

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Kill Devil Hill National Monument

REPORT ON PROPOSED NATIONAL BEACH PARK
NEAR DUCK, NORTH CAROLINA

By

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C O P Y

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Kitty Hawk, N. C.
September 21, 1934

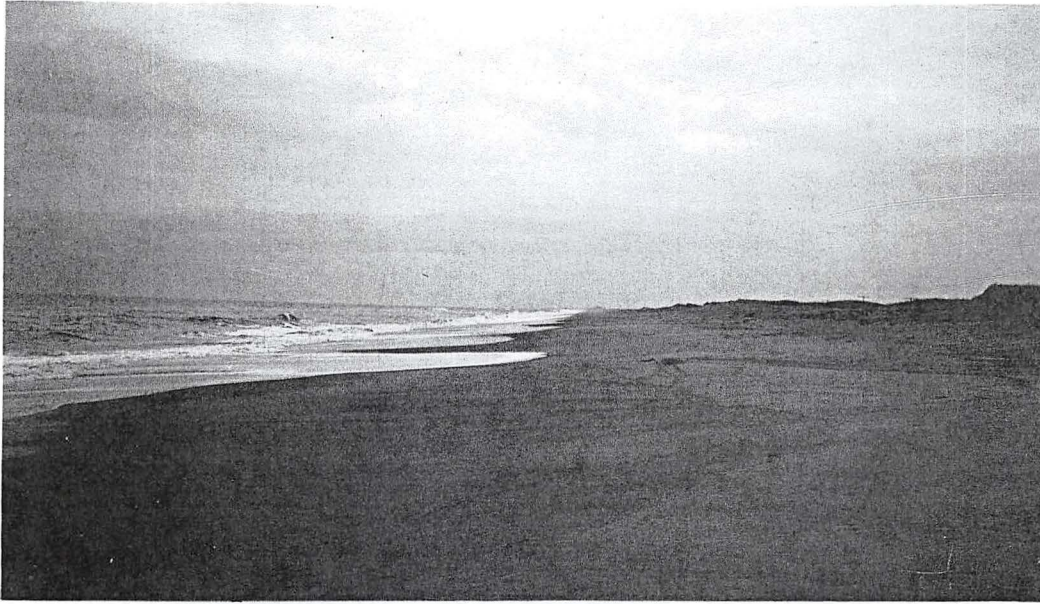
REPORT ON PROPOSED NATIONAL BEACH PARK, NEAR DUCK, NORTH CAROLINA

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

- I. Location: This area lies between the Currituck Sound on the west and the Atlantic Ocean on the east. Its southern limit is .5 mile north of Paul Gamiel Hill Coast Guard Station and extends along a line perpendicular to the ocean front from the ocean to the sound. Its north boundary is parallel to and 4 miles to the north of its south boundary and runs from the Atlantic Ocean to Currituck Sound. This area is designated the "DUCK AREA".
- II. Present Means of Access: At present this area is accessible only by a sandy, hilly, woodland trail on the south and a sand beach road on the north, running along the sound side.
- III. Extent of Area: There are approximately 1600 acres in this tract which includes about 4 miles of excellent ocean front beach for surf swimming and about the same length of water frontage on the sound, about 2 miles of which, toward the northern portion of this area, is sand beach which would be ideal for those preferring smooth, more shallow and warmer water for swimming and for children.
- IV. Physical Characteristics:
 - A. Scenic Values: The present sand trail along the sound side winds gracefully through vales and over hills studded with dog wood, several species of oak, gums, hickories, and stately pines as far as the woodland extends, sand dunes peeping through the trees to the east and to the west the smooth waters of the sound are seen, and past the woods, probably a half mile north of the little village of Duck, this trail lies along the smooth beach between the sound and the dunes. This trail could be utilized ideally as the nucleus of a beautiful bridal path system. Near the north end of this area rises one of the loftiest and most picturesque dunes to be found anywhere along this coast. It is probably 70 or 80 feet in height and occupies about one half of the distance from the sound to the sea at that point. From this dune to the southern boundary of this tract is a continuous series of smaller, but interesting dunes. To the north is more or less flat country, studded here and there with large clusters of wax myrtles. Between the line of dunes and the ocean and extending the entire length of the beach are innumerable knolls and hillocks, partially covered with grasses and sea oats.

Nearby and to the south is the Wright Memorial Monument in Kill Devil Hill National Monument reservation, commemorating the first successful conquest of the air, and a few miles farther south is historic Roanoke Island, with old Fort Raleigh, the site of the first attempt at colonization by the English in the New World and where the first English child was born in America.

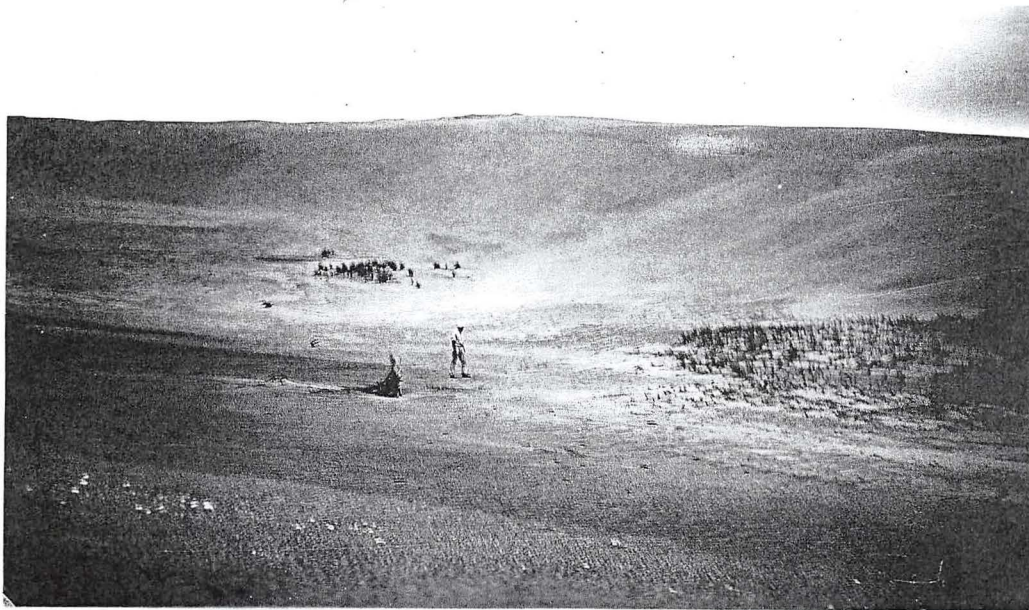
(See pictures following)



Ocean beach looking south from north end



Sound beach looking north



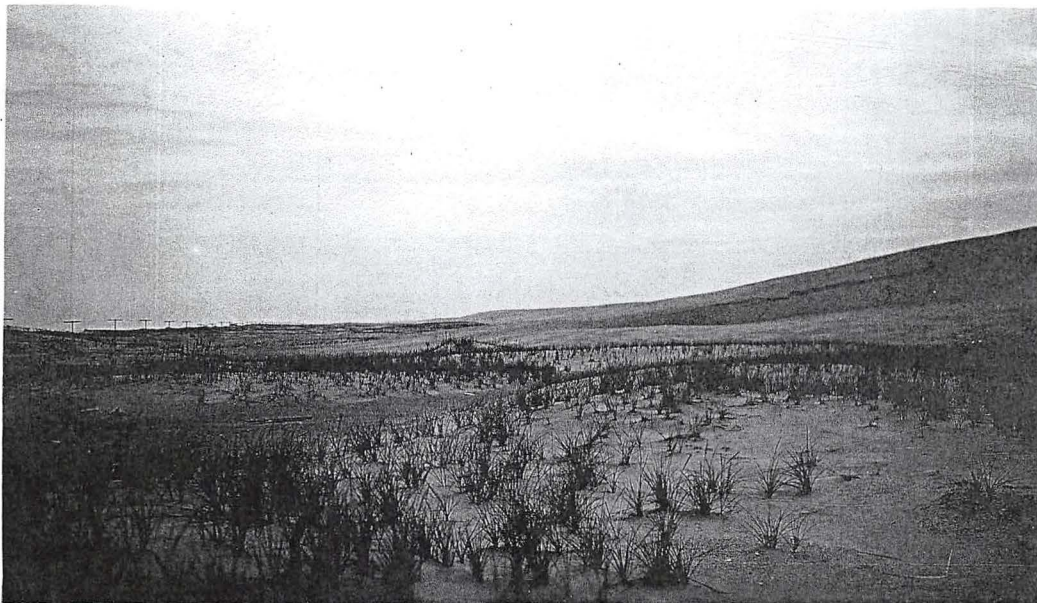
Northern dune, 600 feet from ocean



Looking south along sound shore from top of northern dune
(Ocean in background at left)



Looking north from top of a sand dune, showing dune near
north end of area and view of Currituck Sound



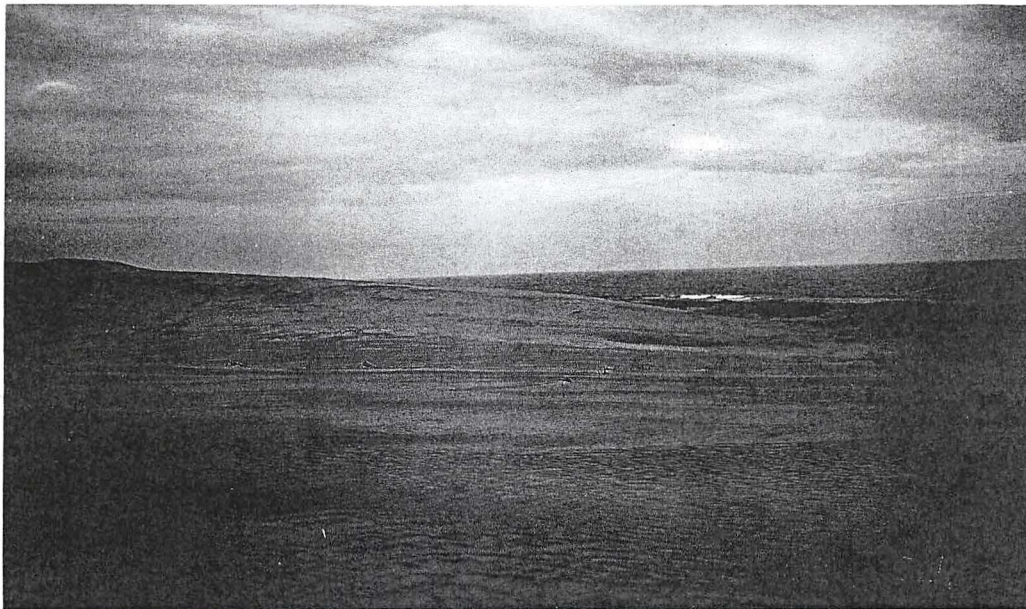
View from point near north boundary looking south between
line of sand dunes and the ocean bank



Looking south east from dunes to ocean



View southward from ocean bank in northern section



Looking north east from dunes to ocean



View in southern section of area looking north east,
showing ocean bank and ocean

IV. Physical Characteristics.

B. Character of Beaches.

1. Width: Average width of beach on ocean 180 feet and on sound 125 feet.
2. Color and Texture of Sand: Fine, rounded, yellow sand to small gravel on ocean side, and fine, weathered, yellow to white sand on sound beach. Some sharp, fine to coarse sand is also found on the ocean beach.
3. Slope: Slope of ocean beach 7%; sound beach 2%; running practically uniform throughout the length of each respective beach.
4. Undertow: Undertow is noticeable but not very strong nor dangerous on ocean side and absent altogether, of course, on sound side.
5. Protection: On the ocean side a sand bar or reef several hundred feet from shore and parallel with the beach acts as a protecting barrier, diminishing considerably the momentum and size of the largest waves and decreasing the undertow.

C. Present Development: About 1.75 miles north of the southern boundary of this area is the little village of Duck, of a population of some 75 or 100, about .3 mile wide and extending 1.1 miles along the sound, which will not be a part of the national beach park although it lies within the boundaries of the park area. Two or three small houses are in the proposed park area, and the U. S. Coast Guard telephone and telegraph line traverses this area along the ocean side.

D. Currituck Sound affords an excellent harbor for small craft, as well as for larger boats and yachts. Fishing is of the best order in both sound and sea.

E. A considerable quantity of hardwoods and pine are found in the 300 or 400 acres of woodland which extends from the southern limit along the sound side probably 2.5 miles to the north. It would be conservative to estimate the value of the timber on this acreage at \$30. per acre.

F. Wildlife Value: The wooded section affords a natural habitat for all varieties of game common to this part of the country, and on the shimmering waters of Currituck Sound are found wild ducks of every kind and as numerous as are ever found in any other section along the Atlantic seaboard. Also, geese and all other water fowl common to the east are abundant. Here is a favorite resting and feeding ground in winter for all varieties of water fowl, including large numbers of snowy white trumpeter swans. *whistler*

G. Probable Cost of Land: 850 acres in the north portion of this area can be purchased for about \$20. per acre and the remaining 750 acres to the south for about \$30. per acre, making the total cost of land for this proposed national beach park about \$39500.

H. Special Matter of Interest: Very few mosquitoes are found in this area; they are much less abundant here than in similar areas between this and Oregon Inlet to the south. The waters here - sound and sea alike - are clear, unspoiled and unpolluted, and there is nothing to hamper the peace, quiet, and enjoyment of the

IV. Physical Characteristics.

H. Special Matter of Interest - Continued:

thousands of seekers after health and pleasure who would come annually to this area.

From the climatic standpoint no section along the middle Atlantic coastline is superior. Here the salt laden ocean breezes temper and keep cool and pleasant the summer months, and the warming effects of the Gulf Stream rarely ever permit the presence of ice formation in winter. No malaria, typhoid fever, or other illnesses, are common in this unique country.

DEVELOPMENT SUGGESTIONS:

I. New Roads and Boat Approaches: It would be desirable to extend a 18-foot hard surface road along the ocean front from the Virginia Dare Trail on the south to this area and then along the entire length of the proposed park, with two such roads crossing the area from sound to sea - one near the southern and the other near the northern limit. A total of approximately 9 miles of new road should be built which could be done, using a cold asphalt mix with local sand, at a cost of about \$6000. per mile, including grading, or a total cost of \$54000. A small wharf and approach should be constructed on the sound side at a cost of perhaps \$1000.

II. Desirable Accommodations: A large bath house, with comfort stations, showers and clothes lockers, and a pavilion for picnics and to serve as a shelter should be provided near the ocean beach. A smaller bath house, with comfort stations, showers and clothes lockers, should be built near the sound beach, and automobile parking spaces and small shelters should be constructed at intervals along each beach.

III. Development Costs:

Bath house, with comfort stations, showers and clothes lockers on the ocean side	\$ 8000.
Bath house, with comfort stations, showers and clothes lockers on sound side	3000.
Picnic pavilion	3000.
10 small shelters at \$300. each	3000.
Electric plant, wiring, etc.	3500.
Water supply, shallow well, tank, and piping	3000.
Septic tanks and piping	2500.
TOTAL	<u>\$ 26000.</u>

The Coast Guard telephone and telegraph line traverses the length of this area. Nearest electric power line is 11 miles south.

IV. Circulation: As previously indicated, a new road should be constructed from the Virginia Dare Trail to and through the length of the area, with two cross roads from sound to sea. Woodland roads which could be utilized for bridal paths and trails are already more or less established and could be extended, if desired, at very little cost.

Map of this area attached.