

general management plan

FIRE ISLAND

NATIONAL SEASHORE / NEW YORK



RECOMMENDED:

John W. Henneberger
Manager, Denver Service Center

9/15/77

Richard W. Marks
Superintendent, Fire Island National Seashore

9/15/77

RECOMMENDED FOR FILING WITH THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT:

Jack E. Stark
Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

9/27/77

**APPROVED FOR USE AND DIRECTION IN THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT
OF FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE:**

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

(date)

CONTENTS

Land Classification 63
 Land Suitability Analysis 64
 Land Classification System 65

Special Activity Areas, Uses and Proposed Facilities 66
 Fire Island Lighthouse Area 67
 Sunken Forest Area 68
 Tallman Area 69
 Watch Hill Area 70
 Old Inlet Area 71
 Smith Point West Area 72

Management Experience 73
 Interpretive Concept 74
 Interpretive 75

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 76
 Introduction 77
 The Region 78
 Planning Premises 79
 Management Objectives 80
 Fire Island National Seashore Management Unit 81
 Sunken Forest Unit 82
 Watch Hill Unit 83
 High Dune Unit 84
 Monks Unit 85
 William Unit 86
 Exemptions 87

Resources 88
 National Park System 89
 State Parks 90
 Local Parks 91
 Other Land 92
 Management Unit 93
 Sunken Forest Unit 94
 Watch Hill Unit 95
 High Dune Unit 96
 Monks Unit 97
 William Unit 98
 Exemptions 99

Appendix 100
 A. Map of Fire Island National Seashore 101
 B. Map of Sunken Forest Unit 102
 C. Map of Watch Hill Unit 103
 D. Map of High Dune Unit 104
 E. Map of Monks Unit 105
 F. Map of William Unit 106
 G. Map of Exemptions 107

Index 108

Appendix 109
 A. Map of Fire Island National Seashore 110
 B. Map of Sunken Forest Unit 111
 C. Map of Watch Hill Unit 112
 D. Map of High Dune Unit 113
 E. Map of Monks Unit 114
 F. Map of William Unit 115
 G. Map of Exemptions 116

Appendix 117
 A. Map of Fire Island National Seashore 118
 B. Map of Sunken Forest Unit 119
 C. Map of Watch Hill Unit 120
 D. Map of High Dune Unit 121
 E. Map of Monks Unit 122
 F. Map of William Unit 123
 G. Map of Exemptions 124

Appendix 125
 A. Map of Fire Island National Seashore 126
 B. Map of Sunken Forest Unit 127
 C. Map of Watch Hill Unit 128
 D. Map of High Dune Unit 129
 E. Map of Monks Unit 130
 F. Map of William Unit 131
 G. Map of Exemptions 132

Appendix 133
 A. Map of Fire Island National Seashore 134
 B. Map of Sunken Forest Unit 135
 C. Map of Watch Hill Unit 136
 D. Map of High Dune Unit 137
 E. Map of Monks Unit 138
 F. Map of William Unit 139
 G. Map of Exemptions 140



general management plan
 Fire Island National Seashore

CONTENTS

Figures

Tables

Introduction	1
--------------	---

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Fire Island	7
Legislation	7
Land-Use Patterns and Management Experience	10
Visitors	14
The Recreational Experience	15
The Region	17

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Planning Premises	23
Management Objectives	24
Fire Island Lighthouse Management Unit	26
Sunken Forest Management Unit	26
Watch Hill Management Unit	27
High Dune Management Unit	27
Moriches Area	28
William Floyd Management Unit	28
Exempted Communities	28
Resources Management	29
Beaches, Dunes, and Inlets	30
Dune Crossings and Unpaved Sand Trails	33
Tidal Marshes	34
Artificial Islands	35
Water Quality	35
Vegetation and Wildlife	37
National Registry of Natural Landmarks	38
Restoration of Impacted Areas	38
Vehicle Use and Regulations	38
Research Activities	41

Land Classification	43
Land Suitability Analysis	43
Land Classification System	45
Federal Activity Areas: Uses and Proposed Facilities	63
Fire Island Lighthouse Area	72
Sunken Forest Area	74
Talisman Area	76
Watch Hill Area	78
Old Inlet Area	80
Smith Point West Area	82
Interpretation	84
Interpretive Concept	84
Interpretive Areas	85
Access and Transportation	90
Ferry System	91
Headquarters Complex/Mainland Terminal	91
Seaplanes and Helicopters	99
Land-Use Controls Within Fire Island Communities	100
Proposed Land-Use Control System – A Model Zoning Ordinance	102
Transfer of Land from the Seashore District to the Development District	106
Acquisition of Property Within Exempted Communities Following Major Storm Damage	107
Land Acquisition	108
Land Acquisition Within the Present Boundary	108
Proposed Boundary Changes	109
Cooperative Management Agreements	109
Regional and Cooperative Planning Needs	114

APPENDIXES/SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY/PLANNING TEAM

Appendix A: Fire Island Area Parks Annual Visitation	121
Appendix B: Regional and Subregional Recreational Acreage	122
Appendix C: Outstanding Natural and Cultural Resources of Fire Island National Seashore and Vicinity	123
Appendix D: Trends in the Development of Fire Island Communities 1928-1973	126
Appendix E: Legislation	127
Selected Bibliography	133
Planning Team, Consultants, and Contributors	145

FIGURES

Figure 1 – Vicinity Map	3
Figure 2 – National Park Service Land on Spits and Barrier Islands of the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts	9
Figure 3 – The Region	19
Figure 4 – Land Classification, Public Uses, and Facilities	49
Figure 5 – Fire Island Lighthouse Area – Proposed Facilities	73
Figure 6 – Sunken Forest Area – Proposed Facilities	75
Figure 7 – Talisman Area – Proposed Facilities	77
Figure 8 – Watch Hill Area – Proposed Facilities	79
Figure 9 – Old Inlet Area – Proposed Facilities	81
Figure 10 – Smith Point West Area – Proposed Facilities	83
Figure 11 – Existing and Proposed Ferry Routes	93
Figure 12 – Existing Land Use Surrounding Patchogue River Site	97
Figure 13 – Headquarters/Terminal Area Site Plan	98
Figure 14 – Proposed Land Acquisitions, Boundary Changes, and Cooperative Management Agreements	111

TABLES

Table 1 —	Maximum Daily Visits to Existing and Proposed Federal Activity Areas	64
Table 2 —	Existing and Proposed Public Use of Federal and Non-Federal Cooperatively Managed Lands of Fire Island National Seashore	65
Table 3 —	Existing and Proposed Facilities of Federal and Non-Federal Cooperatively Managed Lands in Fire Island National Seashore	67
Table 4 —	Existing and Projected Size of Certain Recreation Facilities at Fire Island National Seashore 1976-1986	69
Table 5 —	Federal Activity Areas with Primary Access by Auto	92
Table 6 —	Federal Activity Areas with Primary Access by Water	92
Table 7 —	1987 Hourly Traffic Distribution	96
Table 8 —	Patchogue Terminal — Minimum Area Requirements	99
Table 9 —	Proposed Land Acquisition and Cooperative Management Agreements	113