



General Management Plan Newsletter

Issue 1 - Fall 2003

General Management Plan to Provide Long Term Direction for Fort Pulaski

The development of general management plans for Fort Pulaski will lay a foundation for the long term direction of the national monument. A general management plan (GMP) provides a vision for the future of a park and a practical framework for decision making. It represents the broadest level of planning conducted by the National Park Service.

The intention of a GMP is to provide guidance for making informed decisions about the future of the park and specify resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved. A GMP provides guidance on how to best protect park resources, how to provide for quality visitor experiences, and how to manage visitation and visitor use. It involves identifying goals based on the legislative intent of the park, analyzing existing conditions and future possibilities, and determining the best course of action to accomplish these goals. A GMP does not include facility design, resolve all issues, or guarantee funding for the park.

Rather, it describes the general path the National Park Service intends to follow in managing sites such as Fort Pulaski National Monument over a 15 to 20 year period. To comply with the National

Environmental Policy Act, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared concurrently with the GMP. The GMP and EIS will identify significant issues and concerns facing management of the park, present a reasonable range of management alternatives, and analyze the effects of the alternatives. Public involvement is a key component in the preparation of the GMP and EIS. This newsletter provides information on the planning process and how you can be involved in that process.

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Management Planning Begins

Dear Friends,

The National Park Service (NPS) has begun the development of a new *General Management Plan* for Fort Pulaski National Monument that will guide park management for the next 15-20 years. All national parks are required to have an approved general management plan. During the development of this plan National Monument staff, along with our neighbors, visitors, and interested agencies and organizations, will examine long-range goals and management issues, and chart a course for the future.

The new general management plan for Fort Pulaski will provide a broad conceptual framework to guide decisions for long-range park management, resource protection, appropriate types and levels of visitor activities, and appropriate facility development. The management plan will articulate the park's mission, purpose, and significance, and define the resource conditions and visitor experiences that should be achieved and maintained over time.

The plan will consider Fort Pulaski National Monument both as a unit of the national park system and in a broader context that includes the surrounding coastal Georgia region.

Fort Pulaski has not had a comprehensive plan since its 1971 master plan. A new management plan is needed to assist the park in addressing the many complex issues that have arisen in the ensuing 32 years. The management plan will not only provide a vision for long-term park management; it will set the direction for subsequent and more narrowly focused planning efforts. However, the plan will not include specific facility designs, resolve all park issues, or guarantee funding for the actions proposed in the approved plan.

I invite your participation in developing this plan. During this effort there will be a number of opportunities for you to contribute your ideas and concerns about the park and help shape its future. Newsletters with comment forms will be distributed to the mailing list and posted on the Internet throughout the project. There will be public workshops and meetings at key stages. And, when the *Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* is produced, you will be invited to review and provide comments.

I look forward to hearing from you.

John Breen
Superintendent, Fort Pulaski National Monument

Fort Pulaski National Monument - A Brief History

President Calvin Coolidge established Fort Pulaski as a National Monument by proclamation on October 15, 1924 under the authority of Section 2 of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The proclamation declared the entire 20-acre area “comprising the site of the old fortifications which are clearly defined by ditches and embankments” to be a National Monument.

The Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1979) expanded the boundaries of Fort Pulaski to include all lands on Cockspur Island, Georgia then or formerly under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of War. The legislation also authorized the Secretary of the Interior to accept donated lands, easements and improvements located on McQueens and Tybee Islands in Chatham County, Georgia for addition to the National Monument. Furthermore, the Act directed the Secretary to construct a bridge or causeway across the south channel of the Savannah River from Cockspur Island to McQueens Island as part of the road system of Fort Pulaski and provided for land on the north end of Cockspur Island for the Corps of Engineers to use for dredge spoil and additional land for the Treasury Department to use as a quarantine station.

Executive Orders No. 6166 of June 10, 1933 and No. 6228 of July 28 1933 (President Franklin D. Roosevelt) transferred Fort Pulaski (and other military parks, battlefields, and cemeteries) from the War Department to the Interior Department (NPS).

A Presidential proclamation on August 14, 1958 transferred two islands from the U. S. Coast Guard to the National Park Service. One contains the Cockspur Island Lighthouse and the other is known as Daymark Island. Finally, in 1996 Congress passed a law that removed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reserved right to deposit dredge spoil on Cockspur Island.

Purpose, Significance, and Mission of Fort Pulaski

Purpose statements provide the foundation for a park’s management and use and reaffirm the reasons why it was established as a unit of the National Park System. They provide a rationale against which alternatives for managing the park can be measured. Finally, they help neighbors, visitors, and other users understand the framework in which managers make decisions.

Significance statements identify the resources and values that are central to managing the park and express the importance of the park to our natural and cultural heritage. Significance statements describe the park’s distinctiveness and help place it in regional and international contexts. Understanding the park’s significance helps managers make decisions that preserve resources and values for future generations.

A park’s mission is a vision for the future and articulates the ideals that the National Park Service strives to attain. The following are the purpose, significance, and mission statements for Fort Pulaski National Monument.

The purposes of Fort Pulaski National Monument are:

- Preserve and protect the 19th century masonry fort and its associated structures, and interpret its roles in coastal fortifications, military technology and the Civil War;
- Preserve and protect other military structures, other government structures, and archeological resources associated with various military developments and fortifications on Cockspur Island;
- Preserve and protect in excess of 5000 acres of nearly pristine salt marsh on McQueen’s and Cockspur Islands that constitute the largest portion of the national monument and interpret this important coastal ecology for the education, inspiration, and enjoyment of the visitor.



Fort Pulaski National Monument is significant because:

- The site contains one of the most well preserved examples of “third system” masonry coastal fortifications on the Southeast coast.
- It is the place where rifled cannons first successfully breached masonry fortifications, forcing a hasty surrender of the fort and the closure of the port of Savannah, and signaled the end of such fortifications for coastal defenses.
- Fort Pulaski is the location of Robert E. Lee’s first assignment following his commission from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.
- It is the site of John Wesley’s (the founder of Methodism) first sermon in the New World.
- It is the site where General David Hunter, commander of the Department of the South, captured Fort Pulaski and within less than 1 month issued 2 General Orders freeing slaves first on Cockspur Island and later throughout Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina. President Lincoln later rescinded these orders but ultimately issued his own emancipation proclamation on January 1, 1863.
- The National Monument contains one of the largest federally protected salt marsh environments in the United States.

General Management Planning in the National Park System

Park planning is a decision-making process, and general management planning is the broadest level of decision-making for national parks. A general management plan (GMP) is required for each national park system unit and is intended to set the park's management direction for the next 20 years. A core team of park staff and NPS planning professionals is coordinating the general management plan for Fort Pulaski National Monument. Participation by the full park staff, park partners and neighbors, and the general public will be crucial to the plan's success.

Planning in the national park system is organized around three primary questions:

WHY was this park (national monument, national historic site, etc.) established (what is its overall mission)?

WHAT is the vision for the future of this place (what kind of place do we want it to be)?

HOW do we accomplish our vision (what actions are needed to achieve the desired future conditions)?



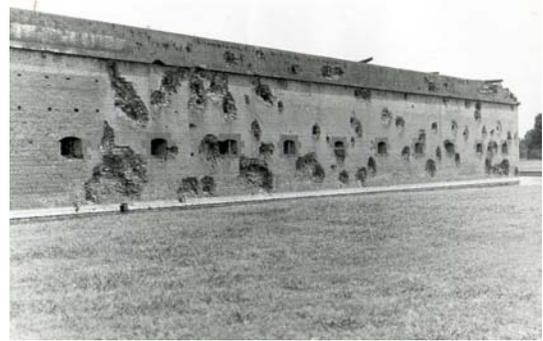
How is the Planning Process Conducted?

There are four basic steps in the general management planning process: “scoping” or information gathering; alternative development and analysis; preparation and publication of a draft GMP and EIS; and revision and publication of a final GMP and EIS.

General management planning is conducted by an interdisciplinary team of park managers and technical experts who consult with other knowledgeable persons inside and outside the National Park Service and with the general public. As a first order of business, the planning

team studies the legislation establishing the park, the body of laws and policies directing management of the national park system, park specific administrative commitments, and special mandates that affect how the park is managed. These legal and administrative commitments are referred to as *musts* in GMPs.

Once these *musts* are clearly understood, the planning team examines the park's mission, purpose, and significance statements to ensure that they adequately represent legislative intent, provide a sound foundation for decision-making at the park, and reflect the overall values of the general public. In addition, the planning team identifies the range of optional goals and objectives that park staff, technical experts, current and potential visitors, other governmental agencies, traditional users, regional residents, and the general public want the park to achieve. The broad



range of optional goals and objectives are collectively referred to as *wants* in general management planning.

Not surprisingly, some of the things that people want to happen at the park will be mutually compatible and others will not. The most appropriate mix of these “wants” will be determined using the best information available after a systematic analysis of resource values and land uses. Management alternatives will then be developed and potential environmental impacts related to those alternatives will be rigorously explored.

What Are the Major Steps?

Developing a general management plan involves several key steps occurring over a number of years. We are in the initial phases of the project (Steps 1 and 2)—identifying the scope and issues of the planning effort, setting goals, identifying obstacles to realizing those goals, and collecting data. In steps 3 and 4, alternatives to achieving these goals are developed. The relative benefits and impacts (including costs) of each approach are analyzed in an environmental impact statement (EIS) that is prepared as part of the general management plan (GMP). These alternatives and analyses are presented to public for review. In the final steps, after all parties have had an opportunity to comment on the alternatives and the analysis of associated impacts, one alternative is selected and approved for implementation.

STEP	TIME FRAME	ACTIVITY	OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION
1	Summer - Winter 2003	Initiate Project The planning team assembles, begins to identify the project's scope and begins to establish con-tacts with the participants	~ Read the newsletter ~ Send us your ideas and comments ~ Come to public meetings
2	Winter 2003	Define Planning Context The team examines <i>why</i> the national monument was established and affirms its mission, purpose, and significance. Team members collect and analyze relevant data and public input needed to support the planning effort.	~ Read the newsletter ~ Send us your ideas and comments ~ Come to public meetings
3	Spring - Summer 2004	Develop and Evaluate Alternatives Using staff and public input, the team explores <i>what</i> the national monument's future should look like and proposes a range of reasonable alternatives.	~ Read the newsletter ~ Send us your ideas and comments
4	Fall 2004	Prepare a Draft Document <i>A Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement</i> is published. The draft document describes the alternatives and the impacts and public input, a preferred alternative is identified in the document.	~ Send us your ideas and comments ~ Come to public meetings
5	Fall 2005	Publish Final Document Based on review and comment by the National Park Service and the public, the team revises the <i>General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement</i> and distributes a final plan. The plan is approved in a published record of decision.	~ Read the final plan, including NPS responses to substantive public comments and official letters.
6	Spring 2006	Implement the Approved Plan After the <i>Record of Decision</i> is issued, and as funding allows, the <i>General Management Plan</i> is implemented.	~ Work with the National Monument to implement the plan.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

Several convenient ways to communicate and participate in the planning process are described in this newsletter. We encourage you to let us know what you think about Fort Pulaski National Monument and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Written Comments

Your written comments about the general management plans are welcome and can be forwarded via U.S. mail to:

Fort Pulaski General Management Plan Team
National Park Service
100 Alabama Street, 1924 Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Attention: David Libman

We will accept written comments in any form. Handwritten responses are welcome. You can help us better understand your interests and concerns by answering the questions on the general management plan response forms. The response forms are included in this newsletter and are also available in the visitor center bookstore at Fort Pulaski.

Telephone Information

Persons interested in receiving more information about the general management plan process, the latest information on public meetings, or being placed on the newsletter mailing list are encouraged to call the headquarters office for the park at 912-786-5787. The planning team strongly encourages persons with specific ideas and comments to submit them in writing so that we can better document and respond to those issues.

Public Meetings

Public meetings will be held during the week of December 1, 2003 at the Tybee Island, Georgia City Hall.

Newsletters

Several newsletters will be published over the course of the project to help people stay informed about public meetings, discussions, draft alternatives and other important information. It is easy to add your name to the mailing list for newsletters by checking the appropriate box on the back of the response form and filling in your name and complete address.

You can also put your name on the mailing list by sending an e-mail message to david_libman@nps.gov.

Web Site

A web site for the general management plan is currently under development. When completed, you will be able to link to it by using your web browser to go to the Fort Pulaski's web site (www.nps.gov/fopu) and clicking on the general management plan link. There you will find details about the general management plan process, public meetings, newsletters, and other on-line information.