

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**Visitor Services Project
Park Studies Unit
College of Natural Resources
University of Idaho
P.O. Box 441139
Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139**



**Social Science Program
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

Visitor Services Project

Fire Island National Seashore Resident Study





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Fire Island National Seashore
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, NY 11772

IN REPLY REFER TO:

May 2008

Dear Friend:

Thank you for participating in this important study. We want to learn about the expectations, opinions, and interests of Fire Island residents regarding Fire Island National Seashore. This information helps us improve our management of this site and better serve you, the general public, and other stakeholders, when you use Seashore facilities. Data from individual questionnaires will be aggregated for presentation to the National Park Service. Your name and address will not be linked with any of your answers.

This questionnaire will be mailed to a select number of people, so your participation is very important! It should only take about 20 minutes to complete.

Please complete the questionnaire. Seal it with the stickers provided on the last page and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Littlejohn, NPS VSP Director, Park Studies Unit, College of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 441139, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139, phone 208-885-7863, email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Sean McGuinness
Acting Superintendent

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 for public enjoyment. Please rate the importance of each of the following qualities/resources to you. Please mark (●) **one** response for each quality/resource.

Quality/resource	Not important	Somewhat important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Beaches and dunes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Car-free environment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clean air	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clean water	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Educational opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fire Island Lighthouse	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Natural quiet/sounds of nature	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Recreational opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Safe, crime-free environment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scenic views	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vehicle-free beach	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wilderness area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
William Floyd Estate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Natural environment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Island communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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.

Thank you for your help! Please seal the questionnaire with the stickers provided and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

20. When using an area such as Fire Island NS, what **one** language do you and most members of your personal group prefer to use for the following?

a) Speaking: ☐ English ☐ Other (Specify) _____

b) Reading: ☐ English ☐ Other (Specify) _____

c) In your opinion, what **services** in the park need to be provided in languages other than English? Please specify a **service(s)** or write "None."

21. a) 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? Please mark (●) **one** for each group member.

	Yourself	Member #2	Member #3	Member #4	Member #5	Member #6	Member #7
Yes, Hispanic or Latino	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
No, not Hispanic or Latino	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

b) What is your race? During your most recent use of Fire Island NS, what was the race of other members of your personal group? Please mark (●) **one or more** for you and each group member.

	Yourself	Member #2	Member #3	Member #4	Member #5	Member #6	Member #7
American Indian or Alaska Native	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Asian	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Black or African American	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
White	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

22. a) 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?

☐ Yes ☐ No → **Go to Question 23**

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

DIRECTIONS

As you may know, within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore, one can use not only National Park Service facilities like the Fire Island Lighthouse, Sailors Haven and Watch Hill, but also the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness, 17 private communities, and Smith Point County Park on Fire Island, and the William Floyd Estate. Robert Moses State Park borders the National Seashore to its west.

- 1) The addressee should complete this questionnaire.
- 2) Answer the questions carefully since each question is different.
- 3) For questions that use circles (○), please mark your answer by filling in the circle with black or blue ink, or a pencil with dark (e.g. #2) lead.

Like this: ● Not like this: ✓ ✗ /

- 4) Seal it with the stickers provided.
- 5) Drop it in a U.S. mailbox.

Thank you!

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement: 16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus the permanent data will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or that of any member of your group on the questionnaire. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Margaret Littlejohn, NPS Visitor Services Project, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 441139, Moscow, ID, 83844-1139; email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

Please go to the next page →

NOTE: In this questionnaire, your **personal group** is defined as anyone that you used the park with when you used the properties/facilities most recently, such as spouse, family, friends, etc. This does not include any larger group that you might be using the park with, such as school, church, scouts, or tour group.

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

- | Very poor | Poor | Average | Good | Very good |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

16. During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, were you and your personal group with the following groups?

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|----|
| a) Commercial guided tour group | ☐ | Yes | ☐ | No |
| b) School/educational group | ☐ | Yes | ☐ | No |
| c) Other organized group (such as
business group, scout group, etc.) | ☐ | Yes | ☐ | No |

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? Please mark (●) **one**.

- ☐ Alone
 ☐ Friends
☐ Family
 ☐ Family and friends
☐ Other (Please specify) _____

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

Number of people

19. For you and your personal group, during your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/ facilities, please complete the answers below. If you do not have information for any group member, please leave that line blank.

a) Current age b) Permanent U.S. ZIP Code
or name of country
other than U.S.

**c) Frequency of use of
Fire Island NS
properties/facilities**
1=First time
2=Occasionally during year,
but not every month
3=Every month
4=Every week
5=Daily
Past 12 months

14. a) 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.

b) Please mark (●) **all** of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

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

a) How important to you and your group?

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important
6=No opinion

b) Services and facilities used

Mark (●)

c) If used, what quality?

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

At Barrett Beach/Talisman

_____ Assistance from park staff	☐	_____
_____ Bathhouse/Restrooms	☐	_____
_____ Dock	☐	_____
_____ Food service	☐	_____
_____ Picnic area	☐	_____
_____ Trails	☐	_____

At Fire Island Wilderness Area

_____ Ranger-led tours/programs	☐	_____
_____ Restrooms	☐	_____
_____ Trails	☐	_____
_____ Visitor center exhibits/observation room	☐	_____
_____ Wilderness camping	☐	_____

At William Floyd Estate

_____ Directional signs	☐	_____
_____ Exhibits	☐	_____
_____ Grounds/trails	☐	_____
_____ Ranger-led tours/programs	☐	_____
_____ Restrooms	☐	_____

b) If you did not use the park during the last 12 months, during what month and year did you use it most recently? _____ Month _____ Year

4. a) During the last 12 months, what forms of transportation have you used to get to Fire Island? Please mark (●) **all** that apply.

b) 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? **If you did not use a form of transportation, please write 0%.** Your answers should add up to 100% total.

☐ Public ferry _____%	☐ Private boat _____%
☐ Water taxi _____%	☐ Bicycle _____%
☐ Walk _____%	☐ Auto/vehicle _____%

5. In which Fire Island community(ies) do you live? Please mark (●) **all** that apply.

☐ Kismet	☐ Saltaire	☐ Fair Harbor
☐ Dunewood	☐ Lonelyville	☐ Atlantique
☐ Robbins Rest	☐ Fire Island Summer Club	
☐ Cornielle Estates	☐ Ocean Beach	☐ Seaview
☐ Ocean Bay Park	☐ Point O'Woods	☐ Oakleyville
☐ Cherry Grove	☐ Fire Island Pines	☐ Water Island
☐ Blue Point Beach	☐ Davis Park	☐ Other

6. a) Which of the following statements best describe your means of getting around the island? Please mark (●) **all** that apply.

☐ I have no need or desire to travel to places further than biking or walking distance. → **Go to Question 7**

☐ I use my own/relative's/friend's boat to travel to other parts of the island.

☐ I use the water taxi to travel to other parts of the island.

➤ b) How frequently do you travel on the water taxi? Please mark (●) **one**.

☐ Once a week or more often ☐ Less than once a week

☐ I would like to travel to other parts of the island, but have no means.

➤ c) If they were available, I would like to use the following transportation method. Please mark (●) **all** that apply.

☐ Designated bike trail ☐ Other (Specify) _____

7. a) **During the last 12 months**, which of the following Fire Island NS properties/facilities did you use? Please mark (●) **all** that apply in column (a).
- ☐ None → **Go on to Question 8**
- b) **Only** for the properties/facilities that you used, how many times did you use each of them during the last 12 months?
- c) During your most recent use, how many hours did you spend at the properties/facilities that you used during the last 12 months? For example, list your average length of stay for each site as 1½ hours, 36 hours, etc.

a) Used during the last 12 months? Mark (●)	b) Number of times used (last 12 months)	c) Number of hours stayed
☐ Patchogue/Park headquarters	_____	_____
☐ Fire Island Lighthouse	_____	_____
☐ Sailors Haven	_____	_____
☐ Sunken Forest	_____	_____
☐ Talisman/Barrett Beach	_____	_____
☐ Watch Hill Marina	_____	_____
☐ Watch Hill campground	_____	_____
☐ Beaches	_____	_____
☐ Old Inlet	_____	_____
☐ Otis Pike Wilderness Area	_____	_____
☐ William Floyd Estate	_____	_____

Sites not operated by the National Park Service

☐ Robert Moses State Park	_____	_____
☐ Smith Point County Park	_____	_____
☐ Captree State Park	_____	_____
☐ Communities on Fire Island	_____	_____

13. a) 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.
- b) Please mark (●) **all** of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.
- c) Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

a) How important to you and your group? 1=Not important 2=Somewhat important 3=Moderately important 4=Very important 5=Extremely important 6=No opinion	b) Services and facilities used Mark (●)	c) If used, what quality? 1=Very poor 2=Poor 3=Average 4=Good 5=Very good
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At Sailors Haven

_____ Bathhouse/Restrooms	☐	_____
_____ Food service	☐	_____
_____ Marina	☐	_____
_____ Picnic area	☐	_____
_____ Ranger-led tours/programs	☐	_____
_____ Sunken Forest Trail	☐	_____
_____ Visitor center exhibits	☐	_____

At Watch Hill

_____ Bar	☐	_____
_____ Bathhouse/Restrooms	☐	_____
_____ Campground	☐	_____
_____ Food service	☐	_____
_____ Marina	☐	_____
_____ Picnic area	☐	_____
_____ Ranger-led programs/Canoe trip	☐	_____
_____ Salt Marsh Trail	☐	_____
_____ Visitor center exhibits	☐	_____

12. a) 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.
- b) Please mark (●) **all** of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.
- c) Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

a) How important to you and your group?

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important
6=No opinion

b) Services and facilities used

Mark (●)

c) If used, what quality?

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

_____ Ferry service from Patchogue	☐	_____
_____ Ferry service from Bay Shore	☐	_____
_____ Ferry service from Sayville	☐	_____
_____ Park brochure/map	☐	_____
_____ Park website: www.nps.gov/fiis/	☐	_____

At Fire Island Lighthouse

_____ Access for disabled persons	☐	_____
_____ Assistance from park staff	☐	_____
_____ Boardwalk/trails	☐	_____
_____ Bookstore sales items (selection, price, etc.)	☐	_____
_____ Directional signs	☐	_____
_____ Educational programs	☐	_____
_____ Parking	☐	_____
_____ Restrooms	☐	_____
_____ Special events/programs	☐	_____
_____ Tower tour	☐	_____
_____ Visitor center exhibits	☐	_____

8. a) 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? Please mark (●) **all** that apply in column (a).
- b) On previous trips, what activities or experiences did you and your group participate in while using Fire Island NS properties/facilities? Please mark (●) **all** that apply in column (b).

a) Most recent use**b) Previous trips**

☐	Attending ranger-led tours/programs	☐
☐	Boating	☐
☐	Camping	☐
☐	Dining/shopping at concession facility(ies)	☐
☐	Enjoying beaches (beachcombing, swimming, sunbathing, etc.)	☐
☐	Enjoying solitude	☐
☐	Fishing	☐
☐	Hunting	☐
☐	Learning history	☐
☐	Nature study (birdwatching, wildlife viewing)	☐
☐	Painting/drawing/photography	☐
☐	Spending time with family/friends	☐
☐	Visiting lighthouse	☐
☐	Visiting William Floyd Estate	☐
☐	Other (Please specify)	☐

Most recent use _____ Previous trips _____

- c) Which **ONE activity above** was your primary reason for using Fire Island NS properties/facilities when you were there most recently?

9. a) In addition to what you already know about Fire Island NS, do you stay updated on information about park activities/rules and regulations?

☐ Yes ☐ No → **Go to Question 10**

- b) If YES, what source did you use to obtain or update information about the park during the last 12 months? Please mark (●) **all** that apply.

- ☐ Friends/relatives/word of mouth
- ☐ Travel guides/tour books (such as AAA, etc.)
- ☐ Maps/brochures
- ☐ Park website: www.nps.gov/fiis/
- ☐ Other websites
- ☐ Newspaper/magazine articles
- ☐ Telephone/written/email inquiry to park
- ☐ Publications from park
- ☐ Interaction with park rangers/staff
- ☐ Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau/Chambers of Commerce
- ☐ Park partners, such as Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Friends of Fire Island NS, or other (Please specify) _____
- ☐ Local businesses (hotels, motels, restaurants, taxi, etc.)
- ☐ Special interest group (Please specify) _____
- ☐ Television/radio programs/videos
- ☐ Other (Please specify) _____

10. During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, please indicate how the following elements may have affected your park experience. Please mark (●) **one** for each element.

Element	Detracted from	No effect	Added to	Did not experience
Beach/shoreline changes	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bicycle use through communities to park facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Close contact with deer or other wildlife	☐	☐	☐	☐
Closed park facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clothing optional use of beach/nude sunbathing	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dogs on beach	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mosquitoes	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ticks and Lyme disease	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vehicles on beach	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vehicles passing through communities	☐	☐	☐	☐

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? Please mark (●) yes or no for each item.

If the service/facility is available, likely to use in the future?					
Yes	No	Service/facility	Yes	No	Service/facility
☐	☐	Backcountry camping	☐	☐	Educational center allowing overnight stays
☐	☐	Beaches with lifeguards	☐	☐	Fishing access for off-road vehicles
☐	☐	Boat docking slip	☐	☐	Hot showers
☐	☐	Boat mooring	☐	☐	Island interpretive center
☐	☐	Canoe/kayak rental	☐	☐	Mainland visitor center
☐	☐	Canoe/kayak trail	☐	☐	Ranger-led programs
☐	☐	Clothing optional beach	☐	☐	Tent cabin camping
☐	☐	Other (Please specify) _____			