

Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared to the requirements of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, Public Law 95-625, and in accord with Director's Order Number 2, the planning directive for National Park Service units.

The National Park Service will conduct public scoping meetings in the local area to receive input from interested parties on issues, concerns, and suggestions pertinent to the management of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Representatives of the National Park Service will be available to discuss issues, resource concerns, and the planning process at each of the public meetings. Suggestions and ideas for managing the cultural and natural resources and visitor experiences at the park are encouraged.

Anonymous comments will not be considered. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. However, individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and addresses from the public record, and we will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address, you must state that request prominently at the beginning of your comment. Please note that due to public disclosure requirements, the National Park Service, if requested, may have to make the names and addresses of those who submit written comments public.

DATES: Locations, dates, and times of public scoping meetings will be published in local newspapers and may also be obtained by contacting the park Superintendent. This information will also be published on the General Management Plan Web site (<http://www.nps.gov/guis>) for Gulf Islands National Seashore.

ADDRESSES: Scoping suggestions should be submitted to the following address to ensure adequate consideration by the Service: Superintendent, Gulf Islands National Seashore, 1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze, Florida, 32563.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Gulf Islands National Seashore, 1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze, Florida, 32563, Telephone: (850) 934-2604, E-mail: Guis_Superintendent@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Gulf Islands National Seashore is located on barrier islands, keys, and mainland peninsulas in the Pensacola, Florida area and on a series of Gulf Coast barrier

islands between Pascagoula and Gulfport, Mississippi. Gulf Islands National Seashore was authorized by Congress in 1971, to provide preservation of 150 miles of coastline, barrier islands, and historic fortifications. The last General Management Plan was completed in 1978 and in the ensuing years must have changed. A revised General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement would provide the National Seashore with better guidance and direction in regard to management of natural and cultural resources and providing a quality visitor experience.

The plan will provide direction to correct existing management deficiencies through the establishment of management prescriptions, carrying capacities and appropriate types and levels of development and recreational use for all areas of the park. Resource protection, visitor experiences and community relationships will be improved through completion and implementation of the General Management Plan.

Public documents associated with the planning effort, including all newsletters, will be posted on the internet through the Park's Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/guis>.

The Draft and Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement will be made available to all known interested parties and appropriate agencies. Full public participation by federal, state, and local agencies as well as other concerned organizations and private citizens is invited throughout the preparation process of this document.

The responsible official for this Environmental Impact Statement is Patricia A. Hooks, Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 100 Alabama Street SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: November 7, 2003.

Patricia A. Hooks,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of Morristown National Park General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service announces the availability of the Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Morristown National Historical Park, New Jersey, that proposes a long-term approach to managing the park. Three management alternatives are presented that are consistent with the park's mission, NPS policy, and other laws and regulations. The alternatives incorporate various management prescriptions and zones to ensure that the park's resources are preserved, and that the public can enjoy the park. The environmental consequences that can be anticipated from implementing the various alternatives are documented. Impact topics include cultural and natural resources, visitor experience, park operations, the socioeconomic environment, impairment of resources, and sustainability. Alternative C was identified as the preferred alternative.

The Draft GMP/EIS was available for public review from March 7, 2003 to May 9, 2003. Copies of the comment letters and the National Park Service's responses to those comments are included in the final document. Draft text and graphics were refined and clarified where necessary, and respond to the public comments. Alternative C has been identified as the proposed action in the Final document. The Final GMP/EIS will be available to the public for 30 days, after which, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be signed indicating which alternative has been selected as the proposed plan, and authorizing the National Park Service to implement the plan.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To request a copy of the Final GMP/EIS please contact the National Park Service, Park Planning and Special Studies at the address above. Copies of the Final GMP/EIS will also be available for review at the following locations:

- Morristown National Historical Park headquarters, 30 Washington Place, Morristown, New Jersey
- Morris County Library, 30 E. Hanover Avenue, Whippany, New Jersey
- The Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township, 1 Miller Road, Morristown, New Jersey
- Mendham Borough Library, 10 Hilltop Road, Mendham, New Jersey
- Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge, New Jersey
- Bernardsville Public Library, 1 Anderson Hill Road, Bernardsville, New Jersey