UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PROPOSED BEACH PARKS
GREAT LAKES
CATAWBA

FILE NO. 0 - 32

BEACH PARKS
GREAT LAKES
CATAWBA

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GREAT LAKES
CATAWBA

LAST DATE ON TOP

IMPORTANT
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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.
Mr. Paul V. Brown,
Regional Officer,
818 Illinois Bldg.,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Brown:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 28, transmitting copy of report by John Diggs on Catawba Island beach project.

This area will be studied further when Inspector Olcott's reports on the Great Lakes seashore areas are submitted to us.

Sincerely yours,

Conrad L. Wirth.
Assistant Director.

By: Robert H. Walton
Assistant to Mr. Wirth.
AN ANSWER IS EXPECTED BY THE SENDER OF THIS MESSAGE. PLEASE GIVE IT TO THE MESSENGER OR TELEPHONE IT TO

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOM CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 708 14th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

CA142 78 NL GOVT 1 EXTRA=TOLEDO OHIO 17

HONORABLE ARNO B CAMMERER, DIRECTOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE=NEW NAVY BLDG WASHDC=

WASHINGTON DISPATCH PUBLISHED BY TOLEDO NEWSPAPER QUOTES YOU AS SELECTING CATAWBA ISLAND OTTAWA COUNTY OHIO FOR SEASHORE RECREATION AREA STOP THIS NEWSPAPER STORY DISTURBS ME BECAUSE IF BELIEVE THE ONLY AVAILABLE PROPERTY FOR YOUR PURPOSE IS EAST HARBOR PROPERTY IN DANBURY TOWNSHIP OTTAWA COUNTY OHIO BUT NEVER THE CATAWAB PROPERTY STOP WILL YOU PLEASE INVESTIGATE AND INFORM ME IF NEWSPAPER STORY IS CORRECT OR PLEASE WITHHOLD FINAL DECISION PENDING MY RETURN WASHINGTON WHEN CONGRESS RECONVENES PLEASE ANSWER THANKS=

WARREN J DUFEEY MC NINTH OHIO DISTRICT.
Dear Sir:--

I am enclosing a clipping from last night's newspaper. Can you give us a copy of your report concerning this, and some information as to where this improvement is expected to be made? We are very much interested in this as we have always advocated the subject for many years. I hope you will get in touch with us if we can be of any service to you.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

Executive Secretary.
National Park Service Would Establish Public Reservation at Catawba

By DAVID R. SCOTT
(Star-Journal Correspondent)

WASHINGTON — Plans for the establishment near Sandusky of a national beach for the benefit of the citizens of Ohio, was disclosed today by the national park service.

The reservation thus set aside would comprise Catawba Island, in Ottawa co, and be a part of a national program designed to conserve for the people the finer of the not yet too highly developed beaches along the Great Lakes, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Catawba Island is the only such recreational project planned for Lake Erie. Its possibilities a federal beach recreational area has been the subject of an exhaustive investigation during the past year by the national park service in conjunction with the national resources board.

A total of 18 seashore projects similar to the Catawba Island are contemplated on the lake and ocean shores of the United States.

The national park service would (Turn to Page 13—No. 4)
Mr. Arno B. Cammerer  
Director, National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Interior Department Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

I telegraphed you on Wednesday, but it is possible that my telegram was misdirected because it was sent to the New Navy Building. In all events, I thought it advisable to write you direct about the matter, as follows:

Enclosed herewith is a newspaper clipping where your name is mentioned. It happens that Ottawa County, where these properties are located, is in my congressional district, a short distance from Toledo.

I write to make inquiry what, if any, plan or decision has been made in reference to development near Lake Erie for "Seashore Recreational Area". I was surprised and displeased when I heard of Catawba Island as the location under consideration. In my telegram to you, I mentioned East Harbor as being much better. I would like an opportunity to be heard; and to present what I believe to be valuable information and assistance in the final decision of the matter.

It is my desire to assist in every way and encourage a project of this character; but, I also desire to have full consideration given to all the facts, properly presented, before final decision is made.

I would very much appreciate a letter from you informing me fully about this matter. Any courtesy that you may extend in this regard will be much appreciated; and thanking you, and with kind respects, I am

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

WJD/SH  
Encl.
U. S. TO DEVELOP CATAWBA ISLAND

Recreation Area Planned by Parks Service for Lake Erie.

Toledo Blade Bureau, Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 16.

Purchase of Catawba island, in Lake Erie, and its development into a federal "seashore recreational area" is planned by the national park service.

Fifteen similar projects along the lake and ocean shorelines will likewise be a part of the government's program for making available to the public for recreation purposes waterfront spaces where, for nominal charges, persons may camp, fish, bathe, and enjoy themselves.

Catawba island was selected as the site for the only such recreational area along Lake Erie because of its accessibility to Toledo, Sandusky, Cleveland, and other Ohio cities.

Arno B. Camerer, director of the national park service, in outlining the general program today said:

"The need for conservation for the public benefit the finer beaches along the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts and the Great Lakes has been thrown into sharp relief by the studies of the national resources board. Sixteen proposed seashore recreation areas have been studied and it is recommended that early action be taken to establish the system of national beaches before all the beaches have passed into private hands or have been subdivided to a degree that would make their acquisition impracticable."

For more than a year the possibilities of Catawba island for conversion into a federal recreational area have been studied by agents of the national park service.

Toledo, Ohio
December 21st, 1935

As President through your Congressman, for he to detour this auspicious because it was sent to the New York office in error, as follows:

I attached herewith is a newspaper clipping where your Representative of Ohio, Mr. H. C. Fitch, has requested that Ottawa County, where this proposal is, be made the location under consideration. In my telegram to the Governor of Ohio, asking for the state to assist in every way and encourage a favorable decision, I also desire to have full consideration of all facts, properly presented, before final decision is reached, and much appreciate a letter from you informing me of this matter. Any courtesy that you may extend in your behalf will be most appreciated; and thanking you, with kind regards.

Very truly yours,

Warren J. Duffey

WJD/Encl.
Hon. Warren J. Duffey,
Member of Congress,
Toledo, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Duffey:

This is in reply to your wire of December 10 and your letter of December 21 regarding the selection of Catawba Island as a seashore recreational area. Unfortunately your wire did not reach my desk immediately.

This Service is not yet in a position to make definite recommendations regarding proposed seashore or lakeshore recreational areas as a method of their establishment and administration has not yet been decided upon.

A field report has been received on Catawba Island, but because of uncertain conditions no action has been taken. Copies of your wire and letter are being referred to Mr. Paul V. Brown, 6th Regional Office of the Branch of Planning and State Cooperation, at 818 Illinois Building, Indianapolis, Indiana, with a request for investigation of East Harbor. It is suggested that you submit any data you may have regarding the area directly to him in order that he may use it in his investigation.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Arno B. Gummerer.
Director.

CC: 6th Reg. Officer
December 28, 1935

Honorable Harold L. Ickes,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:-

It has been brought to my attention thru an article in the Toledo Blade from the "Blade Bureau" at Washington, that the National Park Service contemplates the purchase of acreage on Catawba Island in Lake Erie and numerous sites along Lake Erie as part of the National Park System.

I am the owner of Locust Point Beach, a blueprint of which you will please find enclosed. Lots 494 to 520 are part of a proposed plat which was never recorded. There is eleven acres in this part on which stands seven buildings. These buildings were erected in 1926 at a cost of $65,000.00.

Only one lot is sold in the lower part adjoining Turtle Creek. If my recollection is correct there is about 25 acres in this part. The rest is split up in lots with the red letter "M" and which would probably not be of interest to you.

This beach is located less than one quarter of a mile off Number Two Highway, the direct route from east to west, 25 miles from Toledo and about the same distance from Sandusky, Ohio. 14 miles by water from the Canadian line and within a few miles from Put-in-bay, Catawba, Little Sister, Middle Sister and West Sister islands, direct water route to Detroit and all lake points. There is about 1400 feet of beach front, a beach that is inferior to none on the Great Lakes, sand as hard as the floor.

There is a large bath house, hotel, dance hall and concession buildings, all covered with trees making as fine a spot for summer park as you will find on the lakes.

On the west boundary is Turtle Creek and the Government is working on this project and has spent several thousands of dollars up to the present time.

The price on this will be made satisfactory to the Government and I trust you will give the matter your consideration. If you desire I will go to Washington or meet with your representatives wherever you designate. Not for the reason that it is mine but I will challenge any place on the Great Lakes to be superior to Locust Point for summer park purposes.

Very respectfully yours,

DeWitt Fisher
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

By dear Mr. Fisher:

Hon. James A. Farley, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has forwarded to Secretary Ickes your letter of December 28 regarding your beach property on Catawba Island, Ohio.

The National Park Service of this Department has conducted investigations of several possible recreational areas along the Great Lakes. However, the one reported by field officers on Catawba Island does not include Loomis Beach. It is not probable that funds will be available in the near future for acquisition of lands in any of these areas.

Although it will not be possible to accept your offer, we appreciate your interest in calling your property to the attention of this Department.

The blue print you forwarded for our consideration is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) CHARLES WEST
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

Enclosure 767894

cc Hon. James A. Farley
Mr. C. H. Richardson,
Executive Secretary,
The Sandusky Chamber of Commerce,
Sandusky, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Richardson:

This is in reply to your letter of December 18, 1935, to Director Cammerer, relative to a reported proposal for the establishment of a recreational reserve on Catawba Island, north of Sandusky.

This Service has been endeavoring to secure authorization for the establishment of such areas to make some of the best beach areas available to the general public, and to that end we have conducted an investigation of desirable areas along the Atlantic, Gulf, Great Lakes, and Pacific coasts, including the site referred to on Catawba Island. However, such authorization has not yet been given and no funds are available for the purchase of any of the lands involved.

The Service greatly appreciates your offer to cooperate in this matter, and although no copies of the report on the Catawba site are available, we shall be glad to cooperate with you if and when any further action is possible on the proposal.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Demarey
Acting Director.

CC: 5th Reg. Officer

JBD: 2nd
Director,  
National Park Service, 
U.S. Department of the Interior, 
Washington, D.C. 

November 9th 1936. 

Attention A.E. Demaray, Acting Director. 

Dear Sir: 

I understand that within the past year or two that you conducted a study of beach areas upon the Catawba Island, (near Port Clinton & Sandusky) in Ottawa County, Ohio, to determine the desirability of such areas for public recreation grounds. 

Will you kindly advise whether any determination has as yet been made in this connection, and whether the project is still under consideration? 

The writer is attorney, and general agent for Mary Starr Rawlins, and certain other heirs of Judge Zalmon Wildman, (the original owner of the Catawba Island), who own in common a large acreage at the entrance of the West Harbor, next to Gem Beach, which acreage still remains undeveloped and has an extensive frontage upon Lake Erie. I should like to know whether that area has been under consideration by the Government. 

I was informed that you had had made a survey of the various beach areas on the Catawba Island, and as my clients have had no physical survey thereof for some years, and the shore line is subject to more or less change, I would be interested to know also whether you have had aerial, or other physical surveys of the beach areas on or adjacent to the Catawba Island made in connection with your study, or if you know of other government agencies which in recent years have made the same. If you have such recent surveys would it be possible for you to have a photostat or other copy thereof made for me. 

Thanking you for all such available information upon the above subjects. 

Very truly yours, 

[Signature] 

HSR/N
December 7, 1936.

Mr. Harold Smith Haussch,
Attorney and Counselor at Law,
9412 Hough Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Haussch:

Your letter of November 9, regarding the interest of this Service in lands on Catawba Island, near Sandusky, Ohio, has been received.

About two years ago field representatives of this Service visited Catawba Island in the course of an investigation of seashore and lakeshore areas which might be made available for public recreational use. At that time a report was submitted on the area which did not indicate that the area is of national importance. We feel, however, it should have further study as a possible State or local recreation area.

Furthermore, this Service has no authority to administer land on Catawba Island as a recreational area, and no funds are available for the purchase of land.

The field report on the area was based on existing maps. No detailed survey was made, and we have no maps of our own for distribution. However, this area is included in the Kelly's Island and Put-in-Bay quadrangles issued by the United States Geological Survey. A nominal price of $0.10 each is charged for these sheets, which you probably can obtain by writing to the Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

C.L. Wirth,
Assistant Director.

[Stamp: BRPSC Room 4109]

JLB;fmdjkh