Social Science Program
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Visitor Services Project

Fire Island National Seashore
Resident Study

Spring 2008

University of Idaho
Park Studies Unit
Visitor Services Project
Report 202
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Eleonora Papadogiannaki
Yen Le
Steven J. Hollenhorst

Eleonora Papadogiannaki is a Research Assistant with the Visitor Services Project. Dr. Yen Le is the Visitor Services Project Assistant Director, and Dr. Hollenhorst is the Director of the Park Studies Unit, Department of Conservation Social Sciences, University of Idaho. We thank the staff and volunteers of Fire Island National Seashore for assisting with the survey, and David Vollmer and Yanyin Xu for their technical assistance.
Visitor Services Project
Fire Island National Seashore Resident
Report Summary

- This report describes the results of a study of Fire Island National Seashore (NS) residents and homeowners, mailed on May 16, 2008, with a pre-notification sent on May 9, 2008. A total of 672 questionnaires were sent to a random sample of people who own or live in homes that lie within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore. Addresses were taken from the Town of Brookhaven and Town of Islip tax rolls for owners of homes on Fire Island, or who were identified as year-round residents on Fire Island. Additional addresses came from a list of the homeowners with full-time or part-time driving permits. Of those 672 addresses, 13 were not deliverable, reducing the usable sample size to 659. A total of 258 questionnaires were returned resulting in a 39.2% response rate.

- This report profiles a systematic random sample of homeowners within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore. Most results are presented in graphs and frequency tables. Summaries of comments are included in the report and complete comments are included in the Comments Appendix.

- Thirty-one percent (31%) of respondents were in groups of five or more and 27% were in groups of two. Thirty-nine percent (39%) were in groups of family and friends.

- United States residents comprised nearly 100% of the respondents, from New York (84%) and 13 other states and Washington, D.C. International respondents represented less than 1% of the total sample population, but this data should be viewed with caution, due to a low number of respondents that answered this question.

- Forty percent (40%) of respondents were ages 41-60 years, 26% were 61 years or older, and 15% were ages 15 years or younger. Six percent (6%) of groups reported physical conditions that made it difficult to access or participate in park services or activities.

- One percent (1%) of the respondents were Hispanic or Latino and 99% were White.

- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents were seasonal residents of Fire Island, staying 3-6 months a year, while 17% live on Fire Island all year round.

- Most respondents (67%) used the Fire Island properties and/or facilities during the last 12 months. Fifty-six percent (56%) of groups occasionally used the park properties/facilities. The months during which respondents most commonly used the park properties/facilities were August 2007 (76%) and July 2007 (74%).

- Most respondents obtained or updated their information about Fire Island NS through friends/relatives/word of mouth (64%) and newspapers/magazine articles (61%). Thirty percent (30%) of respondents did not stay updated on information about the park activities/rules and regulations.

- Of the sites operated by the National Park Service, beaches were used by 76% of respondents, and 51% visited the Fire Island Lighthouse.

- Of the activities in which respondents engaged on previous trips to Fire Island NS, beach activities was the most common (75%), followed by spending time with family and friends (65%). The most common activities on this trip were also beach activities (79%) and spending time with family and friends (65%).

- Most respondents (67%) rated the overall quality of services, facilities, and recreational opportunities at Fire Island NS as “very good” or “good.” fewer than one percent of rated the overall quality as “very poor” or “poor.”

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho at (208) 885-7863 or the following website http://www.psu.uidaho.edu.
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INTRODUCTION

“Rhythmic waves, high dunes, ancient maritime forests, historic landmarks and glimpses of wildlife—Fire Island has been a special place for diverse plants, animals and people for centuries. Far from the sounds and pressures of nearby big-city life, Fire Island National Seashore’s dynamic barrier island beaches offer solitude and camaraderie, and spiritual renewal to civilization-weary people.” (Fire Island National Seashore, National Park Service, Department of the Interior website: www.nps.gov/fiis January, 2009)

A unique aspect of Fire Island National Seashore is its permanent communities, which pre-date the park’s establishment. As stated in the park website: “There are 17 different communities on Fire Island within the boundaries the national seashore. When Fire Island National Seashore was established in 1964, its enabling legislation stated that these communities and preexisting commercial uses would be allowed to remain, as long as development was consistent with zoning ordinances established by the Secretary of the Interior. Some of the Fire Island communities consist of only a few homes while others have hundreds of houses, with restaurants, small grocery and retail stores, and other businesses. There is one elementary school on Fire Island. There are rental properties, summer homes, and year-round residences on the island. Several hundred people reside in the communities within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore during the winter months, while that number swells during the summer.” (Fire Island National Seashore, National Park Service, Department of the Interior website: www.nps.gov/fiis January, 2009)

This report describes the results of a study of Fire Island National Seashore residents on May 16, 2008 by the National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Services Project (VSP), part of the Park Studies Unit (PSU) at the University of Idaho.

Organization of the report

The report is organized into three sections.

Section 1: Methods. This section discusses the procedures, limitations, and special conditions that may affect the results of the study.

Section 2: Results. This section provides summary information for each question in the questionnaire and includes a summary of respondents’ comments. The presentation of the results of this study does not follow the same order of questions in the questionnaire.

Section 3: Appendices

Appendix 1: The Questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire distributed to groups.

Appendix 2: Additional Analysis. A list of options for cross-references and cross comparisons. These comparisons can be analyzed within park or between parks. Results of additional analyses are not included in this report as they may only be requested after the results of this study have been published.
Appendix 4: Visitor Services Project Publications. A complete list of publications by the PSU. Copies of these reports can be obtained by visiting the website: http://www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp/reports.htm or contacting the PSU office at (208) 885-7863.

Comments Appendix: A separate appendix provides responses to open-ended questions. It is bound separately from this report due to its size.

**Presentation of the results**

Results are represented in the form of graphs (see example below), scatter plots, pie charts, tables, or text.

**SAMPLE ONLY**

1: The figure title describes the graph’s information.

2: Listed above the graph, the “N” shows the number of individuals or groups responding to the question. If “N” is less than 30, “CAUTION!” is shown on the graph to indicate the results may be unreliable.

* appears when total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.

** appears when total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer choice.

3: Vertical information describes the response categories.

4: Horizontal information shows the number or proportions of responses in each category.

5: In most graphs, percentages provide additional information.

**Figure 14: Number of visits to park in past 12 months**

N=537 visitor groups
METHODS

Survey Design

Sample size and sampling plan

Lists of property owners were obtained via Town of Brookhaven and Town of Islip tax rolls, Fire Island driving permit list, Fire Island General Management Plan (GMP) mailing list, and a list of year-round residents provided by the Fire Island Homeowners Association. The survey population included 1,511 addresses from the Brookhaven tax roll, 2,274 addresses from the Islip tax roll and 200 from the driving permit list. Obvious business addresses (such as a rental company, national park, state park, etc.) were removed from the list. Vacant addresses (empty properties with no houses) were also removed from the list. Owners of more than one property were consolidated into one address per owner. The Fire Island GMP mailing list also included non-homeowners, which were not considered as part of the survey population. Addresses for year-round residents were already included in the Brookhaven and Islip list. Thus the GMP and resident lists were only used to verify some of the homeowner addresses. Among 200 addresses in the driving permit list, 91 were already included in Brookhaven and Islip list. After removing redundant addresses and consolidating owners with multiple properties, the sampling frame contained 1,255 addresses from the Brookhaven list, 1,851 from the Islip list, and 109 from the driving permit list. The total sampling frame contained 3,215 homeowners’ addresses. It was assumed that the sampling frame included actual homeowners, although this was not verifiable.

Don A. Dillman's method of estimating sample size in *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method* (2007) was utilized. Using this methodology, the sample size was calculated based on the number of homeowners on Fire Island. The samples were systematically drawn from the sampling frame of addresses sorted in ascending order of tax ID number. Starting with a random number, every 5th address was selected resulting in a sample size of 672 addresses. With 95% confidence interval, the coverage error was calculated to be between ± 3.7%. The calculation was based on a conservative assumption that respondents would have the most diverse opinion about issues at the park.

Questionnaire design

The Fire Island National Seashore Resident questionnaire was developed at a workshop held with park staff to design and prioritize the questions. Some of the questions were comparable with VSP studies conducted at other parks while others were customized for Fire Island National Seashore. Many questions asked respondents to choose answers from a list of responses, often with an open-ended option, while others were completely open-ended.

No pilot study was conducted to test the Fire Island National Seashore Resident questionnaire. However, all questions followed OMB guidelines and/or were used in previous surveys. Thus, the clarity and consistency of the survey instrument have been tested and supported.
Survey procedure

A pre-notification postcard was sent on May 9, 2008 to 672 residents to inform them about the survey. The actual survey questionnaire was sent one week after the notification postcard on May 16, 2008. Two weeks after the mailing of the questionnaire, a reminder/thank you postcard was mailed to all participants. Replacement questionnaires were mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires four weeks after the mailing of the first questionnaire. A second round of replacement questionnaires was mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires seven weeks after the mailing of the first questionnaire. Due to a low response rate, a third round of replacement questionnaires was mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires almost three months days after the mailing of the first questionnaire. Of the 672 original addresses, 13 were either non-deliverable, or the person no longer owned the property, or had not visited Fire Island recently, which reduced the usable sample size to 659. There may have been other residents who did not visit the park between June 2007 and May 2008, or no longer owned property. It was not possible to identify this group, and this may have been another factor in the low response rate.

Data Analysis

Returned questionnaires were coded and the information was entered into a computer using custom and standard statistical software applications—Statistical Analysis Software ® (SAS) and a custom designed FileMaker Pro ® application. Descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations were calculated for the coded data and responses to open-ended questions were categorized and summarized. The data were entered twice—by two independent data entry staff—and validated by a third staff member.
Limitations

Like all surveys, this study has limitations that should be considered when interpreting the results.

1. This was a self-administered survey. Respondents completed the questionnaire after their most recent visit, which may have resulted in poor recall. Thus, it is not possible to know whether responses reflected actual behavior.

2. Caution is advised when interpreting any data with a sample size of less than 30, as the results may be unreliable. Whenever the sample size is less than 30, the word "CAUTION!" is included in the graph, figure, table, or text.

3. Occasionally, there may be inconsistencies in the results. Inconsistencies arise from missing data or incorrect answers (due to misunderstood directions, carelessness, or poor recall of information). Therefore, refer to both the percentage and N (number of individuals or groups) when interpreting the results.

Special Conditions

This was a mail survey. No face-to-face contact was made with participants. The questionnaire was designed to obtain information from the resident’s most recent visit. Therefore, respondents’ opinions/experience may not reflect evaluation of park services and facilities at the same period of time.
Checking Non-response Bias

Initially 672 residents on Fire Island were contacted by mail. Of those 13 addresses were non-deliverable due to incorrect addresses or the persons no longer used the property or had not visited Fire Island recently. That reduced the actual sample size to 659. Questionnaires were completed and returned by 258 residents, resulting in a 39.2% response rate for this study.

Since none of the resident demographic characteristics were obtainable prior to the survey, the results were compared with demographic information of the area from the 2000 census of Fire Island CDP (Census Designated Place). The Fire Island CDP as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau included all communities on the island and on a separate island adjacent to West Hampton Dunes. It does not include the Village of Saltaire (population = 43 in 2000) or the Village of Ocean Beach (population = 138 in 2000).

Table 1: Race/ethnicity comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race or Ethnicity</th>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino (of all races)</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>98.2%</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The actual population of Fire Island may have changed since the 2000 census. In addition, the census encompassed a slightly larger area than the communities on Fire Island. Based on the comparison shown above, the Hispanic/Latino population may be under-represented. There was not a significant bias toward any race in the survey results.
RESULTS

Individual and Group Characteristics

Group size

Question 18
During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself?

Results
- 31% were in groups of five or more (see Figure 1).
- 27% were in groups of two.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 7 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Group type

Question 17
During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, what kind of personal group (not guided tour/school/other organized group) were you with?

Results
- 39% of groups were made up of family members and friends (see Figure 2).
- 34% were with family.
- “Other” groups (<1%) were:
  - Walking group

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 7 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Organized groups

Question 16a
During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, were you and your personal group with a commercial guided tour group?

Results
- Less than 1% of groups were part of a commercial guided tour group (see Figure 3).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 8 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Question 16b
During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, were you and your personal group with a school/educational group?

Results
- 4% of groups were part of a school/educational group (see Figure 4).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 8 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Question 16c
During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, were you and your personal group with an other organized group (such as business group, scout group, etc.)?

Results
- 2% of groups were part of an other organized group (see Figure 5).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 8 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
**United States respondents by state of residence**

**Table 2: United States residents by state of residence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of individuals</th>
<th>Percent of U.S. visitors</th>
<th>Percent of total visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 other states and</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group. |

Results

During the most recent use of Fire Island NS properties, respondents and their groups were from 14 states and Washington, D.C. and comprised nearly 100% of total during the survey period.

84% of U.S. respondents came from New York (see Table 2 and Map 1).

Smaller proportions of U.S. respondents came from 13 other states and Washington, D.C.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 9 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

![Map 1: Proportions of United States respondents by state of residence](image)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
International respondents by country of residence

Question 19b
For you and your personal group, during your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, what is your country of residence?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group.

Results – Interpret results with CAUTION! Not enough respondents responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Table 3).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 10 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Table 3: International residents by country of residence *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of individuals</th>
<th>Percent of international respondents N=3 individuals</th>
<th>Percent of total respondents N=633 individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frequency of use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities

Question 19c
For you and your personal group, how frequently did you use Fire Island NS properties/facilities during the past 12 months?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group.

Results
- 56% of respondents used the park properties and facilities occasionally (see Figure 6).
- 15% of respondents used the park properties and facilities every week.

Frequency

Figure 6: Frequency of park use

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Residency status

Question 1
What is your residency status on Fire Island?

Results
- 39% of respondents were seasonal residents staying 3-6 months a year (see Figure 7).
- 21% were seasonal residents staying 7-9 months a year.
- 20% were seasonal residents staying less than 3 months a year.
- 17% were full time residents.

Figure 7: Residency status on Fire Island

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
**Months of residence during the last 12 months**

**Question 2**
During the last 12 months (between May 2008 and June 2007), which months did you live on the island?

**Results**
19% of respondents lived on Fire Island all 12 months (see Figure 8).

As shown in Figure 9, the most common months of residency for respondents who were not year-round residents were:

- 90% August 2007
- 88% July 2007
- 82% June 2007
- 78% September 2007

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer*
Community of residence

Question 5
In which Fire Island community(ies) do you live?

Results
As shown in Figure 10, the communities in which respondents lived included:

- 15% Ocean Beach
- 13% Fair Harbor
- 10% Saltaire
- 10% Kismet

NOTE: The questionnaire did not ask residents to specify an “other” community.

*N=256 individuals**

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Age

Question 19a
For you and your personal group, during your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, what is your current age?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group.

Results
- Respondents’ ages ranged from 1 to 91 years.
- 47% were between 41-65 years of age (see Figure 11).
- 15% were 15 years or younger.
- 19% were 66 or older.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 12 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Figure 11: Age

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
**Ethnicity**

Question 21a
Are you Hispanic or Latino? During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, were any other members of your personal group Hispanic or Latino?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group.

Results
- 1% of respondents were Hispanic or Latino (see Figure 12).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 13 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

---

**Race**

Question 21b
What is your race? During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, what was the race of other members of your personal group?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group.

Results
- 99% of respondents were White (see Figure 13).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 13 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

---

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
### Language used for speaking

**Question 20a**
When using an area such as Fire Island NS, which one language do you and most members of your personal group prefer to use for speaking?

**Results**
- 96% of groups preferred to use English for speaking (see Figure 14).
- Of the groups that listed an "other" language for speaking (4%), only one specified the language, i.e., Spanish.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 16 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

![Figure 14: Preferred language for speaking](image)

### Language used for reading

**Question 20b**
When using an area such as Fire Island NS, which one language do you and most members of your personal group prefer to use for reading?

**Results**
- 96% of groups preferred to use English for reading (see Figure 15).
- Of the groups that listed an "other" language for reading (4%), none specified the language used.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 16 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

![Figure 15: Preferred language for reading](image)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding  
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Services needed in other languages

Question 20c
In your opinion, what services in the park need to be provided in languages other than English?

Results
- 8% of groups needed services in languages other than English (see Figure 16).
- Eleven respondents answered this question.
- Table 4 shows the services needed in other languages. Interpret results with CAUTION!

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 16 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

![Figure 16: Need for services in other languages](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number of times mentioned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directional signs</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restroom information</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive signs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All services</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency information</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation information</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming rules</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Services needed in languages other than English
N=15 comments; some respondents made more than one comment.
CAUTION!

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Respondents with physical conditions/impairments

Question 22a
On your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, did anyone in your personal group have a physical condition that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services?

Results
- 6% of groups had members with physical conditions that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services (see Figure 17).

![Figure 17: Groups having members with physical conditions]

Question 22b
If YES, what services or activities were difficult to access/participate in?

Results – Interpret results with CAUTION!
- Thirteen groups answered this question.
- Activities or services that groups with physical conditions had difficulty accessing/participating in were:
  - All activities
  - Biking from Field 5 to Kismet
  - Cannot use wheelchair on dirt road
  - Climbing tower at Lighthouse
  - Problems with hearing
  - Walking on boardwalks
  - Walking
  - Walking in communities because of broken concrete
  - Walking in sand
  - Walking with a walker

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Use of park properties/facilities during past 12 months

Question 3a
During which months of the last 12 months did you use Fire Island National Seashore (NS) properties/facilities, whether recreational or non-recreational?

Results
67% of respondents used the Fire Island NS properties and/or facilities in the last 12 months (see Figure 18).

As shown in Figure 19, the months that respondents most often used Fire Island properties and/or facilities were:

- 76% August 2007
- 74% July 2007
- 68% June 2007
- 68% September 2007

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Question 3b
If you did not use the park during the last 12 months, during what month and year did you use it most recently?

Results – Interpret results with CAUTION!
- Table 5 shows the other time periods during which respondents used Fire Island properties/facilities in the past years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Number of times mentioned</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior to 2005</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Question 9a
In addition to what you already know about Fire Island NS, do you stay updated on information about park activities/rules and regulations?

Results
- 70% of respondents stay updated about park activities/rules and regulations (see Figure 20).

![Figure 20: Respondents that received information about park activities/rules and regulations](chart)

Question 9b
If YES, what source did you use to obtain or update information about the park during the last 12 months?

Results
- As shown in Figure 21, the most commonly used sources of information were:
  - 64% Friends/relatives/word of mouth
  - 61% Newspaper/magazine articles
  - 39% Publications from park
- Park partners (25%) from which respondents obtained information were:
  - Fire Island Association
  - Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society
  - Davis Park Association
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency
  - Fire Island National Seashore newsletter and reports
  - Fire Island National Seashore Advisory Board
  - Fire Island Year Round Resident Association
  - Friends of Fire Island National Seashore
  - Ocean Beach Board of Trustee meetings
  - Ocean Beach Village Newsletters
  - Seaview Association

![Figure 21: Sources of park information used during last 12 months](chart)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
• Special interest groups (24%) from which information was obtained were:

  Fire Island Association
  Fire Island Year Round Residents Association
  Fair Harbor Community Association
  Davis Park Association
  Fire Island Pines Property Owners Association
  Saltaire Citizens Advisory Association
  Community meetings
  Contractors Association
  Dunewood Community Association
  Fair Harbor Property Association
  Fire Island National Seashore
  Fire Island National Seashore Advisory Board
  Fire Island Wildlife Foundation
  Fire Service
  FNFO
  Kismet Association
  Kismet Community Association
  Land Trust
  Local village
  Ocean Bay Park Fire Department
  Ocean Bay Park Association
  Ocean Beach Environmental Commission
  Ocean Beach Historical Rotary Club
  Western Fire Island Year Round Residents, Inc.

• “Other” sources of information (9%) included:

  Homeowners Association
  Community news
  Community organizations
  Concessionaires
  Fair Harbor Community Association
  Fire Island Association
  Fire Island Contractors Association
  Fire Island News
  Fire Island Pines Property Owners’ Association
  General Management Plan
  Kismet Community Association
  OBD
  Ocean Bay Park Fire Island Association
  Outer Banks Village Hall Meetings
  Seaview Association updates
  Village of Saltaire Meetings

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
**Forms of transportation**

**Question 4a**
During the last 12 months, what forms of transportation have you used to get to Fire Island?

**Results**
- 93% of respondents used the public ferry to get to Fire Island (see Figure 22).
- 31% used an auto/vehicle.

**Figure 22: Forms of transportation used to get to Fire Island**

**Question 4b**
For the forms of transportation that you used, what percent of the time did you use the following forms of transportation as your final mode of transportation to reach the island?

**Results**
- Table 6 shows the proportion of time that each form of transportation was used as a final mode to reach the island.

**Table 6: Percentage of time forms of transportation were used**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form of transportation</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>1-25%</th>
<th>26-50%</th>
<th>51-75%</th>
<th>76-100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public ferry</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water taxi</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private boat</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto/vehicle</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Question 6a
Which of the following statements best describe your means of getting around the island?

Results
- 29% of respondents did not need or desire to travel to places further than biking or walking (see Figure 23).
- 66% used a water taxi to get around the island (see Figure 24).
- 49% would like to travel to other parts of the island but have no means to travel.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Question 6b
How frequently do you use the water taxi?

Results
- 99% of respondents use the water taxi less than once a week (see Figure 25).

**Figure 25: Frequency of water taxi use**

Question 6c
If they were available, which of the following transportation methods would you use?

Results
- 82% of respondents would like to use a designated bike trail (see Figure 26).
- Other means of transportation (33%) were:
  - Lateral ferry
  - Water taxi
  - Boat
  - Walking trails
  - Car
  - ATV
  - Bike
  - Drive off season
  - Ferry
  - Fire Island National Seashore vehicle permit
  - Public ferry
  - Rental boat

**Figure 26: Forms of transportation that would be used if available**

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Properties/facilities used

Question 7a
During the last 12 months, which of the following Fire Island NS properties/facilities did you use?

Results
- 75% of respondents used the Fire Island NS and state park properties/facilities during the last 12 months (see Figure 27).

Sites operated by the National Park Service

As shown in Figure 28, the most commonly used National Park Service properties/facilities were:

- 76% Beaches
- 51% Fire Island Lighthouse
- 46% Sunken Forest

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 39 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Figure 27: Respondents who used Fire Island properties/facilities (NPS and state park)

Figure 28: National Park Service properties/facilities used
Sites not operated by the National Park Service

- As shown in Figure 29, the most commonly used properties/facilities at sites not operated by the National Park Service were:

  72% Robert Moses State Park
  57% Captree State Park

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 27 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

**Figure 29: Non-National Park Service properties/facilities used**

Question 7b

Only for the properties/facilities that you used, how many times did you use each of them during the last 12 months?

Results

- Table 7 shows the number of times each property/facility was used.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 41 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

**Table 7: Use of properties/facilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location (NPS site)</th>
<th>Number of times used (%)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patchogue/Park headquarters – CAUTION!</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Island Lighthouse</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailors Haven</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunken Forest</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talisman/Barrett Beach – CAUTION!</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch Hill Marina – CAUTION!</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch Hill Campground – CAUTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaches</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Inlet – CAUTION!</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otis Pike Wilderness Area – CAUTION!</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Floyd Estate – CAUTION!</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location (non-NPS operated site)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Moses State Park – CAUTION!</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Point County Park – CAUTION!</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captree State Park – CAUTION!</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Question 7c
During the most recent use, how many hours did you spend at the properties/facilities that you used during the last 12 months?

Results
- Table 8 shows the hours spent at each property/facility.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 41 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Table 8: Hours spent at properties/facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location (NPS site)</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Up to 1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4 or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patchogue/Park headquarters – CAUTION!</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Island Lighthouse</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailors Haven – CAUTION!</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunken Forest</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talisman/Barrett Beach – CAUTION!</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch Hill Marina – CAUTION!</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch Hill Campground – CAUTION</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaches</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Inlet – CAUTION!</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otis Pike Wilderness Area – CAUTION!</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Floyd Estate – CAUTION!</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location (non-NPS operated site)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Moses State Park – CAUTION!</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Point County Park – CAUTION!</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captree State Park – CAUTION!</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Activities on previous trips

Question 8b
On previous trips, what activities or experiences did you and your group participate in while using Fire Island NS properties/facilities?

Results
- As shown in Figure 30, the most common activities in which groups participated on previous trips were:
  - 75% Enjoying beaches
  - 65% Spending time with family/friends
  - 57% Enjoying solitude
- “Other” activities (9%) in which groups participated were:
  - Being there
  - Enjoying nature
  - Using the bathrooms
  - Visiting Sailors Haven
  - Visiting the Sunken Forest
  - Visiting Watch Hill Marina
  - Walking for exercise
  - Windsurfing
  - Working

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 43 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
**Activities on most recent use**

Question 8a

On your most recent use of a Fire Island NS property/facility, what activities or experiences did you and your group participate in while using the park?

**Results**

- As shown in Figure 31, the most common activities in which groups participated on this trip were:
  - 79% Enjoying beaches
  - 65% Spending time with family/friends
  - 61% Enjoying solitude

- “Other” activities (21%) in which groups participated were:
  - Attending a party at Lighthouse
  - Being there
  - Counting wildlife
  - Doing repairs
  - Enjoying nature
  - Enjoying Water Island
  - Exercising
  - Have a home on the island
  - Passing through
  - Relaxing
  - Road to and from home
  - Robert Moses parking Field #5
  - Sightseeing with friends
  - Taking visitors/guests to lighthouse
  - To live and make a living
  - Using nature trails
  - Vacation
  - Visiting different places
  - Visiting Sailors Haven
  - Visiting Sunken Forest
  - Visiting the gift shop
  - Visiting West Fire Island
  - Walking
  - Windsurfing
  - Working

![Figure 31: Activities during most recent use](image)

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 44 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Primary reasons for park use

Question 8c
Which one activity above was your primary reason for using Fire Island NS properties/facilities when you were there most recently?

Results
- As shown in Figure 32, the primary reasons for using park properties/facilities were:
  - 37% Enjoying beaches
  - 17% Spending time with family/friends
- “Other” reasons (21%) were:
  - Attending ranger-led tours/programs
  - Attending a party at Lighthouse
  - Attending William Floyd Estate
  - Attending nature trails
  - Attending ranger-led tours/programs

![Figure 32: Primary activities](image)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Ratings of Services and Facilities

Ferry services and park information services used

Question 12b
Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

Results

- As shown in Figure 33, the most commonly used ferry services and park information services were:
  - 76% Ferry service from Bay Shore
  - 26% Park brochure/map
- The least used service was:
  - 10% Ferry service from Patchogue

Note: Ferry service from Bay Shore provides access to the majority of Fire Island communities.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 46 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Importance ratings of ferry services and park information services

Question 12a

Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance from 1-5, of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your group.

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important

Results

- Figure 34 shows the combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings for the ferry services and park information services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more groups.

- The services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more groups were:

  79% Ferry from Bay Shore
  32% Ferry service from Sayville

- Figures 35 to 39 show the importance ratings for each service.

- Of the services rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest "not important" rating was:

  55% Ferry service from Patchogue

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 47 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 35: Importance of ferry service from Patachogue

- Extremely important: 19%
- Very important: 6%
- Moderately important: 4%
- Somewhat important: 2%
- Not important: 55%
- No opinion: 15%

N=128 groups

Figure 36: Importance of ferry service from Bay Shore

- Extremely important: 69%
- Very important: 10%
- Moderately important: 3%
- Somewhat important: 4%
- Not important: 11%
- No opinion: 3%

N=196 groups

Figure 37: Importance of ferry service from Sayville

- Extremely important: 27%
- Very important: 5%
- Moderately important: 5%
- Somewhat important: 4%
- Not important: 46%
- No opinion: 13%

N=128 groups

Figure 38: Importance of park brochure/map

- Extremely important: 12%
- Very important: 14%
- Moderately important: 26%
- Somewhat important: 16%
- Not important: 22%
- No opinion: 9%

N=138 groups

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 39: Importance of park website: www.nps.gov/fiis

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Quality ratings of ferry services and park information services

Question 12c

Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

1=Very poor
2=Poor
3=Average
4=Good
5=Very good

Results

- Figure 40 shows the combined proportions of “very good” and “good” ratings for the ferry and park information services that were rated by 30 or more groups.

- The services receiving the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” ratings were:
  
  75% Ferry service from Bay Shore
  73% Park website
  73% Park brochure/map

- Figures 41 to 45 show the importance ratings for each service.

- Of the services rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “very poor” rating was:
  
  5% Ferry service from Sayville

Note: Quality ratings of the ferry service from Patchogue were not included because fewer than 30 visitor groups rated that service.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 50 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 41: Quality of ferry service from Patachogue

Figure 42: Quality of ferry service from Bay Shore

Figure 43: Quality of ferry service from Sayville

Figure 44: Quality of park brochure/map

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 45: Quality of park website:  
www.nps.gov/fiis

N=34 groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Services and facilities used at Fire Island Lighthouse

Question 13b
Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

Results
- As shown in Figure 46, the most commonly used services and facilities at the Fire Island Lighthouse were:
  - 75% Boardwalk/trails
  - 64% Restrooms
- The least used service/facility was:
  - 9% Access for disabled persons

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 53 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Figure 46: Services and facilities used at Fire Island Lighthouse

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Importance ratings of services and facilities at Fire Island Lighthouse

Question 12a
Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance from 1-5, of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your personal group.

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important

Results

- Figure 47 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for the services and facilities at Fire Island Lighthouse that were rated by 30 or more groups.

- The services and facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:

  - 64% Restrooms
  - 57% Boardwalk/trails

- Figures 48 to 58 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.

- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:

  - 33% Parking

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 54 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 48: Importance of access for disabled persons

- **Extremely important**: 24%
- **Very important**: 15%
- **Moderately important**: 13%
- **Somewhat important**: 7%
- **Not important**: 27%
- **Don't know**: 14%

N=128 groups

Figure 49: Importance of assistance from park staff

- **Extremely important**: 25%
- **Very important**: 17%
- **Moderately important**: 23%
- **Somewhat important**: 11%
- **Not important**: 15%
- **No opinion**: 8%

N=143 groups*

Figure 50: Importance of boardwalk/trails

- **Extremely important**: 30%
- **Very important**: 27%
- **Moderately important**: 17%
- **Somewhat important**: 7%
- **Not important**: 10%
- **No opinion**: 8%

N=155 groups*

Figure 51: Importance of bookstore sales items (selection, price, etc.)

- **Extremely important**: 12%
- **Very important**: 12%
- **Moderately important**: 22%
- **Somewhat important**: 12%
- **Not important**: 29%
- **No opinion**: 12%

N=129 groups*

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
### Figure 52: Importance of directional signs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely important</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately important</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not important</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>11%</td>
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</table>

N=133 groups

### Figure 53: Importance of educational programs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely important</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately important</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not important</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=128 groups

### Figure 54: Importance of parking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely important</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately important</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not important</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=138 groups

### Figure 55: Importance of restrooms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely important</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately important</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not important</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=154 groups

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 56: Importance of special events/programs

- Extremely important: 9%
- Very important: 14%
- Moderately important: 19%
- Somewhat important: 12%
- Not important: 29%
- No opinion: 17%

N=127 groups

Figure 57: Importance of tower tour

- Extremely important: 23%
- Very important: 20%
- Moderately important: 17%
- Somewhat important: 8%
- Not important: 19%
- No opinion: 13%

N=141 groups

Figure 58: Importance of visitor center exhibits

- Extremely important: 22%
- Very important: 20%
- Moderately important: 22%
- Somewhat important: 8%
- Not important: 17%
- No opinion: 10%

N=143 groups

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Quality ratings of services and facilities at Fire Island Lighthouse

Question 12c
Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

1=Very poor  
2=Poor  
3=Average  
4=Good  
5=Very good

Results
- Figure 59 shows the combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for services and facilities at Fire Island Lighthouse that were rated by 30 or more groups.

- The services/facilities that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings were:

  93% Tower tour  
  81% Boardwalk/trails  
  79% Visitor center exhibits  
  78% Assistance from park staff

- Figures 60 to 70 show the quality ratings for each service/facility.

- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “very poor” quality rating was:

  15% Parking

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 58 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding  
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Number of respondents

Very good: 11%
Good: 22%
Average: 11%
Poor: 22%
Very poor: 33%

Rating

Figure 60: Quality of access for disabled persons

Figure 61: Quality of assistance from park staff

Very good: 50%
Good: 28%
Average: 14%
Poor: 2%
Very poor: 6%

Rating

Figure 62: Quality of boardwalk/trails

Figure 63: Quality of bookstore sales items (selection, price, etc.)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
**Figure 64: Quality of directional signs**

- **Very good**: 25%
- **Good**: 47%
- **Average**: 19%
- **Poor**: 6%
- **Very poor**: 3%

*N=36 groups*

**Figure 65: Quality of educational programs**

- **Very good**: 48%
- **Good**: 28%
- **Average**: 16%
- **Poor**: 4%
- **Very poor**: 4%

*N=25 groups*

**CAUTION!**

**Figure 66: Quality of parking**

- **Very good**: 23%
- **Good**: 28%
- **Average**: 31%
- **Poor**: 3%
- **Very poor**: 15%

*N=39 groups*

**Figure 67: Quality of restrooms**

- **Very good**: 19%
- **Good**: 37%
- **Average**: 33%
- **Poor**: 5%
- **Very poor**: 5%

*N=73 groups*

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer*
Figure 68: Quality of special events/programs

Figure 69: Quality of tower tour

Figure 70: Quality of visitor center exhibits

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Services and facilities used at Sailors Haven

Question 13b
Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

Results
- As shown in Figure 71, the most commonly used services and facilities at Sailors Haven were:
  - 93% Sunken Forest Trail
  - 75% Bathhouse/restrooms
  - 52% Food service
- The least used service/facility was:
  - 25% Ranger-led tours/programs

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 62 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Figure 71: Services and facilities used at Sailors Haven

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Importance ratings of services and facilities at Sailors Haven

Question 13a
Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance from 1-5, of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your group.

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important

Results
- Figure 72 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for services and facilities at Sailors Haven that were rated by 30 or more groups.
- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:
  - 66% Sunken Forest Trail
  - 59% Bathhouse/restrooms
- Figures 73 to 79 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.
- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:
  - 31% Marina

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 63 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 73: Importance of bathhouse/restrooms

Figure 74: Importance of food service

Figure 75: Importance of marina

Figure 76: Importance of picnic area

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 77: Importance of ranger-led tours/programs

Figure 78: Importance of Sunken Forest Trail

Figure 79: Importance of visitor center exhibits

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Quality ratings of services and facilities at Sailors Haven

Question 13c
Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

1=Very poor
2=Poor
3=Average
4=Good
5=Very good

Results
- Figure 80 shows the combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for services and facilities at Sailors Haven that were rated by 30 or more groups.

- The services/facilities that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings were:
  - 86% Sunken Forest Trail
  - 61% Visitor center exhibits

- Figures 81 to 87 show the quality ratings for each service/facility.

- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “very poor” quality rating was:
  - 3% Visitor center exhibits

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 66 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 81: Quality of bathhouse/restrooms

Figure 82: Quality of food service

Figure 83: Quality of marina

Figure 84: Quality of picnic area

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 85: Quality of ranger-led tours/programs

Figure 86: Quality of Sunken Forest Trail

Figure 87: Quality of visitor center exhibits

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Services and facilities used at Watch Hill

Question 13b
Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

Results - Interpret results with CAUTION!
- Not enough groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 88).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 69 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Importance ratings of services and facilities at Watch Hill

Question 13a
Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance, from 1-5, of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your group.

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important

Results
- Figure 89 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for services and facilities at Watch Hill that were rated by 30 or more groups.

- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:
  - 46% Bathhouse/restrooms
  - 40% Salt Marsh Trail
  - 35% Marina

- Figures 90 to 98 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.

- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:
  - 44% Bar

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 70 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 90: Importance of bar

Figure 91: Importance of bathhouse/restrooms

Figure 92: Importance of campground

Figure 93: Importance of food service

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 94: Importance of marina

Figure 95: Importance of picnic area

Figure 96: Importance of ranger-led programs/canoe trip

Figure 97: Importance of Salt Marsh Trail

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 98: Importance of visitor center exhibits

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Quality ratings of services and facilities at Watch Hill

Question 13c
Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your personal group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

1=Very poor
2=Poor
3=Average
4=Good
5=Very good

Results – Interpret results with CAUTION!
- The combined proportions of quality ratings of services/facilities at Watch Hill is not included since too few groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figures 99 – 107).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 74 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Figure 99: Quality of bar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>N=10 groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 100: Quality of bathhouse/restrooms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>N=20 groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 101: Quality of campground

Figure 102: Quality of food service

Figure 103: Quality of marina

Figure 104: Quality of picnic area

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
**Services and facilities used at Barrett Beach/Talisman**

Question 14b
Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

Results - Interpret results with CAUTION!
- Not enough groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 108).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 78 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Figure 108: Services and facilities used at Barrett Beach

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Importance ratings of services and facilities at Barrett Beach/Talisman

Question 14a
Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance, from 1-5, of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your group.

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important

Results
- Figure 109 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for services and facilities at Barrett Beach/Talisman that were rated by 30 or more groups.

- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:
  - 37% Bathhouse/restrooms
  - 35% Trails
  - 30% Dock

- Figures 110 to 115 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.

- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:
  - 28% Picnic area

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 79 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 110: Importance of assistance from park staff

Figure 111: Importance of bathhouse/restrooms

Figure 112: Importance of dock

Figure 113: Importance of food service
Figure 114: Importance of picnic area

Figure 115: Importance of trails

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Quality ratings of services and facilities at Barrett Beach/Talisman

Question 14c
Finally, for only those services and facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

1=Very poor
2=Poor
3=Average
4=Good
5=Very good

Results – Interpret results with CAUTION!
- The combined proportions of quality ratings of services/facilities at Barrett Beach/Talisman is not included since too few groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figures 116-121).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 82 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Figure 116: Quality of assistance from park staff

Figure 117: Quality of bathhouse/restrooms

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 118: Quality of dock

Figure 119: Quality of food service

Figure 120: Quality of picnic area

Figure 121: Quality of trails

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Services and facilities used at Fire Island Wilderness Area

Question 14b
Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

Results – Interpret results with CAUTION!
- Not enough groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 122).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 84 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Figure 122: Services and facilities used at Fire Island Wilderness Area

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Importance ratings of services and facilities at Fire Island Wilderness Area

Question 14a
Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance from 1-5 of the following Fire Island NS services to you and your group.

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important

Results
- Figure 123 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for services and facilities at Fire Island Wilderness Area that were rated by 30 or more groups.

- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:
  - 38% Restrooms
  - 36% Trails

- Figures 124 to 128 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.

- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:
  - 34% Wilderness camping

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 85 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 124: Importance of ranger-led tours/programs

Figure 125: Importance of restrooms

Figure 126: Importance of trails

Figure 127: Importance of visitor center exhibits/observation room

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 128: Importance of wilderness camping

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Quality ratings of services and facilities at Fire Island Wilderness Area

Question 14c
Finally, for only those services and facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

1=Very poor
2=Poor
3=Average
4=Good
5=Very good

Results – Interpret results with CAUTION!
- The combined proportions of quality ratings of the services/facilities at Fire Island Wilderness Area is not included since too few groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figures 129 – 133).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 88 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 131: Quality of trails

Figure 132: Quality of visitor center exhibits/observation room

Figure 133: Quality of wilderness camping

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Services and facilities used at William Floyd Estate

Question 14b
Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

Results – Interpret results with CAUTION!
- Not enough groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 134).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 91 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Figure 134: Services and facilities used at William Floyd Estate

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Importance ratings of services and facilities at William Floyd Estate

Question 14a

Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance from 1-5 of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your group.

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important

Results

- Figure 135 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for services and facilities at William Floyd Estate that were rated by 30 or more groups.

- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:

  32% Restrooms
  29% Grounds/trails

- Figures 136 to 140 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.

- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:

  29% Ranger-led tours/programs
  29% Exhibits

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 92 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 140: Importance of restrooms

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Quality ratings of services and facilities at William Floyd Estate

Question 14c
Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

1=Very poor
2=Poor
3=Average
4=Good
5=Very good

Results – Interpret results with CAUTION!
• The combined proportions of quality ratings of the services/facilities at William Floyd Estate is not included since too few groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figures 141 – 145).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 95 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Figure 141: Quality of directional signs

Figure 142: Quality of exhibits

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Figure 143: Quality of grounds/trails

Figure 144: Quality of ranger-led tours/programs

Figure 145: Quality of restrooms

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Importance of protecting park qualities/resources

Question 23
It is the National Park Service’s responsibility to protect Fire Island NS’s natural, scenic, and cultural resources, while at the same time providing public enjoyment. Please rate the importance of each of the following qualities/resources to you.

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important

Results
- As shown in Figure 146, the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings included:
  - 98% Beaches and dunes
  - 98% Clean water
  - 95% Safe, crime-free environment
  - 95% Clean air
- The quality/resource that received the highest “not important” rating was:
  - 37% William Floyd Estate
- Table 9 shows the importance ratings of park qualities/resources.

Figure 146: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings of park qualities/resources

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Table 9: Ratings of importance of protecting park qualities/resources
N=number of respondents that rated each quality/resource

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality/resource</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Not important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Moderately important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Extremely important</th>
</tr>
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<td>&lt;1</td>
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<td>90</td>
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<td>Car-free environment</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Clean air</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Clean water</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>85</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
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<td>251</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe, crime free environment</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scenic views</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicle-free beach</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilderness area</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Floyd Estate</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural environment</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island communities</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Effect of elements on park experience

Question 10
During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, please indicate how the following elements may have affected your park experience.

Results
- 41% of groups felt close contact with deer and other wildlife “added to” their park experience (see Table 10).
- 73% indicated that ticks and Lyme disease “detracted from” their experience.
- Table 10 shows the effects of elements on park experience.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 98 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Table 10: Effects of elements on park experience*
N=number of respondents who rated each element

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Added to</th>
<th>No effect</th>
<th>Detracted from</th>
<th>Did not experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beach/shoreline changes</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle use through communities to park facilities</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close contact with deer or other wildlife</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closed park facilities</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing optional use of beach/ nude sunbathing</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs on beach</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosquitoes</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ticks and Lyme disease</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles on beach</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles passing through communities</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
**Preferences for Future Visit**

Question 11  
On a future use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, which of the following services/facilities would you and your personal group be likely to use?

Results
- As shown in Figure 147, the services/facilities that groups would be most likely to use in the future if they were available were:
  - 75% Beaches with lifeguards
  - 45% Ranger-led programs
  - 42% Canoe/kayak rental
- “Other” services/facilities (37%) were:
  - Bicycle trails
  - Bathroom/restroom
  - Beach
  - Boating safety course
  - Children’s events
  - Food centers
  - Hiking trails
  - Lighthouse events
  - Surfing beach

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 99 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer*
Question 15

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the facilities, services, and recreational opportunities at Fire Island NS during the past 12 months?

Results

- 67% of respondents rated the overall quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities as “very good” or “good” (see Figure 148).

Fewer than 3% of respondents rated the quality as “very poor” or “poor.”

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 100 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

Figure 148: Overall quality rating of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer
Additional comments

Question 24
Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities? Please include any changes in services or facilities that you would like to see.

Results
- 40% of respondents (N=100) responded to this question.
- Table 11 shows a summary of respondents’ comments. A complete copy of hand-written comments is included in the Comments Appendix.

Table 11: Additional comments
N=173 comments; some respondents made more than one comment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Number of times mentioned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERSONNEL</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Would like more bike trails</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add a bike trail through Fire Island communities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need more trash cans</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick up garbage</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comments</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCESSION SERVICES</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERPRETIVE SERVICES</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICIES/MANAGEMENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park should establish good relations with the communities</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow vehicle access for residents</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The survey was not appropriate for residents</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are too many vehicles on the beach</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow vehicle access during off season</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve patrolling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better control of dogs on the beach</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not change vehicle access regulations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrict vehicle use on the island</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comments</td>
<td>45</td>
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</table>
Table 11: Additional comments  
(continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Restore the beaches and the dunes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect beaches from erosion</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control the deer population</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control the mosquitoes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect the natural resources of Fire Island</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect wildlife</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comments</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL COMMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent visitor of the island</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep the park as it is</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are too many vehicles on the beach</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comments</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
APPENDICES

Appendix 1: The Questionnaire
Appendix 2: Additional Analysis

The Visitor Services Project (VSP) offers the opportunity to learn more from VSP visitor study data. Additional analysis can be done using the park’s VSP study data that was collected and entered into the computer. Two-way and three-way cross tabulations can be made of any of the characteristics listed below. Be as specific as possible—you may select a single program/service/facility instead of all that were listed in the questionnaire. Include your name, address and phone number in the request.

- Residency status
- Months of residency
- Use of park properties/facilities
- Months of use
- Forms of transportation used
- Percentage of time using forms of transportation
- Community of residence
- Desire/need to travel around the island
- Means of getting around the island
- Frequency of water taxi use
- Use of other forms of transportation
- Properties/facilities used during the last 12 months
- Number of times used properties/facilities
- Number of hours stayed
- Activities on most recent use
- Activities on previous use
- Primary activity
- Stay updated on information about park activities/rules?
- Sources of information used
- Effect of elements on use
- Services/facilities preferred on future visit
- Importance of services/facilities used
- Services/facilities used
- Quality of services/facilities
- Overall quality of facilities, services and recreational opportunities
- With commercial guided tour group
- With school/educational group
- With other organized group
- Group type
- Group size
- Age
- State of residence
- Country of residence
- Frequency of use
- Language used (speaking/reading)
- Ethnicity
- Race
- Group member with physical condition making access/participation difficult?
- Importance of park qualities/resources

For more information please contact:
Visitor Services Project, PSU
College of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 441139
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83844-1139

Phone: 208-885-7863
Fax: 208-885-4261
Email: littlej@uidaho.edu
Website: http://www.psu.uidaho.edu
Appendix 3: Visitor Services Project Publications

All VSP reports are available on the Park Studies Unit website at www.psu.uidaho.edu.vsp.reports.htm. All studies were conducted in summer unless otherwise noted.

1982

1983
3. Mapping interpretive services: A follow-up study at Yellowstone National Park and Mt Rushmore National Memorial.

1985
5. North Cascades National Park Service Complex
6. Crater Lake National Park

1986
7. Gettysburg National Military Park
8. Independence National Historical Park
9. Valley Forge National Historical Park

1987
10. Colonial National Historical Park (summer & fall)
11. Grand Teton National Park
12. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
13. Mesa Verde National Park
14. Shenandoah National Park (summer & fall)
15. Yellowstone National Park
16. Independence National Historical Park: Four Seasons Study

1988
17. Glen Canyon National Recreational Area
18. Denali National Park and Preserve
20. Craters of the Moon National Monument

1989
21. Everglades National Park (winter)
22. Statue of Liberty National Monument
23. The White House Tours, President's Park

1989 (continued)
24. Lincoln Home National Historic Site
25. Yellowstone National Park
26. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
27. Muir Woods National Monument

1990
28. Canyonlands National Park (spring)
29. White Sands National Monument
31. Kenai Fjords National Park
32. Gateway National Recreation Area
33. Petersburg National Battlefield
34. Death Valley National Monument
35. Glacier National Park
36. Scott's Bluff National Monument
37. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

1991
38. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (spring)
39. Joshua Tree National Monument (spring)
40. The White House Tours, President's Park (spring)
41. Natchez Trace Parkway (spring)
42. Stehekin-North Cascades NP/Lake Chelan NRA
43. City of Rocks National Reserve
44. The White House Tours, President's Park (fall)

1992
45. Big Bend National Park (spring)
46. Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (spring)
47. Glen Echo Park (spring)
48. Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
49. Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
50. Zion National Park
51. New River Gorge National River
52. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK
53. Arlington House-The Robert E. Lee Memorial
Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)

1993
54. Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Park (spring)
55. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (spring)
56. Whitman Mission National Historic Site
57. Sitka National Historical Park
58. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
59. Redwood National Park
60. Channel Islands National Park
61. Pecos National Historical Park
62. Canyon de Chelly National Monument
63. Bryce Canyon National Park (fall)

1994
64. Death Valley National Monument Backcountry (winter)
65. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (spring)
66. Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center
67. Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts
68. Nez Perce National Historical Park
69. Edison National Historic Site
70. San Juan Island National Historical Park
71. Canaveral National Seashore
72. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (fall)
73. Gettysburg National Military Park/ Eisenhower National Historic Site (fall)

1995
74. Grand Teton National Park (winter)
75. Yellowstone National Park (winter)
76. Bandelier National Monument
77. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
78. Adams National Historic Site
79. Devils Tower National Monument
80. Manassas National Battlefield Park
81. Booker T. Washington National Monument
82. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
83. Dry Tortugas National Park

1996
84. Everglades National Park (spring)
85. Chiricahua National Monument (spring)
86. Fort Bowie National Historic Site (spring)
87. Great Falls Park, Virginia (spring)
88. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
89. Chamizal National Memorial
90. Death Valley National Park (fall)
91. Prince William Forest Park (fall)
92. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (fall and summer)

1997
93. Virgin Islands National Park (winter)
94. Mojave National Preserve (spring)
95. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site (spring)
96. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
97. Grand Teton National Park
98. Bryce Canyon National Park
99. Voyageurs National Park
100. Lowell National Historical Park

1998
101. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Park (spring)
102. Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (spring)
103. Cumberland Island National Seashore (spring)
104. Iwo Jima/Netherlands Carillon Memorials
106. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK
107. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
108. Acadia National Park

1999
109. Big Cypress National Preserve (winter)
110. San Juan National Historic Site, Puerto Rico (winter)
111. St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
112. Rock Creek Park
113. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
114. Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
115. Kenai Fjords National Park
116. Lassen Volcanic National Park
117. Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (fall)
Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>118. Haleakala National Park (spring)</td>
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<td>119. White House Tour and White House</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Visitor Center (spring)</td>
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<td>120. USS Arizona Memorial</td>
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<td>121. Olympic National Park</td>
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<td>122. Eisenhower National Historic Site</td>
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<td>123. Badlands National Park</td>
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<tr>
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<td>124. Mount Rainier National Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>125. Biscayne National Park (spring)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>126. Colonial National Historical Park</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Jamestown)</td>
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<td>127. Shenandoah National Park</td>
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<td>128. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>129. Crater Lake National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>130. Valley Forge National Historical Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>131. Everglades National Park (spring)</td>
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<td>132. Dry Tortugas National Park (spring)</td>
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<td>133. Pinnacles National Monument (spring)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>134. Great Sand Dunes National Park &amp;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Preserve</td>
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<td>135. Pipestone National Monument</td>
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<td>136. Outer Banks Group (Cape Hatteras</td>
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<td>National Seashore, Ft. Raleigh National</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Historic Site, and Wright Brothers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National Memorial)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>137. Sequoia &amp; Kings Canyon National Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Sequoia National Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>138. Catoctin Mountain Park</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>139. Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site</td>
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<td></td>
<td>140. Stones River National Battlefield (fall)</td>
</tr>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>141. Gateway National Recreation Area:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Floyd Bennett Field (spring)</td>
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<td>142. Cowpens National Battlefield (spring)</td>
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<td>146. Capulin Volcano National Monument</td>
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<td>148. Knife River Indian Villages National</td>
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<td>149. Fort Stanwix National Monument</td>
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<td>2003 continued</td>
<td>151. Mojave National Preserve (fall)</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>152. Joshua Tree National Park (spring)</td>
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<td>153. New River Gorge National River</td>
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<td>154. George Washington Birthplace National</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monument</td>
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<td>155. Craters of the Moon National Monument &amp; Preserve</td>
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<td>156. Dayton Aviation Heritage National</td>
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<td>Historical Park</td>
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<td>157. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore</td>
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<td>158. Keweenaw National Historical Park</td>
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<td>159. Effigy Mounds National Monument</td>
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<td></td>
<td>160. Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site</td>
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<td>161. Manzanar National Historic Site</td>
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<td></td>
<td>162. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>163. Congaree National Park (spring)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>164. San Francisco Maritime National</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historical Park (spring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>165. Lincoln Home National Historic Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>166. Chickasaw National Recreation Area</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>167. Timpanogos Cave National Monument</td>
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<td>168. Yosemite National Park</td>
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<td>169. Fort Sumter National Monument</td>
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<td></td>
<td>170. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>171. Cuyahoga Valley National Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>172. Johnstown Flood National Memorial</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>173. Nicodemus National Historic Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(spring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>175. John Fitzgerald Kennedy National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historic Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>176. Devils Postpile National Monument</td>
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<td>177. Mammoth Cave National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>178. Yellowstone National Park</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>179. Monocacy National Battlefield</td>
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<td></td>
<td>180. Denali National Park &amp; Preserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>181. Golden Spike National Historic Site</td>
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<td></td>
<td>182. Katmai National Park and Preserve</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>183. Zion National Park (spring and fall)</td>
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</table>
Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)

2007
184.1. Big Cypress National Preserve (spring)
184.2. Big Cypress National Preserve (ORV Permit Holder/Camp Owner)
185. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (spring)
186. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (spring and summer)
187. Lava Beds National Monument
188. John Muir National Historic Site
189. Fort Union Trading Post NHS
190. Fort Donelson National Battlefield
191. Agate Fossil Beds National Monument
192. Mount Rushmore National Memorial
193. Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
194. Rainbow Bridge National Monument
195. Independence National Historical Park
196. Minute Man National Historical Park

2008
197. Blue Ridge Parkway (fall and summer)
198. Yosemite National Park
199. Everglades National Park (winter and spring)
200. Horseshoe Bend National Military Park (spring)
201. Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site (spring)
202. Fire Island National Seashore resident (spring)
203. Fire Island National Seashore visitor

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit, website: www.psu.uidaho.edu or phone (208) 885-7863.
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<th>Visitor Comments Appendix</th>
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<td>This section contains complete visitor comments of all open-ended questions and is bound separately from this report due to its size.</td>
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