

**general
management
plan**

PLANNING PREMISES

This general management plan is based on the following planning premises:

The primary management concern is preservation and enhancement of the serenity and natural beauty of the island, which includes protection of the beaches, dunes, and other natural features fundamental to the concept of Fire Island National Seashore.

Planning for management, use, and recreational facilities at Fire Island is based on the knowledge that the island is a dynamic, changing resource and today's configuration and environment may not be tomorrow's. Design of facilities should be guided by the uncertainty of natural events on barrier islands.

Increased use of federal recreational areas will be minimal, with emphasis placed on the quality of facilities and visitor experiences and not on quantitative increases.

The plan recognizes that certain resource management actions are necessary to fulfill the legislated mandate for the national seashore. Fire Island is a culturally manipulated barrier-island system, and it cannot be managed as if natural geomorphic processes had been totally unimpeded.

Fire Island National Seashore does not exist as an isolated entity, rather it is located within the nation's largest urbanized area, and cooperative planning between local publics and governmental authorities is required to ensure that mutually compatible goals are achieved.

Proper land-use controls and related regulations within the communities of Fire Island are necessary for the long-term preservation of the resource, thereby requiring National Park Service involvement in community zoning activities, as intended by the 1964 Fire Island National Seashore Act.

The plan is intended to serve the long-term management needs of the national seashore; however, implementation of planning proposals is based on a 10-year time frame.

Certain land acquisitions and cooperative management agreements are desirable for improved management of the national seashore.

This general management plan recognizes that Fire Island National Seashore serves a definable population of known and potential visitors. Basically, Fire Island provides for, and will continue to serve, the recreational needs of Suffolk and Nassau Counties and to a lesser degree the needs of New York City.