MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

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 the 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 for vector control activities within federally managed properties of the national seashore in times of established public health emergencies.

To provide a wide range of quality interpretive activities that emphasize the natural features 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 on it.

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 promote 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 management units to facilitate management and to improve operations immediately. Each unit will have specific management objectives as discussed below.

FIRE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE MANAGEMENT UNIT

This unit includes the 90-acre lighthouse tract, bay-to-ocean strips, Sexton Island, West Island, and East Island. Management objectives for this unit are as follows:

To preserve and interpret the historic resources of the lighthouse complex.

To manage natural resources within the lighthouse tract and the adjacent bay islands for interpretation, environmental education, research, and preservation.

To rehabilitate and preserve bay-to-ocean strips.

SUNKEN FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT

This unit extends from the eastern boundary of Point O'Woods to the western boundary of Davis Park. The following objectives have been defined for the Sunken Forest unit:

To continue special protection for the old maritime holly forests of the Sunken Forest.

To manage the Sunken Forest developed area as a center for natural history interpretation and recreation, and to de-emphasize overnight use by boaters.

To assist with the preservation of the outstanding maritime forests in the community of Point O'Woods through the implementation of an agreement with the Point O'Woods Association.

To establish an environmental educational center with limited overnight accommodations at the Talisman site.

To determine the desirability of artificial tidal marsh construction within federally managed lands by building an experimental marsh adjacent to Barrett Beach.

WATCH HILL MANAGEMENT UNIT

The Watch Hill unit encompasses the lands from the eastern boundary of Ocean Ridge to the eastern end of the Watch Hill campground. The primary objectives for its management are:

To manage the Watch Hill developed area as a national seashore center for day-use recreation and camping.

To protect and enhance the natural environment of undeveloped lands east of the Watch Hill developed area.

To eliminate those dune crossings that can be closed without increasing behind-the-dune travel and related impacts.

To remove unnecessary dwellings and other structures upon the expiration of existing use and occupancy agreements at Bayberry Dunes.

To maintain adequate water depth for ferry and boat access to marinas.

To provide a level of camping and associated facilities (water and sanitation) that will not adversely impact the environment.

HIGH DUNE MANAGEMENT UNIT

This unit extends from the eastern boundary of the Watch Hill management unit to the western boundary of Smith Point County Park. Its objectives are:

To protect the natural qualities of the high dune management unit and to provide for traditional low-density recreational uses.

To provide minimal facilities and programs for interpreting the outstanding natural resources of this area.

To maintain primitive qualities of this unit so as not to preclude potential wilderness classification.

To remove man-made structures within the management unit and to restore these sites.

To manage the unit as a primitive area.

MORICHES AREA

This section of the barrier island, which extends from the eastern end of Smith Point County Park to Moriches Inlet, is the property of Suffolk County and is managed by the Suffolk County Parks Department. The National Park Service has the following objectives:

To share ideas and philosophies with Suffolk County regarding the management of this section of the barrier island.

To manage these lands as a unit of the national seashore should Suffolk County decide in the future to donate these lands to the National Park Service.

WILLIAM FLOYD MANAGEMENT UNIT

This unit includes the 612-acre William Floyd Estate. The following objectives for its management have been established:

To interpret the history and to preserve the historical resources of the estate as a continuum of the William Floyd family.

To maintain the features of the existing landscape and current land-use practices, and to stabilize existing structures until use/occupancy agreements expire and future public uses are determined.

EXEMPTED COMMUNITIES

The following objective relates to the 17 exempted communities located within the boundary of the national seashore:

To establish direct federal involvement with local governmental jurisdictions in a cooperative effort to provide appropriate land uses within the exempted communities of the national seashore.