

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE
OF
MARCO NATIONAL SEASHORE

Chapter 5, Design Analysis, General Development

Prepared by: James W. Stewart Date Feb. 28, 1962

Drawing approved: _____ Date _____

(Note: Acceptance of Design Analysis is assumed upon approval of corresponding Master Plan Development Plan.)

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- 17-22
1. Marco National Seashore is located approximately half way between Naples, Florida and Everglades, Florida which reposes at the western edge of Everglades National Park. Marco Island, the largest land mass within this proposal is located ten miles west of U. S. Route 41. The only access, other than by boat, is via county road No. 92. This road spans a narrow neck of water near Goodland via causeway and swing bridge to reach Marco Island.
 2. The most striking feature of the area is its many islands with long uninhabited beaches sparkling white beside the blue-green waters of the Gulf of Mexico.
 3. Almost all the mangrove islands contain some higher ground made up of clean sand and shell. Marco Island itself has most of the plants and wildlife typical to the coastal regions of south Florida. There are some fine stands of cabbage palms along the beach which adds to the tropical flavor.
 4. This area enjoys predominantly mild weather with sunny skies during the winter months, however, cloudy, cool, and windy days do occur as cold fronts move down from the north. Hot humid conditions with numerous heavy rain showers are the rule during the summer. The average 1960 rainfall was 61.06 inches and the average 1960 temperature was 71.3 degrees.
 5. It is expected that proposed Marco National Seashore will receive its heaviest use during the winter months. The pattern of ^{visitation} use probably would parallel that of Everglades National Park, Florida.
 6. Two inhabited Bald Eagle nests are an unusual feature of Marco Island.

CIRCULATION:

1. County Route 92 is the sole vehicular access road to proposed Marco National Seashore. This road ends at the beach. There are short paved spurs to the towns of Goodland, Caxembas, and Marco. A newly constructed spur provides access to an Air Force missile tracking station at the extreme southern end of Marco ^{Island.} Beach.
2. The paved roads now in use on Marco Island are in good condition and are not congested.
3. There are ungraded auto tracks from the end of County Route 92 which extend in both directions roughly parallel to the beach and approximately one hundred yards inland. These roads are now used by bathers and campers.
4. The road to the missile tracking station is new. At present only the contractor operating the station, and official Government cars ^{are} ~~are~~ allowed to use the road. A straight barbed wire fence runs on each side of ~~the~~ ^{the} road on the right of way line. This fence runs to the station which is enclosed by a chain link fence. A civilian guard is posted at the single entrance gate. An opening in the barbed wire fence allows pedestrians to cross the road to the beach on the other side of the tracking station.

I believe that this road should be acquired and it should become part of the circulation system. Use of this road in the campground circulation system would allow a loop type campground and avoid three parallel roads. It would also eliminate a physical barrier.

- 4 The beach on Marco Island is quite firm and affords excellent hiking. It is naturally suited to this activity. Care should be exercised during development so as not to interrupt the long stretches of beach.

6. Marked navigation channels extend from the Gulf of Mexico into Marco, Caxambas and Goodland. Limited small boat launching and docking facilities are available in Marco and Goodland.

VISITOR USE FACILITIES:

1. The visitor use facilities are as follows:

1. Visitor Center
2. Campground
3. Picnic Ground

2. A Visitor Center will be the center of activity. Interpretive and protective personnel will be on duty. Interpretive exhibits will be displayed and organized walks would depart from here. Protective personnel controlling campground and picnic ground activities will be stationed at the Visitor Center. It will contain an information counter and comfort station.

3. The campground will be separated from the picnic ground ^{and} day use areas, by the entrance road and Visitor Center. It will be a loop type campground suitable for tents and small trailers. Comfort Stations, drinking fountains, picnic tables, garbage receptacles, and charcoal stoves will be provided. Approximately 1500 campsites could ultimately be built in the area designated on the plan. The area selected is close to the beach although a good buffer area should be maintained between the beach and campground. One way loop roads will wind through the stands of cabbage palms, palmetto and seagrape. A minimum of clearing and grading is desirable. Beach adjacent to the campground will be for camper use because of its proximity.

4. The picnic ground and day-use area will be located north of the Visitor Center. The road, parking areas and picnic ground will be located inland from the beach and should not be obtrusive. Comfort stations, drinking fountains, picnic tables, garbage can receptacles, and charcoal burners will be provided. Access to the northern portion of the beach on Marco Island will be by way of a foot bridge across a narrow inlet. This stretch of beach will be for hikers and bathers only.
5. Since Marco and Goodland are fishing resort towns it is anticipated that they would continue to provide guides, boat rentals, charter boats and marina facilities. These towns will also provide stores, lodgings and restaurants.

MANAGEMENT FACILITIES:

1. Facilities required are administrative offices, utility area, and residential area.
2. These facilities will be located at an existing development known as Marco Highlands. Four houses and a small motel are located there.
3. It is anticipated that these properties would be acquired and integrated as part of the residential area. The land has been cleared and is on level, high, ground. A few paved streets exist.

UTILITIES:

Water supply will be the greatest utility problem. At present, residents must depend on cisterns or haul fresh water for drinking. Unless a source can be found on Marco Island, which is unlikely, water will probably have to be supplied by pipeline from an inland area.

Sewerage disposal will be by septic tank and field. Power and telephone service is now available on Marco Island.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Certain areas of beach are cluttered by dead mangroves, supposedly a result of Hurricane "Donna." This situation occurs mostly on the islands which are accessible only by boat. It is doubtful that this would be objectionable at present, however, if use of these beaches increase, some clearing work would have to be done.

DISTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPMENT

TYPES OF FACILITIES	Other								
	Interp. Tour		x						
	Interp. Sta.								
	Ranger Sta.								
	Utility Area	Conc.							
		NPS	x						
	Employee Quarters	Conc.							
		NPS	x						
	Souvenir, etc.								
	Store								
	Meals, Lunch								
	Overnight Acc.								
	Campfire Cir.								
	Picnicking		x						
	Trailer Vill.								
	Campground		x						
	Visitor Center		x						
	Admin. Bldg.		x						
Developed Areas		Marco Highlands Proposed	Marco Beach Proposed						