

Fort Phoenix Planning Unit Draft Resource Management Plan



Fort Phoenix Beach Bathhouse

Public Meeting

January 11, 2012; 6:30 - 8:00 P.M.

Millicent Library, Fairhaven



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Deval L. Patrick

Lieutenant Governor

Timothy Murray

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

Edward M. Lambert, Jr

DCR Mission Statement



*To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth
of natural, cultural and recreational resources*

Resource Management Plan (RMP) Requirements



“shall include *guidelines* for the operation and land stewardship of...reservations, parks and forests”

“shall provide for the *protection and stewardship* of natural and cultural resources”

Shall *ensure consistency* between recreation, resource protection and sustainable forest management”

M.G.L. Chapter 21; Section 2F



Tonight's Presentation



*New Bedford Outer Harbor
Fort Phoenix Beach State Reservation*

- Preview of Draft RMP.
- Public Comment.

RMP Timeline



April 13, 2011

Initial public meeting.

April – May, 2011

Public input period.

June – December, 2011

Report preparation,
internal review, and
revisions.

January, 2012

Preview of Draft RMP

Release of draft RMP

Begin 30-day review and
comment period.

February, 2012

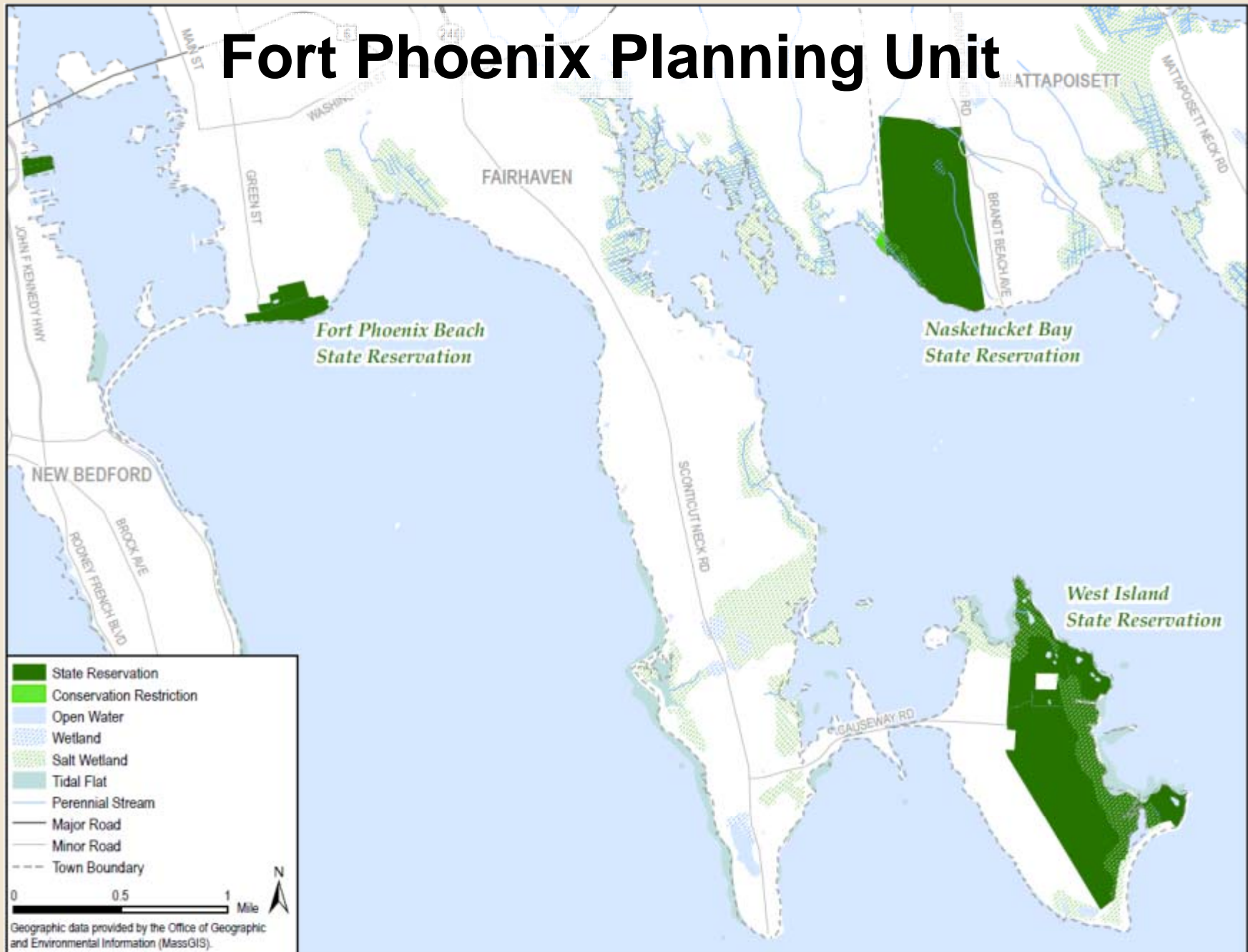
Close of comment period
(February 13th).

Revise RMP in response
to public comments.

March - April, 2012

Submit final RMP to DCR
Stewardship Council.

Fort Phoenix Planning Unit



Fort Phoenix Beach State Reservation



Established:	1959
Size:	30 acres
Staffing:	Seasonal - Mobile Maintenance
Recreation:	Swimming Picnicking Socializing Court-based sports Dog walking Fishing Music Special events (e.g., weddings)

Nasketucket Bay State Reservation



Established: 1999

Size: 211 acres

Staffing: Unstaffed
- Mobile Maintenance
- Fort Phoenix staff

Recreation: Walking/Running
Dog walking
Fishing
Hunting
Nature study
Horseback riding
Mt. biking
Geocaching

West Island State Reservation



Established:	1988
Size:	342 acres
Staffing:	Unstaffed - Mobile Maintenance - Fort Phoenix staff
Recreation:	Walking/Running Dog walking Fishing Hunting Swimming Boating Nature study Geocaching

RMP Content and Format



West Island State Reservation

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Existing Conditions
- Management Resources and Practices
- Recommendations
 - Land Stewardship Zoning
 - Management Recommendations
- Appendices

Management Principle

Provide coastal access while actively managing the built environment for recreation and the natural environment for conservation.



Nasketucket Bay State Reservation

Goal 1: Maintain and enhance existing recreation facilities and experiences.



Existing Conditions/Findings

Fort Phoenix Beach S.R.

- Guarded beach and bathhouse.
- Tennis, basketball, volleyball, and multi-use courts.
- Horseshoe pits.
- Playground.
- Barbecue grills and picnic tables.
- Pavilion.
- Trails (0.9 miles – unofficial).

Nasketucket Bay S.R.

- Trails (2.9 miles).

West Island S.R.

- Trails (3.2 miles).
- Unofficial beach.

Goal 1: Maintain and enhance existing recreation facilities and experiences.



Draft Recommendations

- Maintain the administrative road during the winter.
- Pursue discussions with Commonwealth Electric about acquiring property along Doane Street.
- Re-line the drainage pipe between the administrative road and manhole.
- Repair cracks in surface of tennis courts.
- Provide appropriate striping and signs for the HP Lot.
- Remove weeds and seal cracks to extend the life of the Lower Lot.

Goal 2: Prepare for rising sea level and storm surge through methods appropriate for each property.



Existing Conditions/Findings

Predicted sea level rise of 1.5 ft. next 100 years.

Fort Phoenix Beach S.R.

- 100-year flood – 81.6% of reservation.
- Hurricane – Category 1 & 2 – 91.7%.

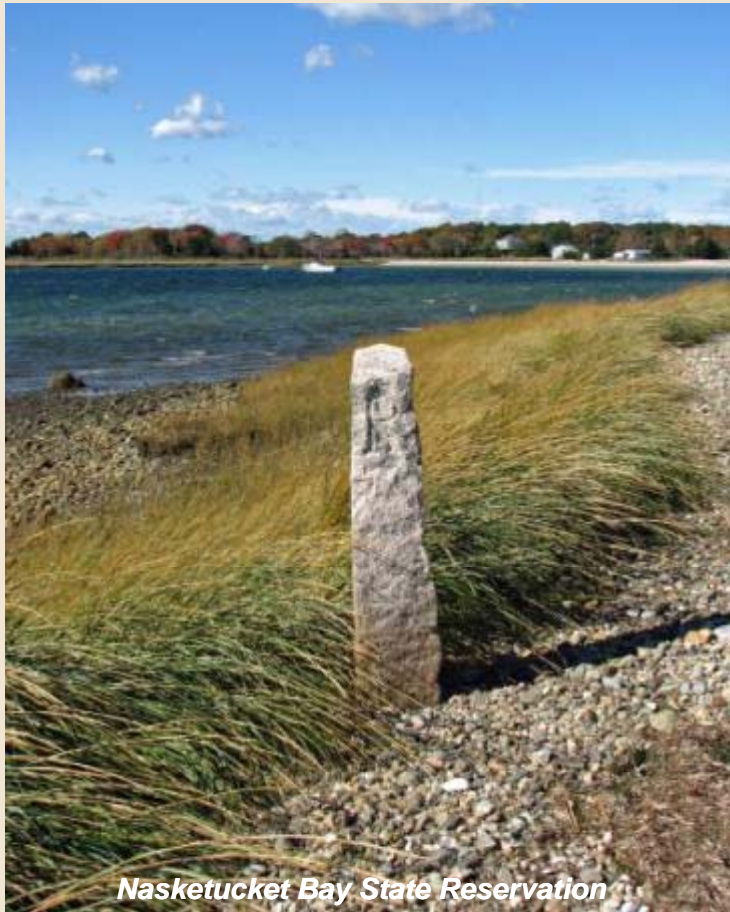
Nasketucket Bay S.R.

- 100-year flood – 11.7% of reservation.
- Hurricane – Category 1 & 2 – 11.7%.

West Island S.R.

- 100-year flood – 67.0% of reservation.
- Hurricane – Category 1 & 2 – 79.1%.

Goal 2: Prepare for rising sea level and storm surge through methods appropriate for each property.



Draft Recommendations

- Raise and expand the existing dunes at Fort Phoenix Beach to decrease the potential frequency and severity of coastal storm impacts.
- Allow the landward migration of salt marshes at Nasketucket Bay S.R. in response to coastal storms and sea level rise.
- Allow the landward migration of salt marshes at West Island S.R. in response to coastal storms and sea level rise.

Goal 3: Enhance communication with park visitors to promote the increased awareness, appreciation, and protection of natural and cultural resources and to improve the visitor experience.



Existing Conditions/Findings

Fort Phoenix Beach S.R.

- No interpretive programming.
- Multiple, non-standard signs.
- All signs in English – 18.7% of households within 10 miles are non-English speaking.

Nasketucket Bay S.R.

- No interpretive programming.
- Insufficient signs about hunting/visitor safety.

West Island S.R.

- No interpretive programming.
- Insufficient signs about hunting/visitor safety.
- No signs geared to boaters/beach users.

Goal 3: Enhance communication with park visitors to promote the increased awareness, appreciation, and protection of natural and cultural resources and to improve the visitor experience.



Draft Recommendations

- Increase pet owners' awareness of their responsibility to control and clean up after their dogs.
- Install multi-lingual "Gate closes at ..." signs.
- Install multi-lingual beach regulation signs.
- Educate visitors about shared use of Nasketucket Bay and West Island S.R. during the hunting season.
- Install a Main Identification sign, Rules and Regulation sign, and Unguarded Waterfront sign facing the water at the unofficial beach at West Island S.R.

Goal 4: Preserve and protect existing cultural resources and expand the level of public understanding of the cultural history of each reservation and the surrounding region.



Existing Conditions/Findings

Fort Phoenix Beach S.R.

- No known archaeological resources.
- Bathhouse (1964).
- Rogers Estate (paths, walls, culverts).
- U.S. Navy beacon site.

Nasketucket Bay S.R.

- One known post-Contact archaeological site.
- Souza/Andrews/Nunes home site.
- Circulation paths.
- Stone walls.

West Island S.R.

- No known archaeological resources
- Trash pile/landfill.
- Road network.
- Stone walls.

Goal 4: Preserve and protect existing cultural resources and expand the level of public understanding of the cultural history of each reservation and the surrounding region.



*Souza Foundation
Nasketucket Bay State Reservation*

Draft Recommendations

- Ensure that all projects involving ground disturbance and/or any potential impacts to cultural resources are submitted for review and comment.
- Continue to perform annual maintenance on the bathhouse, making any repairs with like materials.
- Stabilize foundation of Souza home site at Nasketucket Bay S.R. by clearing destructive vegetation. Maintain as a preserved ruin.

Goal 5: Enhance conservation by acquiring additional natural resources information and by actively managing rare species, uncommon natural communities, and populations of invasive plants.



*Cultural Grassland
Nasketucket Bay State Reservation*

Existing Conditions/Findings

Fort Phoenix Beach S.R.

- No state or federal listed species.
- 0.5% Priority Habitat.
- 6 known natural communities.
- 8 known invasive species.

Nasketucket Bay S.R.

- 4 state-listed species.
- 97.2% Priority Habitat
- 7 known natural communities.
- 8 known invasive species.

West Island S.R.

- 8 state-listed species.
- 51.5% Priority Habitat.
- 8 known natural communities.
- 7 known invasive species.

Goal 5: Enhance conservation by acquiring additional natural resources information and by actively managing rare species, uncommon natural communities, and populations of invasive plants.



Draft Recommendations

- Control new populations of Japanese knotweed before they spread throughout Fort Phoenix.
- Submit the draft Habitat Management Plan for the Nasketucket Bay cultural grasslands to the NHESP for review.
- Continue monitoring and management of beach-nesting birds at West Island.
- Conduct a preliminary investigation of the trash pile/landfill at West Island.

This Presentation and the Draft RMP Will Be Available Online at:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/rmppast.htm>

Public Comments

(January 12, 2012 – February 13, 2012)

Please send your comments to:

E-mail: DCR.Updates@state.ma.us

Please put “Fort Phoenix” in the subject line

U.S. Mail: Fort Phoenix RMP Comments
P.O. Box 66
194 Cranberry Road
South Carver, MA 02366

Note: Public comments submitted to DCR will be posted in their entirety on the DCR website and no content, including personal information, will be redacted.



Thoughts and Comments