EXISTING CONDITIONS

I. Location.
Along the Atlantic coast between Jacksonville Beach and Vilano Beach.

II. Present Means of Access.
Florida State Highway #78 (the ocean boulevard) skirts the Beach along the east. The west could be reached from U. S. Highway #1. The Inland Waterway also traverses the area. The Florida East Coast Railway gives rail access.

III. Extent of Area.
As much as needed of 100 square miles could be utilized.

IV. Physical characteristics.
A. Scenic values.
   Some excellent sub-tropical growth; sand dunes; lagoon and the wide Atlantic.
B. Character of Beaches.
   1- Width—varies with season and tide from 50 to 250 feet may be driven in automobiles at low tide.
   2- Color and texture of sand—fine, white; coarser red-brown fine gravel in parts.
   3- Slope—rather gradual but this varies. No steep pitch.
   4- Undertow—only after storms.
   5- Protection—No protection on beach, Dunes protect back country.
C. Present development.
   A few isolated shacks.
D. Possibility of boating
   Inland waterway and lagoon.
E. Forest values.
Scarcely any unless pine forest were re-established inland.

F. Wild life values.
There should be places for water fowl in the low parts. Other wild life would have to be re-introduced.

G. Possible cost of land
Mostly waste land, some could be had for taxes. Average should not be more than $10.00 an acre.

H. Special matters.
Mosquitoes at times are unfortunately to be reckoned with.

DEVELOPMENT SUGGESTIONS.

I. New road or boat approaches desirable entrance should be provided for from U. S. Highway #1 to accommodate both motorists and those arriving by train at least one causeway across the low area would be necessary. It might be desirable to dredge an area for boating although entrance by water is now available by the Inland Waterway.

II. Types of accommodations desirable.
Bath houses or pavilions would be necessary. Parking areas should be provided. Probably groups of cabanas would be popular. Overnight groups and picnic grounds would undoubtedly be desirable on the back country. If boating were found extensive, it would be necessary to provide for the care of boats by piers or boat houses or both.

III. Rough costs for developing utilities.

1. Water
Artesian wells 6 to 8 inch casing, could be bored at about $1.00 a foot - $800 ft. deep.
2. Sewage.

Septic tanks, probably five at $50.00 each.

3. Electricity.

Connection could be had from existing lines at approximately $100 per pole, distance probably about 20 miles.

4. Telephone.

A line runs through the property.

IV. General outline of circulation needed.

It would be desirable to make an entrance from U.S. #1 which would probably be the main entrance. Service roads would be required to camping areas and other facilities. At least one and probably more causeways would have to be thrown up across the low area to give connection by automobile with the beach. A system of trails would be laid out through the most interesting portions of growth. A bridge would have to be provided at at least one point across the Inland Waterway for connection between mainland and Beach.
Proposed
Jacksonville Beach to Vilano Beach
Florida

80,424 acres  $271,800 probable cost
18 miles beach front 3.30 cost per acre
47 miles protected waterfront 4,180 cost per mile waterfront
2,207,000 people within 200 miles 12,300 cost per 100,000 people

This area contains 13 miles of incomparable beach. While it lies a little too far north to assure ideal year-round bathing, nevertheless the season is longer here than at other recommended areas. A more southerly location was impracticable due to existing intensive developments.

The beach is the most important factor of this area. However, there is sufficient back land in which to develop wildlife preserves and vacationists' area. The North and Guano Rivers would provide boating for small crafts.

The entire area is readily accessible back by major highways to the area and good roads within it.

There have been no recent activities inland development. The cost per acre is exceptionally low and acquisition should not be difficult.

Within 100 miles of the area are 509,000 people and within 300 mile radius are 5,093,000.