

By automobile you can reach the island via bridges at the State and county parks. Several mainland ferryboat lines, operating from Bayshore, Sayville, and Patchogue, dock on the island. All of these villages are serviced by the Long Island Railroad.

Some of the land within the authorized boundaries of the National Seashore is still privately owned. Also, the established communities on the island are not to be included in the National Seashore. We urge you to PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY.

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

Fire Island is 32 miles long and one-half mile to less than 200 yards wide. Map is not to scale.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
LIBRARIES
OCT 30 1972
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS
DEPT.

University of Ky. Library

MAY 1982

MAP DEPT.

NATIONAL SEASHORE • NEW YORK

Fire Island

1972
F51
I 2962

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1972-515-975/9

The sea and the land gave birth to this island, and the waves shaped the sand into beach and dunes. Then the wild things—plants and animals—came to live. Today, out of all the coastline around New York City, Fire Island alone remains relatively wild, roadless, and isolated.

Some say that many years ago islanders built huge fires here, either to warn ships or to lure them aground for looting. Others say whalers built fires to render blubber, extracting precious oil from the fat. However, the favorite story of how Fire Island was named tells of a myopic clerk in a tax office who copied—in error—the original name of "Five Islands."

THE ISLAND SCENE

Here are miles of beach, wind-twisted pines, and a patchwork of seaside plant communities spread over the rolling swales and knolls of the interdune lands. Hidden hardwood groves take visitors by surprise. Long-legged herons stiffly stalk in grassy wetlands; wild geese and brant fly over the salt marsh; and occasionally a startled deer dashes off through tangled thickets.

Fire Island National Seashore is something more than the usual public beach. Here you have a chance to explore a scene formed by nature, rather than by man. The undeveloped portions of the island will give your children the opportunity to see a remnant of the unspoiled seashore that our fathers saw. To help preserve this valuable resource for all to enjoy forever, please do not disturb, remove, or destroy any plants, protected animals, or other natural objects. Above all, stay off the dunes.

WHAT TO SEE AND DO

You may enjoy fishing, clamming, swimming in the surf, strolling through Sunken Forest, or leisurely walking along the beach, scavenging treasures from the sea. Guided nature walks are offered in summer. Talks are presented many evenings at Watch Hill and Sailors Haven. Ask a park ranger about these activities.

The national seashore is in the initial stages of planning and management. At the Watch Hill recreational area are a marina, ferry service, protected bathing beach, 20-site campground, picnic area, bathhouse, information station, snack bar, grocery store, and nature trail. Similar facilities are available at Sailors Haven (except for the campground and the nature trail) and are planned for other places on the island. Not all will offer the same services and facilities. Trails will be constructed so visitors can hike along portions of the national seashore. All activities are being designed to offer rewarding outdoor experiences.

NATURAL HISTORY

One by one, most of the barrier beaches off the south shore of Long Island have migrated north and merged with the mainland. The barrier beach of Fire Island, extending 32 miles from Robert Moses State Park on the west to Moriches Inlet on the east, serves as a storm buffer for Long Island communities. On the Atlantic shore the beach is naturally wide. Fine grains of quartz sand are dominant. Beds of dark-red garnet and

black-magnetite sand form, as wind and waves sort these heavier particles.

The plant communities of the barrier beach are especially important. They alone hold the sand against erosion by wind and water. Beach grass, beach plum, wild rose, and poison ivy are plants of the dunes. The fine maritime Sunken Forest thrives immediately west of Sailors Haven. Here picturesquely gnarled holly, black gum, and juneberry form the forest canopy, and vines of wild grape and poison ivy climb from the forest floor toward the sun. The roar of surf is hushed, more felt than heard.

The marsh is a habitat for birds and other animals. Rose mallow blossoms in August; stands of the giant reed, *Phragmites*, dwarf other marsh plants.

Wildlife abounds at this national seashore. In the surf, you can cast for striped bass, bluefish, mackerel, weakfish, and fluke. Great South Bay has bluefish, striped bass, winter flounder, kingfish, weakfish, and many others. The bay is also famous for clams and scallops.

The protected waters hold rafts of waterfowl during migration in spring and autumn. Small populations of ducks and geese remain and nest here, and common and least terns form nesting colonies on sandy, barren islands and on sandspits. Black-crowned night herons—called "quawks" by old-timers—startle visitors who sit pensively watching lights twinkle on and across Great South Bay.

In the shelter of darkness, whitetail deer and red foxes, cottontails, and other small mammals are active. Wander away from other visitors and explore this barrier beach—you will find beauty in the wildness of the natural scene.

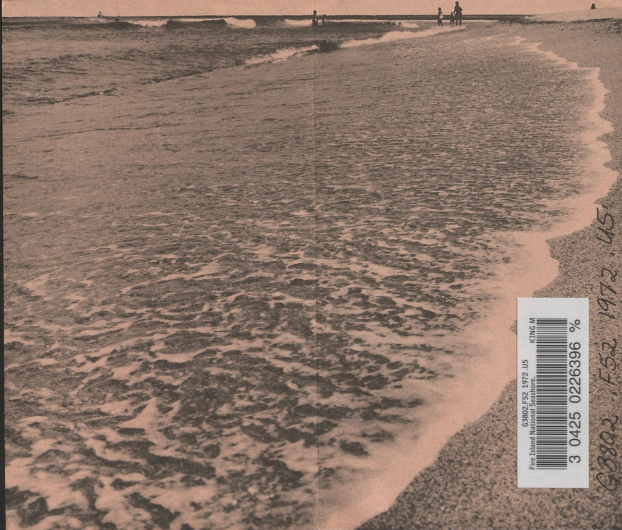
PLEASE LEAVE THE WILDFLOWERS FOR OTHERS TO ENJOY. Do not disturb, remove, or destroy any plants, animals, or other natural objects. And please stay off the dunes.

WHAT IS A NATIONAL SEASHORE?

As a unit of the National Park System, a national seashore possesses outstanding qualities of natural history and opportunity for recreation. In the case of Fire Island, the President has signed a bill authorizing the purchase of lands so that these outstanding natural features and recreational values will be protected. The National Park Service, under the U.S. Department of the Interior, is responsible for managing the seashore to meet these objectives.

A superintendent, whose address is P.O. Box 229, Patchogue, NY 11772, is in immediate charge of Fire Island National Seashore.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.



3 0425 0226396 %
KING M
1972 US
02803 F52 1972 US