

GMP Dynamic Sourcebook - Appendix D: Public Involvement

D.7 Examples of Public Involvement Strategies

Biscayne Public Involvement

To accommodate a variety of communication styles, an open house format was used at public scoping meetings held in 5 different cities. The superintendent gave 2 brief presentations during each 5-hour time-period to inform the public about the park and the need for a general management plan.

The meeting room was arranged into stations according to topics including natural resources, cultural resources and visitor experience. Each station was staffed with a park staff member who was paired with a Denver Service Center team member. Meeting attendees were encouraged to ask questions at these stations and have their comments recorded on flip charts.

Attendees also could give written comments by submitting comment forms or writing in a notebook or on a graffiti wall. Additionally, they could comment using an audio or video recorder.

Other government agencies (city, county, state, and federal) that might have overlapping, concurrent, or adjacent jurisdiction were invited to participate in 3 planning sessions. These included an introductory group session where agency representatives learned about the other entities' missions and roles, and shared obstacles and challenges.

In the second session, agencies identified mutual goals, and discussed strategies to achieve these goals together. The third meeting involved discussion of NPS alternatives for managing Biscayne and responding to suggested modifications by the other agencies.

Also focus groups met on a one-time basis to voice concerns and offer comments.

Three newsletters were distributed to the general public, other agencies, congressional delegation, and non-governmental organizations to provide information about the planning process and to request public input. The newsletters also were posted on the park's website and allowed for comments to be submitted electronically.

At the beginning of the GMP planning process, park staff organized a tour to familiarize members of the media with the park's resources and visitor opportunities. Press releases and advertisements were used to announce and invite people to the public meetings. Throughout the planning process, park staff members met with newspaper editorial boards, appeared on various radio and television programs and gave presentations when invited to various organizations' meetings.