Shellfishing

At least 7,000 years ago, Long Island shellfish were an important food source for people. This remains true today, although methods of harvesting the crop have changed considerably. Since Colonial times, the one-man clamming operation has changed very little; however, industrial clamming has evolved in the direction of remarkable efficiency. This exhibit will use the tools of clamming and models to illustrate the differences between industrial and one-man clamming and the changes and lack of change over the last one hundred years. Part of the Great

South Bay is open to individual clamming; part is restricted to commercial use. Visitors will want to know where and how they can become recreational clammers. Five exhibits will be designed and produced initially by Harpers Ferry Center. Working with the simple original design and local artists, photographers, and printers, the park staff can produce new exhibits in the same format as needed, and replace these expendable exhibits as they are worn out.

(2.) **Aquarium** (See Sailors Haven)

(3.) **Beach Box** (See Sailors Haven)

Interpretive Center

An orientation map of Fire Island will be displayed near the information desk, along with bulletin boards and space for dispensing free handout literature. A push-button activated weather forecast speaker will be on the exterior of the building.

Dune Station Information Center.

The information center will be retained.

Amphitheater

The informal boardwalk amphitheater provides an ideal setting for many different kinds of programs in this environment and will be retained.

Nature Trail

The Watch Hill nature trail will be retained. Although the trail leaflet is well written and designed, the park staff should consider redoing the leaflet, using more modern design and a writing style more in tune with the Watch Hill environment, which is very different from the Sunken Forest.

Wayside Exhibits

Two are proposed, one at the Dune Station, the other at or near the start of the nature trail.

(1.) Fire Island at Night

For a complete change of pace from the rest of Watch Hill, a wayside shelter interpreting Fire Island at night is proposed. It will be located at the site of the former geology wayside exhibit. This exhibit will use imaginative techniques to entice visitors to experience Fire Island in a different way. Most of the boat traffic on Great South Bay is stopped at night, bringing natural sounds to the foreground -- and when the eyes see less, the ears hear more. The surf is louder, or at least it seems so, and sounds such as two tree trunks rubbing together are magnified. The surf is phosphorescent, and stars seem brighter at the seashore. And the visitor will not be alone on his walk -- many animals come out at night, and none of them are harmful. Fox, weasel, and owl are hunting, and ghost crabs scurry across the sand.

(2.) High Dune Area

A wayside exhibit interpreting the High Dune Area is proposed at or near the beginning of the nature trail, serving also to call attention to the trail. The exhibit will direct attention to the adjacent natural area, point out why it is unique, and assist visitors to use it and learn from it.

High Dune Area extends eight miles from Watch Hill to Smith Point West. It is unique, because this is the area where Fire Island is allowed to happen, where man is the visitor in a place that belongs to wild things. Access to the High Dune Area is provided by the "Burma Road," a sand trail connecting Watch Hill with Smith Point West. Outstanding natural resources within the natural area include Old Inlet (high secondary dunes and diverse vegetation including freshwater marshes within the dune area), the area south of Hospital Island (diverse high-marsh vegetation and the island's best stand of beach grass), the Watch Hill interpretive area (upland marsh communities and small stands of maritime forest), the dune line, and various bog habitats.

2. e. OLD INLET

Facilities will be limited to docking area, boardwalk, rest area with showers, rest rooms, primitive camping areas, and wayside exhibits. Present summer visitation amounts to 350 persons per day and is not expected to rise significantly.

Wayside Exhibits

Two wayside exhibits are proposed, interpreting the dunes and Old Inlet. In this location, the wayside exhibits will be small so as not to intrude overmuch on the natural scene.

(1.) Dune Exhibit

This exhibit will be placed just behind the dunes or where the "Burma Road" (sand trail) intersects the Old Inlet boardwalk. The dunes will be interpreted as a boundary. The beach up to the toe of the dunes belongs to the ocean. The first clumps of beachgrass symbolize the change to a terrestrial environment. All of the land and life behind the dunes exists only because of them. The beach is in motion, if not today then certainly tomorrow. The backdune area is stable, so long as the dunes remain as boundary.

(2.) Old Inlet Exhibit

This exhibit will be located at a vantage point behind the primary dunes along the Old Inlet boardwalk, perhaps in conjunction with the dune exhibit. The view from the exhibit viewing area should include the primary dune line stretching off to the west and, also to the west, the twin lines of oblique backdunes marking the former location of Old Inlet. Old Inlet probably opened around the time of the Revolutionary War and reportedly closed in 1827. The exhibit will treat very simply the naming of this location; there used to be an inlet one-half mile to the west. It will explore briefly the uncertain topography of barrier islands -- what is here today may not necessarily be here tomorrow -- and point out that the unbroken dune line to the west has obviously formed in recent times.

2. f. SMITH POINT WEST

The existing facility is a trailer used for hunting and vehicle control and some interpretation. Peak visitation is 1,590 per day in summer. Maximum 1977 daily visitation is projected to 2,590 per day. Access is by automobile with parking in Smith Point County Park.

Proposals include a combination ranger station-interpretive center and rerouting of the existing nature trail in approximately the same location.

Ranger Station-Interpretive Center

The proposed ranger station-interpretive center will provide for hunting and vehicle control, information/orientation, cooperating association sales, and exhibits. A determination will be made as to what type of structure would be appropriate to the location, taking into consideration factors of land form, weather, visitation, parking, etc. An interpretive center with a 360 degree view would be effective with the proposed winds and currents exhibits and would provide an excellent platform for person-to-person interpretation of the High Dune Area.

Information/Orientation and Sales

The information desk and sales areas will be small, with orientation map, provision for handout literature, bulletin boards, and weather information as at other interpretive centers.

Exhibits

The following exhibits are proposed:

(1.) Winds and Currents

This set of small exhibits will direct visitors' interests outward toward the directional forces that shape Fire Island. These exhibits might be placed most effectively in conjunction with windows, or even out-of-doors. Each individual exhibit will be placed so that the viewer is facing in a particular direction according to the subject matter. Each individual exhibit will be extremely simple, treating only one idea. Subject matter is as follows:

In general, winter winds are from the northwest (offshore) and summer winds from the west and south (onshore). When offshore winds are strong enough, they deliver beach materials to the east-to-west longshore current, Onshore winds move materials from the foreshore onto the beach and into the dunes. Ocean swells arrive from the south-southeast throughout the year, pushing sediments from east to west along the beach.

Easterly and northeasterly winds do not occur very often, but they play an important role in moving sediment along the beach and are associated with high winds and rain. The most severe northeasters (generally winter storms) hurricanes, and tropical storms occasionally cause breakthroughs and move large quantities of sand across the island, and erode the dunes. Occasionally the opposite happens, and severe storms can build up the island. Normal small waves, operating over a several month period, can cause extensive erosion.

(2.) Fire Island in Winter

Why would anyone want to come to Fire Island in winter? What is here besides cold biting winds and even snow?

Beachcombing is one good reason. The beach is much smaller in winter, but the swell is more powerful. More debris is piled on the beach, and it is not as likely to be picked over. The selection is much better. Just being on the island to watch the winter surf is another good reason. The opportunity to be alone is another. The beauty of the island doesn't go away in the winter; it just changes.

The impenetrable thickets of summer are more open, and green has changed to brown. The portrayal of the cold beauty of Fire Island in winter will lead some visitors to want to find out for themselves. Others will be glad to have discovered something new about Fire Island without personal discomfort.

(3.) Aquarium (See Sailors Haven)

(4.) Beach Box (See Sailors Haven)

Wayside Exhibit

High Dune Area

One wayside exhibit is proposed, to be located at the beginning of the nature trail, drawing attention to the trail and interpreting the High Dune Area as a vignette of what all of Fire Island must have been like before development.

Nature Trail

The Smith Point West nature trail will be rerouted and a boardwalk trail, designed for handicapped access, constructed. The park intends to clean up the area of the trail, which is the site of a former Coast Guard installation. The trail guide will have to be revised when the new trail is constructed.

MAINLAND FERRY TERMINAL(S)

Presently, private ferry operators under contract to the National Park Service provide ferry service to Fire Island. The General Management Plan calls for Service ferries and ferry terminals. The terminals are to be located at Patchogue and a second site which has not yet been chosen.

Patchogue Terminal

A visitor contact station will provide the following services: ferry ticket sales, information/orientation, interpretation, and cooperating association sales.

Ticket Sales

Ticket sales will be separate from other functions, but located so that those who want information will go to the information desk rather than the ticket desk.

Information/Orientation

This function will be separate from ticket sales. Needed are an information desk, orientation map of the national seashore, pad maps to assist visitors with trip planning, and dispensers for free handout materials.

Auditorium

A 70-seat auditorium is proposed for orientation for groups visiting Fire Island and for showing the Fire Island film at regular intervals. The auditorium will have slide and motion picture projection capability with equipment that can be started in the auditorium or by remote control from the information desk.

Cooperating Association

The cooperating association sales area will be located so that one person can operate the information desk and the sales area. The sales area will be large enough to display multiple copies of 50-100 titles, including small folders, small and large paper back books, and hard cover publications. There will also be provision for displaying slides, maps, and posters. It is anticipated that most cooperating association sales will be at the ferry terminal(s) rather than on the island. Environmental conditions in the island (salt air and humidity) preclude normal sales operations there. Additional space is required for cooperating association storage and a small office. The Patchogue terminal will serve as the distribution center for all sales facilities, both on the mainland and the island.

Exhibit

One exhibit is proposed:

Fire Island National Seashore

This exhibit will tell the story of Fire Island National Seashore. The national seashore was born in controversy and this controversy has continued with varying intensity to the present. This stormy history can be treated in a tasteful, yet humorous, fashion using posters, newspaper clippings, lapel buttons, audio interpretation, and visuals illustrating public meetings. The park visitor should leave this exhibit with the feeling that the National Park Service is pleased that people care enough to become involved, that the national seashore is better because of this involvement, and that a bureaucracy healthy enough to find humor in the situation can't be all bad. It may be desirable to set up a temporary exhibit before the permanent one is produced. Public reaction may be unfavorable.

Proposed Second Terminal

Facilities at the proposed second terminal will be similar to those at Patchogue except that there will be no auditorium, the sales area will be smaller, and there will be no exhibits.

WILLIAM FLOYD ESTATE

The continuum of family history, 1724-1975 was selected. As stated in the Environmental Review:

"The continuum would make optimum use of the estate's grounds, which illustrate more than 250 years of private land-use management, from working plantation to hunting area and nature preserve, and of the large estate house, which has been occupied solely as a family residence (except for the British occupation of 1776-83) by the same family for more than 250 years. Its modernization by successive generations with varying degrees of concern for the house's antiquity can be used to illustrate both changing attitudes toward the American past and the evolution of cultural patterns. It also provides opportunities for the easy introduction of environmental education and cultural history. Extensive use of both the house and the out buildings will allow the dispersal of visitors, lessening the impacts of concentrated use."

The main house and outbuildings are to be preserved as they now stand for a historic house museum, with the following three exceptions, as listed in the Environmental Review: Areas altered by the National Park Service will be restored to their appearance prior to federal acquisition of the property, this applies primarily to the old sheep barn, whose windows and doors have been changed and to which a wing has been added for maintenance purposes. Certain areas altered by the last resident caretaker (parts of the utility area at the rear of the main room in the east wing) may be restored to their state just prior to his residency, which will not involve structural changes. The old caretaker's workshop, a vacant building just to the east of the main house, will be used as office space for interpretation and protection.

ACCESS AND EGRESS

Principal access will be along Neighborhood Road, which ties in directly to the Manor of St. George on the William Floyd Parkway. At the end of Neighborhood Road, the route will turn north onto Park Drive, skirting the estate's west boundary. Two hundred feet north of West Aspen Road, the route enters the estate and becomes a one-way road. A park entrance sign will be on the north side of the entrance. Visitors will leave the estate on Stackyard Drive, and they will be directed by signs back to Neighborhood Road--one sign will be immediately outside the estate and another at one of the nearby through-streets. This route will require 1,000 linear feet of improved community roads: 800 feet on Park Drive and 200 feet on Stackyard Drive. Financial responsibility for the improvements will be negotiated with the Town of Brookhaven. A one-way road within the estate grounds is proposed because it will be modest, in keeping with the tone of the estate. Only a 16-foot-wide clearing will be required, and there will be a good tree canopy because the route passes by mature oaks interspersed with pine trees. A natural surface that imitates a dirt road is proposed, and very little construction disturbance will result because of the gentle slope and the road's location along an existing trail. To reduce the nuisance caused by mosquitoes, underbrush will be cleared in an irregular pattern 12 feet beyond either side of the road.

Parking

A 30-car, 3-bus parking lot will be in the smaller of two existing fields, approximately 550 feet southwest of the house. This location will allow visitors to the estate grounds as well as those to the historic core to go their separate ways with a minimum of confusion. The parking area will be surfaced with a natural material, like the entrance road. The parking spaces will be between existing large trees and will be defined by timber wheelstops. South of the parking lot, there will be a comfort station and four picnic tables in a grove of large oak trees; there will be no barbecue sites. Additional portable tables could be set up for large groups, if

reservations were made in advance. Use of the estate by the general public only for picnicking will be discouraged. Underbrush will be cleared in this area to open the site to breezes and to reduce the mosquito nuisance. An orientation sign giving directions to the house and the estate grounds will be near the parking lot.

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C. Inventory of Facilities and Services

As described in the GMP and the IP, the Park is designated by management units. Additionally, for operational purposes, the Park is divided into three districts the West District, the East District and the William Floyd District. The West District contains the Lighthouse, Sailors Haven and Talisman areas; the East District contains the Watch Hill and Smith Point West areas. The William Floyd District contains the William Floyd Estate.

1. FIRE ISLAND LIGHTSTATION

The Fire Island Lighthouse complex contains the following facilities available for the public:

Fire Island Lighthouse:

Visitor Center:	Located in the Keeper's Quarters; accessible by handi-capped.
Museum:	Three rooms of the Keeper's Quarters contain contemporary exhibits related to the cultural and natural history of Fire Island.
Wayside Exhibits:	None
Amphitheaters/Campfire:	None
Historic/Archeological Structures /Sites:	Remains of the first Fire Island Lighthouse (1827) Fire Island Lighthouse (1858) Fire Island Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters (1858)
Audio Visual Theaters/Auditoriums:	None
Self-Guiding Facilities/Trails:	Fire Island Lighthouse Trail describing the natural and cultural history of the area.
Cooperating Association Outlets:	Eastern National Parks and Monument Association
Library:	Small reference library
Archive / Study Collections:	Small collection of papers and images
Special Program Sites:	Drill pole for United States Life Saving Service Beach Apparatus Drill demonstration.
Other Items:	Concession: Ferry Service

Fire Island Coast Guard Annex

Information/Contact Station:	Located in the Annex.
Museum:	Static exhibit of Radio transmission equipment from U.S. Coast Guard era.
Wayside Exhibits:	None
Amphitheaters/Campfire Circles:	None
Historic/Archeological Structures/Sites:	Building and remains related to the United States Coast Guard.
Audio Visual Theaters / Auditoriums:	None
Self-Guiding Facilities / Trails:	Connects with the Fire Island Lighthouse Trail, describing the natural and cultural history of the area.
Cooperating Association Outlets:	None
Library:	Small reference library
Archive / Study Collections:	None
Special Program Sites:	None
Other Items:	West Check point station to monitor off-road driving.

2. SUNKEN FOREST

The Sunken Forest Unit is part of the Sailors Haven area. The following services are available at Sailors Haven.

Sailors Haven

Visitor Center:	Located directly south of the ferry dock.
Museum:	The Visitor Center serves as a small natural and cultural history museum. The exhibits are related to the natural and cultural history of the area, in particular, and Fire Island in general.
Wayside Exhibits:	None
Amphitheaters / Campfire Circles:	Campfire programs available in marina picnic area.
Historic / Archeological Structures/Sites:	None
Audio Visual Theaters / Auditoriums:	Visitor Center is used for showing audio-visual programs at night and during inclement weather.
Self-Guiding Facilities / Trails:	The Sunken Forest Trail is approximately 1.5 miles in length and describes the natural history of the area.
Cooperating Association Outlets:	Eastern National Parks and Monument Association
Library:	Small reference library
Archive / Study Collections:	None
Special Program Sites:	National Environmental Education Development program area. Sunken Forest.
Other Items:	Lifeguarded beach Concession: ferry service, 70 slip marina, snack bar, gift shop.

3. TALISMAN

The following services are available at Talisman.

Visitor Center:	None
Museum:	None
Wayside Exhibits:	None
Amphitheaters / Campfire circles:	None
Historic / Archeological Structures/Sites:	None
Audio Visual Theaters / Auditoriums:	None
Self-Guiding Facilities / Trails:	None
Cooperating Association Outlets:	None
Library:	None
Archive / Study Collections:	None
Special Program Sites:	None
Other Items:	Resource Management Laboratory. Public ferry service to adjacent Barrett Beach. Mooring area for private boats. Loading dock for private boats.

4. WATCH HILL

The following services are available at Watch Hill .

Visitor Center:	Located directly south of the ferry dock.
Contact Station:	Located on the boardwalk leading to the lifeguarded beach.
Museum:	The Visitor Center serves as a small natural and cultural history museum. The exhibits are related to the natural and cultural history of the area, including recreational activities and Fire Island in general. The exhibits and the interior of the Center were renovated by Harpers Ferry Center in 1988.
Wayside Exhibits:	None
Amphitheaters / Campfire circles:	The decked area adjacent to the Dune Station is used for day and evening interpretive programs. Campfire programs available on the ocean beach.
Historic / Archeological Structures/Sites:	None
Audio Visual Theaters / Auditoriums:	The Dune Station is used for showing audio-visual programs at night and during inclement weather.
Self-Guiding Facilities / Trails:	The Watch Hill Trail is approximately 1.5 miles in length and describes the natural history of the area.
Cooperating Association Outlets:	Eastern National Parks and Monument Association
Library:	Small reference library
Archive / Study Collections:	None
Special Program Sites:	Tent camping area for family and organized groups. Visitor Center contains resource room with videotapes, slide shows and microscopes.
Other Items:	Lifeguarded beach Concession: ferry service, 191 slip marina, restaurant, snack bar, general store, pizza parlor and gift shop.

5. OLD INLET

The following services are available at Old Inlet.

Visitor Center:	None
Museum:	None
Wayside Exhibits:	None
Amphitheaters / Campfire circles:	None
Historic / Archeological Structures/Sites:	None
Audio Visual Theaters / Auditoriums:	None
Self-Guiding Facilities / Trails:	The Old Inlet Trail provides access from the bay to ocean.
Cooperating Association Outlets:	None
Library:	None
Archive / Study Collections:	None
Special Program Sites:	None
Other Items:	28 slip marina with no services.

6. SMITH POINT

The following services are available at Smith Point.

Visitor Center:	Two story building located at the entrance to the Seashore property.
Contact Station:	Visitor Center serves both functions.
Museum:	The Visitor Center serves as a small natural and cultural history museum. The exhibits are related to the natural and cultural history of the area, in particular, and Fire Island in general.
Wayside Exhibits:	None
Amphitheaters / Campfire Circles:	None
Historic / Archeological Structures/Sites:	The remains of a United States Coast Guard Station are scattered throughout the Smith Point Trail area.
Audio Visual Theaters / Auditoriums:	The second story of the Visitor Center is used for showing audio-visual programs at night and during inclement weather.
Self-Guiding Facilities / Trails:	The Smith Point Trail is approximately 4/5 of a mile in length and describes the natural history of the area.
Cooperating Association Outlets:	Eastern National Parks and Monument Association
Library:	Small reference library
Archive / Study Collections:	None
Special Program Sites:	None
Other Items:	Off-road sportsman diving permits are available in season. Smith Point County Park is located adjacent to the Seashore and contains parking areas, lifeguarded beaches and concessions. East checkpoint station to monitor off-road driving.

7. MAINLAND FERRY TERMINAL

The following services are available at Patchogue Ferry Terminal.

Visitor Center:	None
Museum:	None
Wayside Exhibits:	Fire Island orientation for ferry users.
Amphitheaters / Campfire circles:	None
Historic / Archeological Structures/Sites:	None
Audio Visual Theaters / Auditoriums:	None
Self-Guiding Facilities / Trails:	None
Cooperating Association Outlets:	None
Library:	None
Archive / Study Collections:	None
Special Program Sites:	None
Other Items:	Concession: Ferry Service to Watch Hill.

8. WILLIAM FLOYD ESTATE

The following services are available at the William Floyd Estate.

Visitor Center:	Unfurnished room in historic house serves as an orientation and reception room for visitors. Staff office, located adjacent to historic house, serves as contact station.
Museum:	A 25-room furnished house, 11 outbuildings. The furnishings reflect the the use of the house during its 250 years of use by the Floyd family.
Wayside Exhibits:	None
Amphitheaters / Campfire Circles:	None
Historic / Archeological Structures/Sites:	Historic house Outbuildings Family cemetery
Audio Visual Theaters / Auditoriums:	None
Self-Guiding Facilities / Trails:	Trail to cemetery, through outbuilding and garden areas.
Cooperating Association Outlets:	Eastern National Parks and Monument Association
Library:	Small reference library
Archive / Study Collections:	Extensive historic object, archeological materials and archival materials,including images related to the Floyd family and the local area
Special Program Sites:	None
Other Items:	None

9. HEADQUARTERS AREA

The following services are available at the Headquarters area.

Contact Station:	Located in the main building.
Museum:	The exhibits are related to the history of the Fire Island National Seashore.
Wayside Exhibits:	None
Amphitheaters / Campfire Circles:	None
Historic / Archeological Structures/Sites:	None
Audio Visual Theaters / Auditoriums:	None
Self-Guiding Facilities / Trails:	None
Cooperating Association Outlets:	Eastern National Parks and Monument Association
Library:	Park's reference library
Archive / Study Collections:	Books, slides, tapes, manuscripts and historic objects related the Park's history and to the local area, both natural and cultural.
Special Program Sites:	None
Other Items:	Contains the offices of that renowned Interpretive Specialist; Steven A. Czarniecki.

D. Description of Minimum Interpretive program

1. Essential Interpretive Service

All Sites:	Distribution of park literature to all visitors. Orientation program for all visitors. Boardwalks.
Fire Island Lighthouse:	Guided tours of Lighthouse Tower.
William Floyd Estate:	Guided tours of house.

2. Basic Facilities:

Fire Island Lighthouse:	Visitor Center Bathrooms Trails
Sailors Haven:	Visitor Center Lifeguarded Beach Trails Bathrooms Ferry Access
Talisman:	Bathrooms
Watch Hill:	Visitor Center Lifeguarded Beach Trails Bathrooms Ferry Access
Old Inlet:	Trails Bathroom Public Dock
Smith Point:	Visitor Center Trails Bathroom
Mainland Ferry Terminal:	Ticket Outlet Bathroom Parking
William Floyd Estate:	Historic House Parking
Headquarters:	Reception Area Bathrooms

PART II
ANNUAL INTERPRETIVE OPERATIONS PLAN

A. ANALYSIS OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

1. Special Emphasis/Management Concerns

The Seashore will continue to maintain good relations with the 17 exempted communities. Of particular interest is the involvement of the communities in the research and management plans for explaining activities involving flora and fauna on the island.

Efforts will continue to persuade the communities to work in harmony with the resource and carry out only such developments as are appropriate to a barrier island. This includes such topics as flood hazard and mitigation, wildlife management, beach scraping, and dune cleanup.

The involvement in zoning and Dune District, one of the Seashore's most controversial issues in the past, will continue with revised federal zoning standards in place by the summer of 1990.

Regulation of 4-wheel drive vehicle traffic on the beach will continue as a major responsibility.

We will be seeking more extensive cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for protection of the natural resource and to prevent duplication of effort.

Wildlife concerns will continue as important, including deer impacts, tick/disease vector relationships, and mosquito control methods.

We anticipate the use at the Lighthouse to continue to grow as a very popular site. Visitation has dramatically increased, with no increase in operational funding, which has caused an additional impact. Use of Robert Moses State Park's Parking Field 5 will be pursued.

Outreach to the Long Island community remains important; the chance to share the professional expertise of park staff with our friends and neighbors. As always, staffing levels will determine how much of this can be done.

We have received the development and utilization plans for the Patchogue terminal site, and strive to correct the development ceiling language in existing legislation. Funding for development needs to be developed.

2. Safety Concerns

Visitor injuries are of utmost concern throughout the Seashore. Minor cuts, splinters and sun and heat-related injuries predominate first-aid cases. Back injuries and broken bones have occurred in sailing, swimming and surfing accidents. Interpretive literature, signs, Visitor Center operations, roving contacts and all lifeguard programs include safety messages. Visitors are encouraged to swim on lifeguarded ocean and bay areas.

Safe boating operations is a major concern to the Seashore. Boating programs are given by both Seashore staff and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, using Seashore facilities. Specific interpretive literature also stresses safety boating practices. The receipt given by the marina concessioners has boating regulations printed on the reverse.

Cases of severe rash resulting from poison ivy are an ongoing concern. Poison ivy grows throughout the island. Interpretive literature, including Park folders, trail guides and facility brochures, E.N.P.M.A. sales items, Visitor Center operations, roving contacts and guided walks, addresses this issue.

Storms are a potential safety concern. Procedures and information on storm danger will be covered in safe boating programs and literature made available. Staff members will have the appropriate section of the park's "Panic" book for reference.

Lyme disease constitutes a genuine health and safety threat. All park literature, including posters cite the tick threat and offers information for avoiding contact with the danger. The subject is covered in all orientations and programs, both in park and off-site.

The safety and health aspects of physical fitness will continue to be covered in the fitness courses at the Watch Hill and Sailors Haven swimming beaches, and are taught by physical education professionals who are on the lifeguard staff.

3. Resource Management Concerns

This park's Deer/Vegetation Management Plan will be developed this year. Interpretive literature and programs will address points of the plan that relate directly to Seashore properties and the exempted communities. Meetings and workshops, focusing on this subject are currently planned and will continue through the year.

Shoreline erosion is a major project area for the Seashore. Data on beach, bay and sandbars will be collected to construct profiles of these areas. Visitor Center, roving contact and personal programs will focus on this activity.

Submerged cultural resources are an ongoing resource management concern. Information acquired by the park's Dive Team will be disseminated through staff meeting for use by protection and interpretive personnel. The historic properties and collections belonging to the park are also areas of concern. Intergration of the park's collections into A.N.C.S will provide staff and visitors information on the extent of the park's collections. Temporary exhibits and interpretive literature are planned for this information..

4. Maintenance Concerns

The Fire Island National Seashore Maintenance Division handles all the operations related to a seasonal park. This includes, as a standard operating procedure, the opening and closing of all facilities that are not open year-round. The installation of temporary docks is included in their workload. The following are special projects related directly to visitor services.

Renovation of the Smith Point Visitor Center is a major in-park project. The Visitor Center is to be expanded by approximately 100 square feet. The decks on the first and second story will be re-designed. New windows and entrances are planned. The renovation will allow for more effective use of personnel. New exhibits and exhibit material will be used to replace the existing materials. Pamphlets directly related to the exhibits are planned.

The upgrading of the Lighthouse access road and parking through Federal Highway Project funding relieves operation and personnel costs for the Maintenance Division road maintenance. This "new" use area will increase operations and personnel costs because of additional visitation. However, road maintenance costs will be reduced.

Another concern is the issue of hazardous waste storage and use throughout the park. New regulations effecting fuel storage and other supplies will effect the park's ability to purchase and store certain types of materials.

Federal Highway Project funding has been allocated for upgrading the Mainland Ferry Terminal site on West Avenue. The upgrading should reduce the costs for maintenance.

5. Protection and Law Enforcement Concerns

Vandalism is a serious problem for the Seashore. Lighting systems and intrusion alarms at major locations have helped alleviate the problem. However, continued education of the public through interpretive messages will also help, both to prevent trouble and to report and control it as it occurs.

For the increased visitor use of the National Wilderness and adjacent beach in the Smith Point West area, horse patrol and visitor contacts will continue to be increased for public education and protection. The Lighthouse Keeper's quarters, open to the public during the year, has caused an increase in visitation and use. Although still unfunded, protection of the resources, both natural and cultural will be addressed in Visitor Center operations, roving contact operations, interpretive literature and personal programs.

The new ORV regulations restrict recreation fishing and hunting vehicles from January through March. A new video and sites bulletin address the current concerns of Seashore.

The use of ultralight aircraft in the skies over the Seashore has been increasing in the last few years. There has been low altitude flying and "buzzing" by both ultralight and conventional aircraft. Interpretive activities will be aimed at public education and the need for reporting as a control measure.

All of the above will continue to be addressed through printed material and personal services, such as the ferry orientation talks.

6. Recreational Activities and Concerns

Camping, permitted only at Watch Hill and minimal self-contained camping at designated por-

tions of the National Wilderness is still a popular recreational activity. Items cited in the Safety section of this document are addressed through the same media.

Fishing in the bay and ocean is open to all with no licenses required. There are no seasonal, site, or catch limits. There are restrictions on access due to vehicle regulations as cited above.

Clamming and scalloping in the bay for personal use does not require a license on bay bottom owned by the Town of Brookhaven. New York State regulations govern, size, seasons, and catch limits. No recreational clamming is permitted on bay bottom owned or leased by commercial companies. The only bay bottom owned by the Seashore is a small block in front of Sailors Haven Marina, but this is eliminated from shellfish harvesting by health and safety concerns. Visitor Center exhibits, including aquaria and interpretive programs, such as "Seining the Bay" will provide information and instruction on this activity.

Waterfowl hunting is permitted on certain portions of Seashore waters; a Seashore permit and New York State hunting license and Federal duck stamp are required. The State sets the season and bag limits, and its maps indicate hunting areas. Concern over declining black duck populations is being addressed in an A/V program shown to hunters at the Smith Point West visitor center.

Heavy impact continues at Smith Point West as large numbers of visitors enter from the adjacent county park. On many days the county swimming beach is so crowded that some visitors swim on unguarded Seashore beach creating a dangerous situation. Visitor Center operations, signs and roving contact programs discourage visitors from swimming in unguarded waters.

Increased use of Seashore facilities by joggers and other physical fitness-minded visitors may create conflict with users of the trail systems. PAR courses, constructed by the lifeguards at Watch Hill and Sailors Haven are utilized by many visitors. Visitor Center operations, roving contact operations and personal programs address this issue.

7. Research Activities and Concerns

The Seashore will continue water quality monitoring in conjunction with local, county and state agencies.

Monitoring of gypsy moths will continue in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.

A major research project on the Fire Island vegetation and deer has been completed. The 1984-1989 final report has been received and information from the report will be made available for interpretive personnel. The park should now move towards a Deer/Vegetative Management Plan.

Rutgers University continues to work on the negative impacts of beach and backcountry users in the National Wilderness. The sociological survey should be completed by 1989.

Deer tick studies, with the Center for Coastal Research and State University of New York, continue throughout the Seashore.

The Eastern Box Turtle project at the William Floyd Estate continues. A slide show has been developed and shown to a number of groups.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count continues at Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate, as well as the Summer Bird Breeding Census.

Specimens for the ecological inventory work will be collected during the year. At present, specimens are available to interpretive personnel for reference and study.

Seashore personnel will continue to monitor the heron rookery in the National Wilderness in cooperation with the New York State D.E.C.

Protection and monitoring of the tern nesting colony and piping plover nesting areas continue on the ocean beach and bay sites.

All Seashore research is of potential interest to Fire Island visitors, especially to island community residents. All records will be maintained in accordance with standard library guidelines or the Museum Handbook Part II. Interpretive programs will be presented through various formats to inform the public, and interpreters will be kept informed of progress in all areas of research.

8. Concession and Other Public Facility and Services

Of foremost concern to the Concessions Division is the impending dredging of the Watch Hill and Sailors Haven channels and marinas. Present conditions prohibit use of these facilities by certain sized vessels, as well as hampering access by concessioned ferry service. Permits have been, or are being processed, and actual work should commence in spring of 1990.

The Fire Island National Seashore Coalition, an organized group of concessioners, continues to support, and in some cases, supplement the park's activities. Regular meetings with this group and park staff will continue.

The Concession operations in the park have suffered dramatically as a result of negative press regarding medical waste and Lyme disease. The public requires concise and accurate information on the these two areas.

The electrical problems at the Watch Hill Marina have continued to plague us this past season. In addition to the antiquated system, vandalism has caused disruption of service on more than one occasion. The Watch Hill Concessioner has submitted plans and specifications to upgrade the service, and these plans have been approved for installation, prior to the opening of next season.

A prospectus for the concessioning of the Mainland Ferry Terminal operation has just been advertised for offers, and an operator will be chosen for this coming season.

9. Servicewide Goals, Priorities, and Special Emphasis

The park will support through all interpretive operations, the goals, priorities and special emphasis of the Service.

10. Energy/Environmental Issues

The Seashore remains committed to reducing energy consumption, not only by park staff but by visitors as well. The solar heating systems at Watch Hill and Sailors Haven that provide heat for staff housing and public restrooms will continue to be interpreted as examples of what can be done.

The automatic message repeater run by solar generated electricity will continue to be part of the interpretive service explaining to visitors the need for alternate energy sources.

Programs for the campers and boaters will discuss energy-efficient systems for cooking and transportation.

11. Special Populations Concerns

The special population program at the Seashore includes school children from Long Island. They visit the various facilities in large numbers, especially in spring and fall. Efforts will continue to provide pre-visit workshops for teachers. Each school group is provided an orientation talk, and other personal services as staff time permits.

Another special population are the residents of the 17 exempted communities on Fire Island. We will continue to respond to as many direct requests from communities for programs as possible, utilizing the staff from the Fire Island facilities. Efforts will made to involve the communities in the programs offered at park sites.

Differently abled accessibility to Seashore facilities is a special concern. Nature trails at the Fire Island Lighthouse, Sailors Haven and Smith Point have been improved to conform to the minimal specifications of Section 504. Program access still remains a problem. The Seashore has worked with and continues to work with the Regional Special Populations coordinator and local groups such as the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, in an effort to upgrade facilities and services.

The use of the Seashore by minority groups is minimal. Minorities represent less than 6% of the population living close to the seashore. The cost of ferry transportation and parking has probably been a factor in preventing visits, as have other traditionally used recreational facilities. Individuals visit the seashore in such small numbers that there has been no opportunity to provide special programs.

Non-English speaking visitors are mainly limited to older people who visit the seashore with other family members who do speak English. There are also a few foreign tourists, who generally can speak English or who arrive with English-speaking friends. At this time there is no real need for special language programs. We will provide identification name tags for staff members who speak a foreign language.

B. ANNUAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Park's Annual Goals and Objectives

The Superintendent has established the following goals and objectives for the park.

1. Appoint to each of three Districts a permanent full-time or subject-to-furlough GS-0025 05/07 Interpretive supervisor, replacing former seasonal (3 month) position(s).
2. Redescribe the Assistant Chief Ranger position to an Interpretive Specialist that advises the Chief Ranger and District Rangers on improvements to the park-wide interpretive program.
3. Describe area interpretive themes for the park's major visitor areas that contain visitor centers, contact stations or information areas. Organize the information presented at each area to cover that area's theme with only basic information on what, where and how to gain access to the other theme areas.
4. Upgrade the park's visitor information publications. Computer equipment should be acquired to help develop professional quality items in proper formats.
5. Improve the Cooperating Association Sales Outlets to present professional and functional operations carrying the required variety of items to support the Service's and park's interpretive thrusts.

2. Specific Interpretive Goals:

An unofficial motto for the park for FY 1990 is: "Back to Basics." These are the major goals for the Interpretive program.

1. This is the first year that Park has three positions in the Districts directly responsible for all interpretive activities. A goal for interpretation will be communications through these three positions. At a minimum, bi-weekly meetings will be conducted with the individuals in these positions and the park's Interpretive Specialist. The major emphasis of these meetings will be to ensure that consistent information is available to the supervisors and goals for the park are being worked towards.
2. Implementing a number of suggestions from the Interpretive Prospectus is a major goal for the Seashore in FY 1990. One of the deficiencies in the park's interpretive program is lack of an overall unifying theme that is consistent throughout all the visitor centers. The Interpretive Prospectus describes an exhibit at Sailors Haven entitled "Fire Island Mosaic." (See Part I 2.b.) The concept is currently in place at the Watch Hill Visitor Center, a detailed cross-sectional graphic of Fire Island. A program called "A Slice of Fire Island" explains the various components of the barrier island. These interpretive components, supplemented with a series of pamphlets highlighting each of the pieces of the barrier island, will be incorporated into all the Visitor Centers.
3. Focusing on the major theme of the various areas will be an ongoing objective this coming year. The Interpretive Prospectus describes predominant themes for each Visitor Center. At present, the exhibits and materials in the Visitor Centers do not consistently follow these suggestions. For example, only a small portion of the area in the Sailors Haven Visitor Center is used to explain the Sunken Forest. This area will be upgraded with materials that provide in-depth information on the Sunken Forest. A large exhibit devoted to the United States Life Saving Service at Sailors Haven will be relocated to the Lighthouse area which is the major area for the park's maritime history.
4. Insuring consistency in all park publications will be implemented. Primarily, all the park's inhouse publications (handouts, trail guide, etal.) will be redone in accordance with the sites bulletin format. All materials required for programs and information will be reviewed by the Interpretive Specialist to ensure consistencies with the Service's formats. In 1988, the park invested in computer, printers and software programs to realize this goal. Over 25 items, either new publications or rewrites of older publications were redone in new formats and with upgraded information.

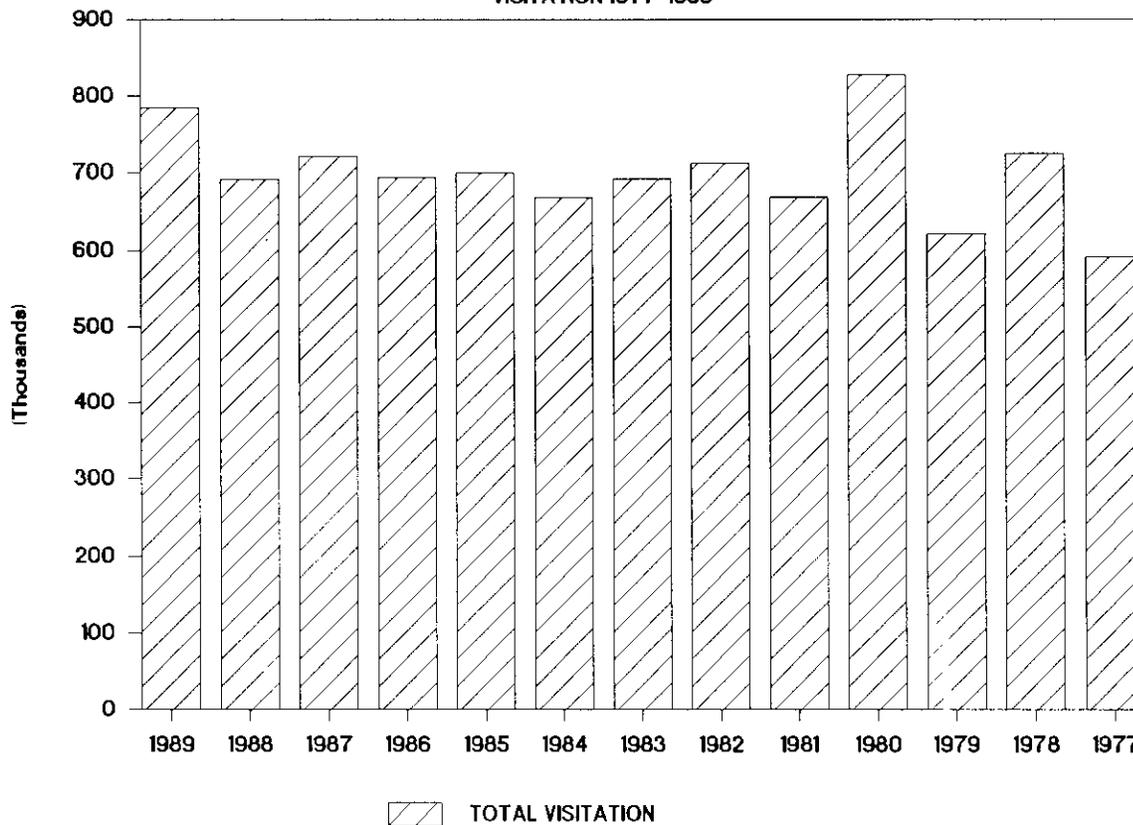
C. ANALYSIS OF PARK USERS AND USE PATTERNS

The following graphs represent a general statistical analysis of park users and use patterns. The categories of use illustrated are:

1. Total Visitation 1977-1989
2. Recreational Visitation 1977-1989
3. Non-Recreational Visitation 1977-1989
4. Family Camping 1980-1989
5. Group Camping 1980-1989
6. National Environmental Education Development 1980-1989
7. Boats: Beached and Anchored 1980-1989
8. Boats: Marina Use 1980-1989
9. Total Visitation (All Categories) 1977-1989

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

VISITATION 1977-1989



EXPLANATORY NOTES:

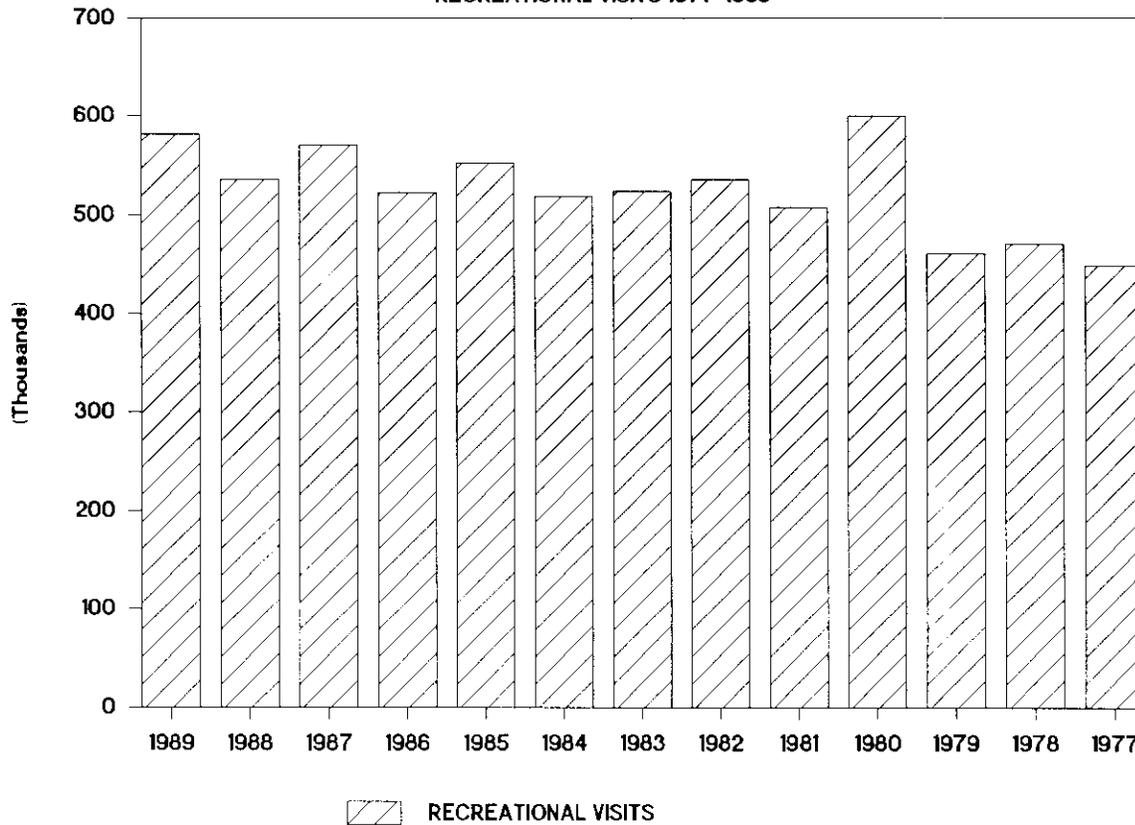
These figures represent the total visitation to the park for the years indicated. Figures include actual count of visitors in Visitor Centers, actual number of people arriving by ferry, the number of boats (day users; multiplied by 4.1) in the marina and park waters, the number of campers (family and group); the actual numbers of N.E.E.D. participants and recreational vehicles traveling through Smith Point.

A monthly non-N.P.S. entry estimate is included. These figures are based on the estimated number of visitors who are not accounted for in any other categories.

January	0
February	0
March	500
April	1,000
May	20,000
June	30,000
July	80,000
August	80,000
September	30,000
October	2,000
November	1,000
December	500

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

RECREATIONAL VISITS 1977-1989



EXPLANATORY NOTES:

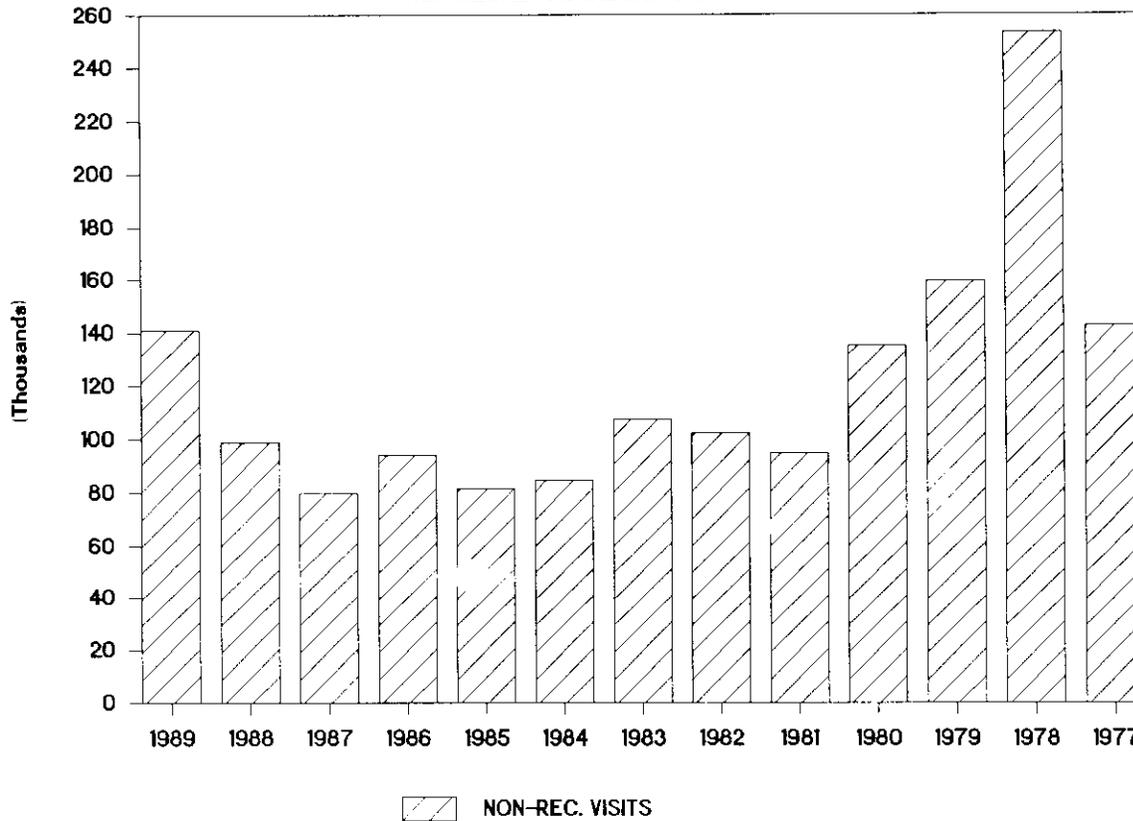
These figures represent the total recreational visitation to the park for the years indicated. In 1987 a beach count was instituted to account for visitors who are not counted in the other areas. Figures include actual count of visitors in Visitor Centers, actual number of people arriving by ferry, the number of boats; day users in the marina and park waters (multiplied by 4.1) and recreational vehicles traveling through Smith Point.

A monthly non-N.P.S. entry estimate is included. These figures are based on the estimated number of visitors who are not accounted for in any other categories.

January	0
Feburary	0
March	500
April	1,000
May	20,000
June	30,000
July	80,000
August	80,000
September	30,000
October	2,000
November	1,000
December	500

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

NON-RECREATIONAL VISITS 1977-1989

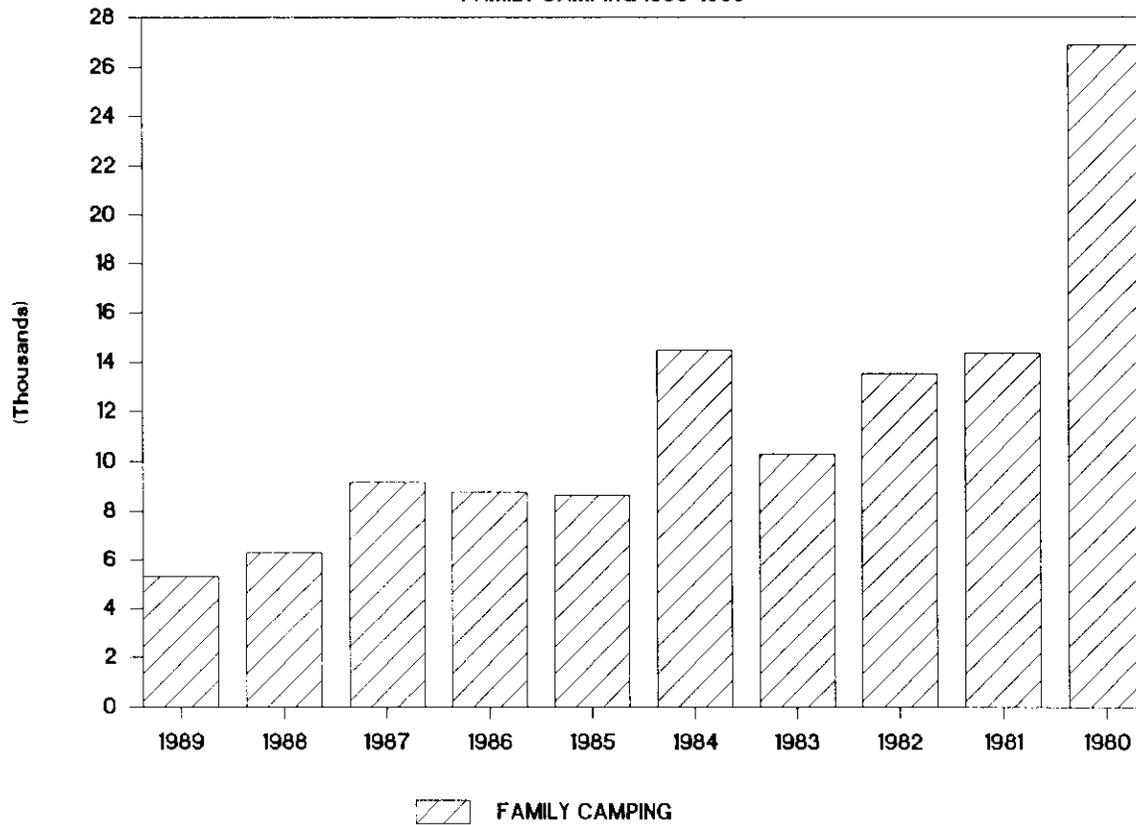


EXPLANATORY NOTES:

These figures represent the visitation to the park for the years indicated by community residents and contractor vehicles. In 1989, traffic counters were installed to operate during hours that check points (Smith Point and the Lighthouse Annex) are not manned.

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

FAMILY CAMPING 1980-1989

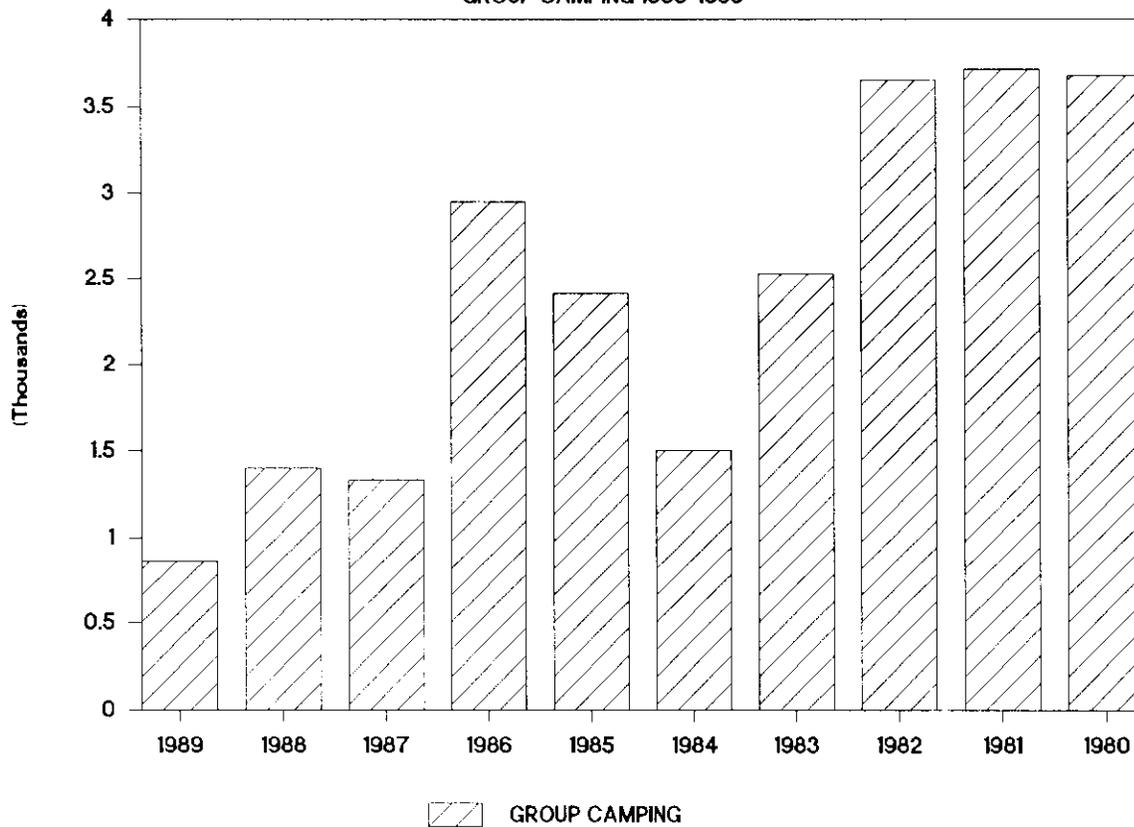


EXPLANATORY NOTES:

These figures represent the total visitation to the park for the years indicated for individual camping. The figure is based of the number of sites multiplied by 5. Count is based on actual number of days used.

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

GROUP CAMPING 1980-1989

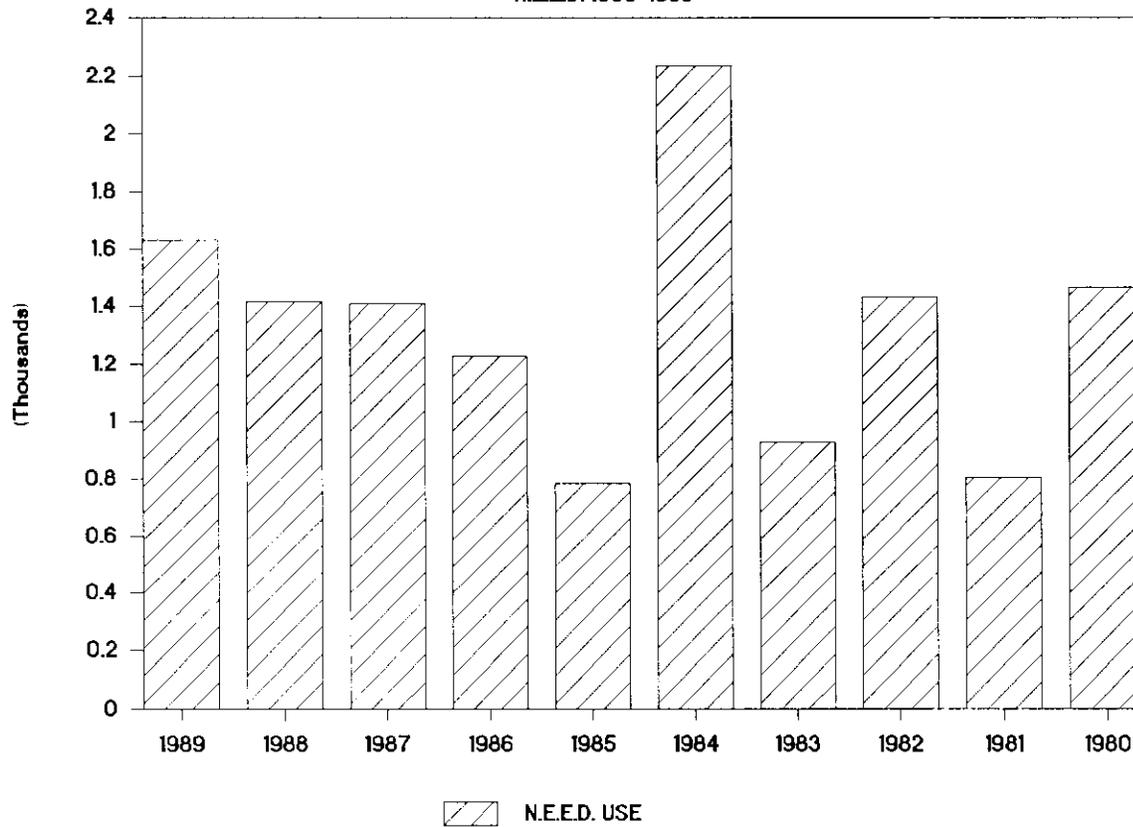


EXPLANATORY NOTES:

These figures represent the total visitation to the park for the years indicated by visitors utilizing the group campground. The figures are based on actual count per visitor and on actual days of use.

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

N.E.E.D. 1980-1989

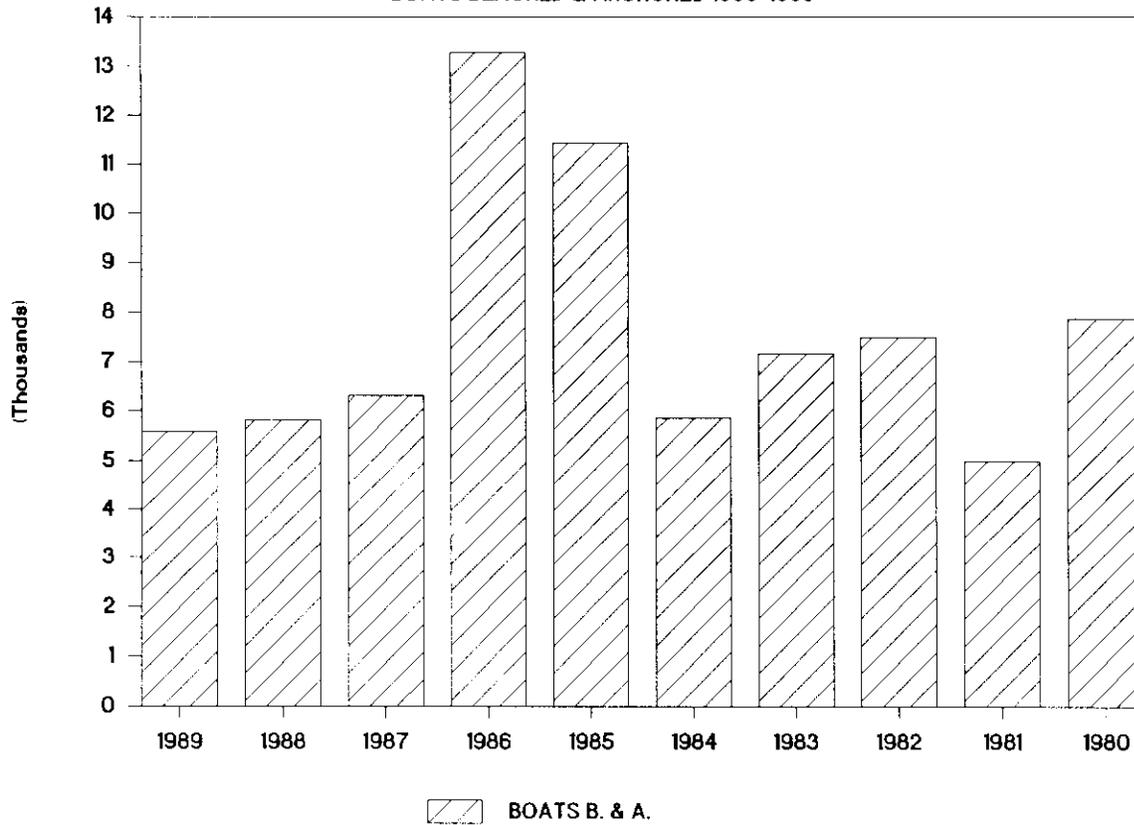


EXPLANATORY NOTES:

These figures represent the total visitation to the park for the years indicated for participants in the National Environmental Education Development program. The figures are based on actual count of participants and actuals days of use.

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

BOATS BEACHED & ANCHORED 1980-1989

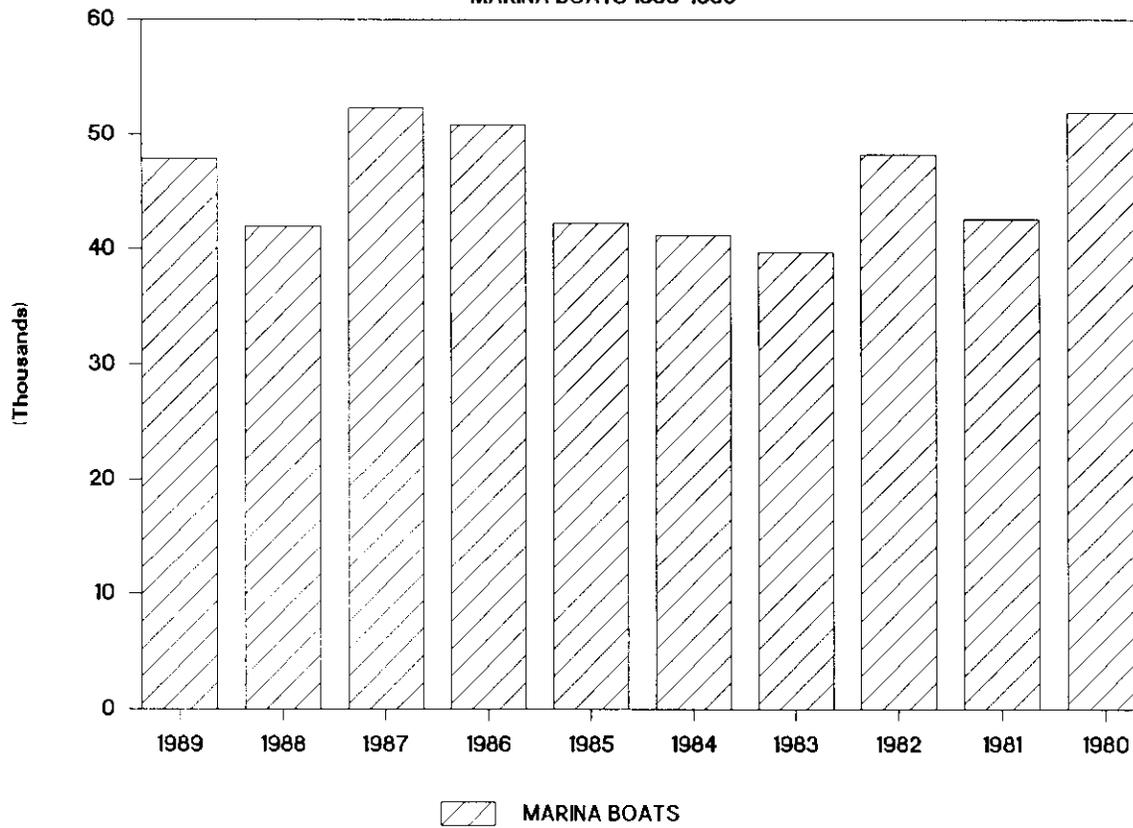


EXPLANATORY NOTES:

These figures represent the total visitation to the park for the years indicated by boats either beached or anchored in the park's jurisdictional waters. The figures are based on actual number of boats multiplied by 4.1. These users are generally categorized as day-users.

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

MARINA BOATS 1980-1989

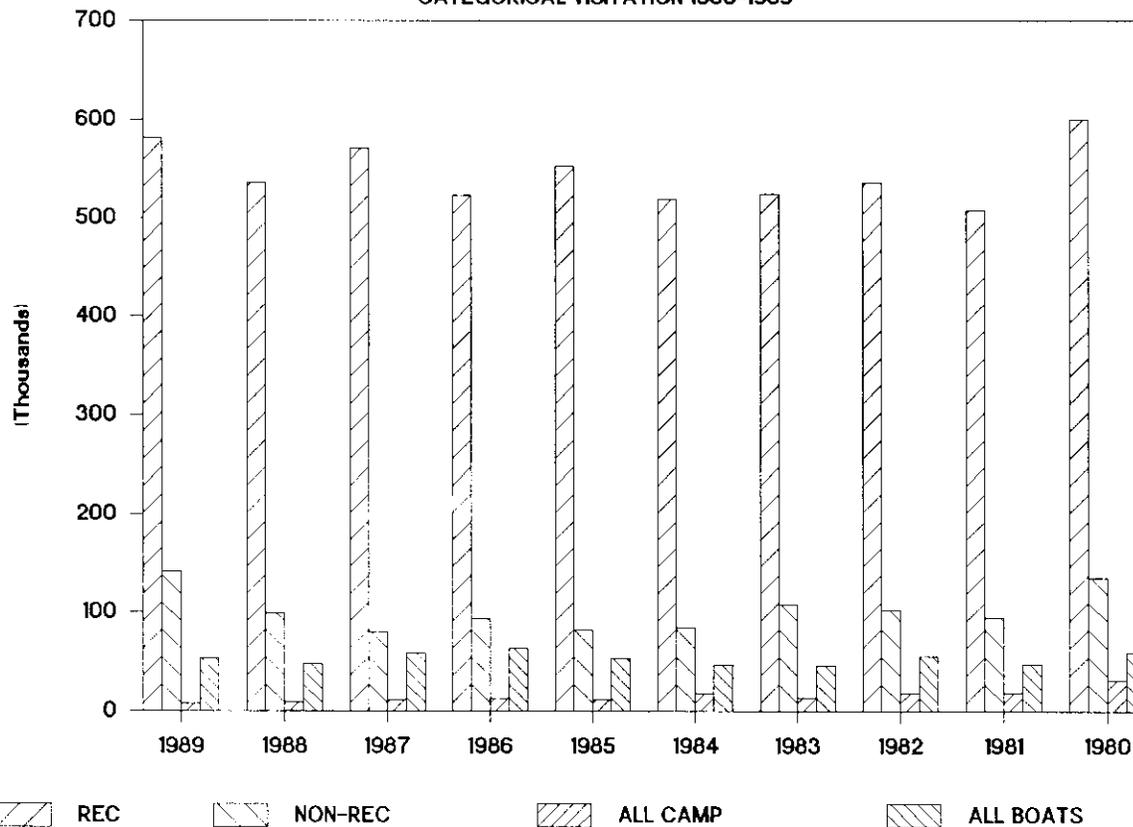


EXPLANATORY NOTES:

These figures represent the total visitation to the park for the years indicated for boaters utilizing the marinas at Watch Hill and Sailors Haven. The figures are based on the actual number of boat multiplied by 4.1. These users are generally categorized as over-night users.

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

CATEGORICAL VISITATION 1980-1989



EXPLANATORY NOTES:

These figures represent categorical visitation to the park for the years indicated. The figures for the All Camping category represents family and group camping and N.E.E.D. participants. The figures for the category All Boats includes the boats in the marinas and the boats that were beached or anchored within the park's jurisdictional waters.

A monthly non-N.P.S. entry estimate is included. These figures are based on the estimated number of visitors who are not accounted for in any other categories.

January	0
February	0
March	500
April	1,000
May	20,000
June	30,000
July	80,000
August	80,000
September	30,000
October	2,000
November	1,000
December	500

D. ANALYSIS OF PERSONNEL AND FUNDING

1. ANTICIPATED PERSONNEL AND FUNDING BASE

a. N.P.S. Employees and Budget

Work Years (FTE'S)	Permanent	2.0	2 Positions
Work Years (FTE'S)	Subject to Furlough	2.7	2 Positions
Work Years (FTE'S)	Seasonal	2.1	13 Positions
Total Work Years (FTE'S):		6.8	18 Positions
1990 O.P.N.S. Operating Budget		146,800.00	
% Devoted to Benefits and Compensation:		92%	

At the time of this report, the park has not received an approved O.N.P.S budget for FY1990. It is anticipated that staffing of Interpretive positions will be similar to the figures listed below. Two factors will influence the staffing: in 1989 Fire Island National Seashore was included in the Special Pay Rate schedules for all GS-0025 series in grades 04-11. This special pay rate increases the park's salary and benefits by approximately 25%. A Park Ranger, Supervisory Interpreter position GS-0025 05/07, subject to furlough, was established for the East District. The position will filled by December 1989.

1990 PROJECTED STAFFING BY GRADE AND POSITION:

POSITION	SERIES/GRADE		FTE	DUTY STATION	
Interpretive Specialist	GS-0025/09	*	1.0	Headquarters	
Receptionist	GS-0322/04	*	1.0	Headquarters	
Supv. Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/05/07	**	.9	West District	SH
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.2	West District	SH
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.2	West District	SH
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.2	West District	SH
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.1	West District	LH
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.1	West District	LH
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/05/07	**	.9	East District	WH
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.2	East District	WH
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.2	East District	WH
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.2	East District	WH
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.1	East District	SP
Museum Technician	GS-1016/05/07	**	.9	William Floyd District	
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.3	William Floyd District	
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.1	William Floyd District	
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.1	William Floyd District	
Park Ranger (Int.)	GS-0025/04	***	.1	William Floyd District	

* Permanent Full Time Position

** Subject to Furlough

*** Seasonal

1989 N.P.S. Employees and Budget

Work Years (FTE'S)	Permanent	2.0	2 Positions
Work Years (FTE'S)	Subject to Furlough	2.7	2 Positions
Work Years (FTE'S)	Seasonal	2.1	15 Positions
Total Work Years (FTE'S):		6.8	19 Positions

1989 STAFFING BY GRADE AND POSITION:

POSITION	SERIES/GRADE		FTE	DUTY STATION
Interpretive Specialist	GS-0025/09	*	1.0	Headquarters
Receptionist	GS-0322/04	*	1.0	Headquarters
Park Ranger	GS-0025/05/07	**	.9	West District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.3	West District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.2	West District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.2	West District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.2	West District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.2	West District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.1	West District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/05	***	.3	East District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.2	East District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.2	East District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.2	East District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.2	East District
Museum Technician	GS-1016/05/07	**	.9	William Floyd District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.3	William Floyd District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.2	William Floyd District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.2	William Floyd District
Park Ranger	GS-0025/04	***	.1	William Floyd District

1. ANTICIPATED PERSONNEL AND FUNDING BASE

b. NON-NPS Employees and Program Funds Available

1. VIP Program
2. Student Conservation Program
3. Cooperating Association
4. Educational Institutes
5. Concession Contributions
6. Private Sector Donated Funds

1. VIP Program

In FY 1988 43 individuals contributed 2,908 hours. Services were provided to assist park operations in interpretation, maintenance, resource management and collections management.

ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	WORK HOURS
Interpretation	13	1,761
Collections Management	4	81
Administration	0	0
Maintenance	25	1,016
Resource Management	1	50
TOTALS:	43	2,908

2. Student Conservation Program

3. Cooperating Association

Eastern National Park and Monument Association Sales outlets will continue at all sites in the Park. All outlets will open in accordance with the operating schedule for each of the sites. The figures below show the gross sales in the park for 1986 through 1989.

YEAR	GROSS SALES
1989	10,561.71
1988	6,008.06
1987	7,243.03
1986	8,046.81

4. Educational Institutes

State University of New York at Stony Brook has continued to be extensively involved with the Park's Lyme Disease Program.

The Vanderbilt Planetarium has provided star watching evening programs throughout the summer.

The Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary provided avarian evening programs.

5. Concession Contributions

The Fire Island Coalition, an affiliation of concessioners doing business within the park has contributed greatly to park operations by providing specials rates and programs for organized visitor groups.

Of special note, a pilot program was developed at Sailors Haven. Thursday evenings, the Sailors Haven Concessioner and the Sunken Forest Ferry Company provided parking, a night ferry trip, buffet dinner, entertainment and the park provided an interpretive walk through the Sunken Forest. The program was a complete success. Over 150 people were accomodated.

Additionally, the ferry companies provides previsaion materials for school groups visiting park areas.

6. Private Sector Donated Funds

The park maintains four separate donation accounts; the General Purpose Donation Account, the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society Visitor Services Account, William Floyd Estate Donation Account, and the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society Maintenance Account.

The funds for the General Purpose Account are generated from donation boxes located at Smith Point, Watch Hill and Sailors Haven. \$1,309.19 in general purpose funds were collected at the stations. The proceeds from these donations have been utilized to a large extent to pay for the publication of handouts, including trails guides, tide tables and site bulletins.

The funds for the William Floyd Estate Donation Account are generated from a donation box located at the Estate and from mailed in contributions. \$1,159.44 were donated for FY 1989. The proceeds from this account are used to provide services and materials for the maintenance of the Estate's facilities, grounds and cemetery.

The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society continued to raise funds for the restoration, operation and maintenace of the Lighthouse area. \$13,486.00 were provided to the park for Visitor Services through proceeds realized from sales of donated items and from the results of various fundraising activities; "sales" of steps, windows, etc. and special parties. These funds were used to provide minimal visitor information and museum access pending congressional funding.

E. ANNUAL INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM AND INDIVIDUAL SERVICE PLANS

1. Annual Interpretive Program

Fire Island National Seashore operates year-round. Visitor use varies greatly by season. The following are general statements related to the services to be provided to users by season and by area. All services and activities described are based on optimal staffing at the areas. Additionally, weather conditions may affect the opening and closing dates of a specific facility.

Fall (September through November)

Fire Island Lighthouse Area:

Visitor Center and Contact Station will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups will be provided orientation and general walk or talk programs.

Sailors Haven:

Facilities and ferry service at Sailors Haven end on November 1st. Visitor Center will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups constitute the bulk of the visitation, both as day users and as N.E.E.D. participants. All visitors are provided orientations and general walks or talks. Occasional evening programs are provided to N.E.E.D. participants.

Talisman:

The facilities at Talisman close on Labor Day weekend. Visitors are provided orientation and information from Law Enforcement Rangers and from Maintenance personnel. Occasional general talk or walk programs are provided.

Watch Hill:

Facilities and ferry service at Watch Hill end on October 15th. Visitor Center will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups constitute the bulk of the visitation as day users. All visitors are provided orientations and general walks or talks. Evening programs, including campfires, are provided until Labor Day weekend.

Old Inlet:

Facilities close on October 15. Visitors are provided orientation and information from Law Enforcement Rangers and from Maintenance personnel. Occasional general talk or walk programs are provided.

Smith Point:

Visitor Center and Contact Station will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups will be provided orientation and general walk or talk programs.

Mainland Ferry Terminal:

Facilities close on October 15. Visitors are provided orientation and information from ferry service personnel and exhibits and brochures.

William Floyd Estate:

Facilities close on October 31. Visitor Center will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center and provided a house tour. School groups are provided formal museum education program.

Headquarters:

General visitors will be provided information on facilities. The park library is available for research year-round.

Winter (December through February)

Fire Island Lighthouse Area:

Visitor Center and Contact Station will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups will be provided orientation and general walk or talk programs.

Sailors Haven:

The facilities at Sailors Haven close on November 1st.

Talisman:

The facilities at Talisman close on Labor Day weekend.

Watch Hill:

The facilities at Watch Hill close on October 15th.

Old Inlet:

The facilities at Old Inlet close on October 15.

Smith Point:

Visitor Center and Contact Station will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups will be provided orientation and general walk or talk programs.

Mainland Ferry Terminal:

The facilities close on October 15.

William Floyd Estate:

The facilities close on October 31.

Headquarters:

General visitors will be provided information on facilities

Spring (March through May)

Fire Island Lighthouse Area:

Visitor Center and Contact Station will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups will be provided orientation and general walk or talk programs.

Sailors Haven:

Facilities and Ferry Service at Sailors Haven begin on May 1st. Visitor Center will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups constitute the bulk of the visitation, both as day users and as N.E.E.D. participants. All visitors are provided orientations and general walks or talks. Occasional evening programs are provided to N.E.E.D. participants.

Talisman:

The facilities at Talisman open on May 1 st. Visitors are provided orientation and information from Law Enforcement Rangers and from Maintenance personnel. Occasional general talk or walk programs are provided.

Watch Hill:

Facilities and ferry service at Watch Hill open on May 1st.Visitor Center will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups constitute the bulk of the visitation as day users. All visitors are provided orientations and general walks or talks. Evening programs, including campfires, are provided starting Memorial Day weekend.

Old Inlet:

Facilities open on May 1st.Visitors are provided orientation and information from Law Enforcement Rangers and from Maintenance personnel. Occasional general talk or walk programs are provided.

Smith Point:

Visitor Center and Contact Station will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups will be provided orientation and general walk or talk programs.

Mainland Ferry Terminal:

Facilities open on May 1st. Visitors are provided orientation and information from ferry service personnel

and exhibits and brochures.

William Floyd Estate:

Facilities open on April 1st. Visitor Center will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center and provided a house tour. School groups are provided extensive formal museum education program.

Headquarters:

General visitors will be provided information on facilities.

Summer (June through August)

Fire Island Lighthouse Area:

Visitor Center and Contact Station will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups will be provided orientation and general walk or talk programs.

Sailors Haven:

Facilities and ferry service operates daily. Visitor Center will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups constitute the bulk of the visitation, both as day users and as N.E.E.D. participants. All visitors are provided orientations and general walks or talks. Occasional evening programs are provided to N.E.E.D. participants.

Talisman:

Visitors are provided orientation and information from Law Enforcement Rangers and from Maintenance personnel. Occasional general talk or walk programs are provided.

Watch Hill:

Facilities and ferry service at Watch Hill end on October 15th. Visitor Center will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups constitute the bulk of the visitation as day users. All visitors are provided orientations and general walks or talks. Evening programs, including campfires, are provided until Labor Day weekend.

Old Inlet:

Facilities close on October 15. Visitors are provided orientation and information from Law Enforcement Rangers and from Maintenance personnel. Occasional general talk or walk programs are provided.

Smith Point:

Visitor Center and Contact Station will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center. School groups will be provided orientation and general walk or talk programs.

Mainland Ferry Terminal:

Facilities close on October 15. Visitors are provided orientation and information from ferry service personnel and exhibits and brochures.

William Floyd Estate:

Facilities closed on October 31. Visitor Center will provide orientation and information. General visitors will be able to view exhibits in the Center and provided a house tour. School groups will be provided orientation and general walk or talk programs.

Headquarters:

General visitors will be provided information on facilities. Library is available for research year-round.

E. ANNUAL INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM AND INDIVIDUAL SERVICE PLANS

2. Individual Service Plans

- a. Visitor Center Operations
- b. William Floyd Estate House Tour
- c. General Talk
- d. Guided Walk
- e. Off-Site Programs
- f. Evening Programs
- g. Roving Contact Program
- h. Beach Apparatus Drill

During the year, the Seashore offered a number of programs throughout the park that addressed a variety of concerns and needs within the park. Individual service plans were not prepared for all of the programs. Included in Appendix A., are a variety of pamphlets and publications prepared by the staff to advertise the programs and activities throughout the park.

2 a. VISITOR CENTER OPERATIONS

1. Objective:

To acquaint visitors to all aspects of Fire Island National Seashore, especially the areas major resource, to provide information and to serve as a focal point for all activities.

2. Service is minimum part of interpretive program.

3. Locations:

All locations.

4. Time(s) offered and length:

Generally 5-15 minutes in length. Offered throughout areas as indicated in Description of Services.

5. Intended Audiences:

All park users.

6. No fees are charged for this service.

7. a. Characteristics

Public's first introduction to the Park.

b. Alternatives

There are no alternatives to greeting the public.

c. Supplies and materials

All information handouts concerning Seashore and surrounding area.

d. Reference Materials:

Management Policies, NPS-6, General Management Plan, Interpretive Prospectus, Annual Statement for Interpretation, Sites Bulletin.

e. Program History

At all Park areas since 1964.

2 b. WILLIAM FLOYD ESTATE HOUSE TOUR

1. Objective:

Provide visitors with minimal information on all aspects of Floyd family use of the house and land.

2. Service is minimum part of interpretive program.

3 Locations:

William Floyd Estate.

4. Time(s) offered and length:

Generally 45-60 minutes in length. Offered as indicated in Description of Services.

5. Intended Audiences:

All park users.

6. No fees are charged for this service.

7. a. Characteristics

Groups are limited to eight people per tour.

b. Alternatives

There are no alternatives to the guided house tour.

c. Supplies and materials

No supplies or materials are required by presenter.

d. Reference Materials:

Management Policies, NPS-6, General Management Plan, Interpretive Prospectus, Annual Statement for Interpretation, Description of Selected Alternatives, Room Guide for William Floyd Estate House Tours, Sites Bulletin.

e. Program History

Offered to the public since 1982.

2 c. GENERAL TALKS

1. Objective:

Provide visitors general information on aspects of Fire Island National Seashore; may include natural history, cultural history, park and community history.

2. Service is supplemental part of interpretive program.

3. Locations:

All locations, excluding Headquarters and Mainland Ferry Terminal(s)

4. Time(s) offered and length:

Generally 30-60 minutes in length. Offered throughout areas as indicated in Description of Services.

5. Intended Audiences:

All park users.

6. No fees are charged for this service.

7. a. Characteristics

Interests of Park users vary greatly. Audience will have great diversity in knowledge and experiences.

b. Alternatives

Slide or video program may be substituted due to weather conditions.

c. Supplies and materials

No specific materials or supplies are required. A first-aid kit and trail guides are recommended.

d. Reference Materials:

Management Policies, NPS-6, General Management Plan, Interpretive Prospectus, Annual Statement for Interpretation, Sites Bulletin, Trail Guide.

e. Program History

Offered in all Park areas since 1964.

2 d. GUIDED WALKS

1. Objective:

Provide visitors with specific information on a particular aspect of Fire Island National Seashore, including natural history, cultural history, park and community history.

2. Service is supplemental part of interpretive program.

3. Locations:

All locations, excluding Headquarters and Mainland Ferry Terminal(s)

4. Time(s) offered and length:

Generally 30-60 minutes in length. Offered throughout areas as indicated in Description of Services.

5. Intended Audiences:

All park users.

6. No fees are charged for this service.

7. a Characteristics

Generally audience is interested in adding to their knowledge about the subject matter. Depending on the season, time of day and weather, group may be very small.

b. Alternatives

Slide or video program may be substituted due to weather conditions.

c. Supplies and materials

No specific materials or supplies are required. A first-aid kit and trail guides are recommended. If the theme of the walk is specific, current reference materials are also recommended. For example, the presenter of a bird walk should carry a guide and binoculars.

d. Reference Materials:

Management Policies, NPS-6, General Management Plan, Interpretive Prospectus, Annual Statement for Interpretation, Sites Bulletin, Trail Guide, specific reference materials proscribed by the subject matter.

e. Program History

Offered throughout the park since 1964.

2. e. OFF-SITE PROGRAMS

1. Objective:

Provide interested groups and organizations introductory or specific information on aspects of Fire Island National Seashore; may include natural history, cultural history, park or community history.

2. Service is supplemental part of interpretive program.

3. Locations:

Generally all areas throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties; occasionally programs will be presented out-of-state.

4. Time(s) offered and length:

Generally 30-60 minutes in length. Offered throughout the year to interested groups.

5. Intended Audiences:

All park users or potential park users.

6. Generally no fees are charged for this service.

7. a. Characteristics

Occasionally subject matter may be controversial to audience. Question and answer sessions may be lengthy.

b. Alternatives:

Provide program at site.

c. Supplies and materials:

Slide projector (with extra bulbs, extension cord, screen) slide program, park brochures.

d. Reference Materials:

Management Policies, NPS-6, General Management Plan, Interpretive Prospectus, Annual Statement for Interpretation, Sites Bulletin, Trail Guide, specific reference materials proscribed by the subject matter.

e. Program History

Offered sporadically since 1964. Most requests are during the winter season when the fewest interpreters are available. Generally, only specific requests for program are honored.

2. f. EVENING PROGRAMS

1. Objective:

Provide visitors with information on specific aspects of Fire Island National Seashore; includes natural history, cultural history, park and community history.

2. Service is supplemental part of interpretive program.

3. Locations:

Generally Watch Hill and Sailors Haven.

4. Time(s) offered and length:

Generally 30-60 minutes in length. Offered throughout areas as indicated in Description of Services.

5. Intended Audiences:

All park users.

6. No fees are charged for this service.

7. a. Characteristics

Evening programs are generally well attended with a large portion of the audience consisting of family groups from the marinas and camp grounds. The atmosphere is very relaxed. Evening programs may be movies in the Visitor Center, campfire on the beach, a talk in the Visitor Center or a guided walk.

b. Alternatives:

There are no alternatives for evening programs.

c. Supplies and materials

Depending on media used:

1. Projector, screen, and video supplies.
2. Firewood, suppression materials.
3. Flashlights.

d. Reference Materials:

Management Policies, NPS-6, General Management Plan, Interpretive Prospectus, Annual Statement for Interpretation, Sites Bulletin, Trail Guide, specific reference materials proscribed by the subject matter.

e. Program History:

1. Offered in park areas since 1964. Most successful at Watch Hill and Sailors Haven.
2. Discontinued at Smith Point in 1986.

2. g. ROVING CONTACT PROGRAM

1. Objective:

Provide visibility of Park Service personnel, establish casual contacts with park users, and to provide information on Seashore activities.

2 Service is supplemental part of interpretive program.

3. Locations:

All locations, excluding Headquarters and Mainland Ferry Terminal(s)

4. Time(s) offered and length:

Generally 5-15 minutes in length. Offered throughout areas as indicated in Description of Services.

5. Intended Audiences:

All park users.

6. No fees are charged for this service.

7. a. Characteristics

Involves conversations with all types of park users and visitors. In some cases, this may be first conversation with park personnel.

b. Alternatives

There are no alternatives.

c. Supplies and materials

No supplies or materials are required by presenter. Park brochures are recommended.

d. Reference Materials:

Management Policies, NPS-6, General Management Plan, Interpretive Prospectus, Annual Statement for Interpretation, Sites Bulletin.

e. Program History

Offered throughout park since 1964, by foot, on horse or vehicle.

2. h. BEACH APPARATUS DRILL

1. Objective:
Provide visitors with information on the history of the United States LifeSaving Service.
2. Service is supplemental part of interpretive program.
3. Locations:
To Be Announced.
4. Time(s) offered and length:
Generally 30 minutes in length.
5. Intended Audiences:
All park users.
6. No fees are charged for this service.
7. a. Characteristics
Involves use of black powder. Safety is of utmost concern. Also, costumed interpreters are used necessitating extensive training.
- b. Alternatives
There are no alternatives.
- c. Supplies and materials
USLSS uniforms and accoutrements, Lyle gun, Beach Cart, Training pole.
- d. Reference Materials:
Management Policies, NPS-6, General Management Plan, Interpretive Prospectus, Annual Statement for Interpretation, NPS Manual for the Demonstration of the Historic Beach Apparatus Drill, NPS Service Wide Safety Certification and Standards Program for Interpretive Demonstrations of Reproduction Historic Weapon Firing and the Storage and Handling of Black Powder Used in Those Demonstrations.
- e. Program History
 1. Offered at Sailors Haven in 1976, in 1978 Lyle Gun was added.
 2. Not offered in 1989 due to lack of certified and trained personnel. Program will be reinstated at Lighthouse area in 1990.