



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## NPS Northeast Region News Release

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### **Chris Soller Named Superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore**

**Philadelphia** – National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach has selected Chris Soller as the superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore on Long Island, New York. Soller will manage almost 20,000 acres, a staff of nearly 100 employees, and a budget of almost \$4 million. He begins his assignment in November. He follows Michael Reynolds, who left Fire Island in February to become Deputy Regional Director for the 13-state National Park Service Northeast Region, which is headquartered in Philadelphia.

“Chris Soller has a deep appreciation of the environment and the communities of Fire Island.” said Reidenbach. “He understands the challenges of managing a shifting barrier island and brings expertise in partnerships and philanthropy to this new assignment.”

Soller is a 31-year veteran of the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior. Prior to his position in the NPS National Partnership Office in Washington, D.C., he served as Superintendent of the Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City, Program Manager of the National Parks of New York Harbor, Legislative Specialist with the National Park Service’s Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs in Washington, D.C., Management Assistant of Fire Island National Seashore, and as an Outdoor Recreation Planner working with state and local governments on park and recreation issues.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

“Fire Island and Fire Island National Seashore, including the William Floyd Estate, are very special. I have walked the Island’s beaches for many years, watching the sun come up over the Atlantic Ocean or waning over the Island in the late afternoon and I am always struck by the beauty and solitude that exists there, just 60 miles from the chaos and energy of New York City. One of the exciting and challenging aspects of working at Fire Island is the diversity of the Island’s and the Seashore’s constituents who all have deep feelings for the Island and the park. The challenge is to harness those divergent positions and bring them together on their common ground, a love for Fire Island, and challenge them to work cooperatively to be stewards of this magnificent place.”

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Soller has lived for the past 30 years between Washington, DC and Metropolitan New York. He earned his BA in American Studies from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and his MA in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. He and his partner of 15 years, Jack Curry, have maintained a home on Fire Island since 2000.



NPS Photo

Fire Island is a barrier island with beaches, dunes, ancient maritime forests, wildlife, a federally designated wilderness area, and National Historic Landmarks. More than 2.2 million people a year come to Fire Island, which includes seventeen communities, a county park within Seashore boundaries, and a New York State Park on the western end of Fire Island. Far from the sounds and pressures of nearby big-city life, it offers solitude, camaraderie, and spiritual renewal to civilization-weary people. For more information about Fire Island National Seashore, visit [www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis)

For more information about the National Park Service Northeast Region, visit [www.nps.gov/nero](http://www.nps.gov/nero)

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