

# THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT PHILADELPHIA

## September 2016 Newsletter

Happy Birthday, Fire Island National Seashore!



Smith Point County Park on a July weekday.

The New York region's only extensive remaining ocean front suitable for public recreation is in Suffolk County. There, some 60 miles of shoreline are relatively undeveloped. Thirty-three miles of this are recommended for inclusion in the proposed Fire Island National Seashore.

### **Long Island's Recreation Resources**

While much of the New York region's shoreline has recreation value, not all of the shoreline is equally desirable for outdoor recreation. The north shore of Long Island, for example, is highly indented with bays and coves. It is primarily a low bluff-type shore.

In contrast, Long Island's south shore--including Fire Island--is entirely a sand beach, backed by low sand dunes. The barrier beaches are cut in several places by large inlets opening to extensive, shallow, marshy salt-water bays.

Of the three types of shore--bluff, marsh, and beach--the most popular for recreation is the sand beach. Less than one-third of New York's recreation shoreline is classified as beach.

At present, Long Island's State parks provide most of the public shore recreation opportunities on the Island. The opportunities provided in these parks, however, are focused principally on concentrated use. There is a need in the highly populated New York metropolitan region to provide the public, as well, with an opportunity to enjoy the natural values associated with the seashore.

Fire Island can accommodate large numbers of visitors at existing State and county parks. It also can provide much-needed opportunities for extensive recreation activities that require natural and uncrowded conditions.

The National Archives at Philadelphia

September 2016

The National Archives at Philadelphia is located at:

14700 Townsend Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19154  
(215) 305-2044  
Philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

[Page 1: Fire Island National Seashore](#)

[Page 2: Upcoming Events and Initiatives](#)

[Page 3: Summer Diversity Intern: Amellia Fiske](#)

[Page 4: Reminders](#)

The National Archives at Philadelphia research room is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Researchers can also call to schedule an appointment to view textual records in our text research room.

September marks the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding of Fire Island National Seashore located on Long Island, New York. Fire Island is a narrow barrier island that stands between the Long Island coastline and the Atlantic Ocean. During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, both the Federal Government and the State Government of New York made efforts to preserve and protect Fire Island—recognizing its pristine beauty and the fact that it was one of few remaining undeveloped stretches of coastline on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States.

In 1924 the Federal Government allowed the State of New York to protect four miles of the western half of Fire Island (what is now called Robert Moses State Park). In 1955 the National Park Service surveyed Fire Island and strongly urged Congress to establish Fire Island as a National Seashore—but Congress failed to move on the issue.

A severe hurricane which damaged the Eastern Sea-board in 1962 renewed efforts to protect Fire Island as a National Seashore until finally on September 11, 1964, Fire Island National Seashore was established.

The images featured here come from a detailed prospectus prepared by the National Park Service in March 1964 to justify the establishment of Fire Island National Seashore protecting its natural beauty, its ecosystems, and its scenic wonders for the enjoyment of all its visitors. The prospectus offers images of Fire Island in all its beauty.

Curious to know what else you might uncover in our National Park Service holdings? You can make an appointment to view them in our research room by calling us at 215-305-2044 or e-mailing us at [philadelphia.archives@nara.gov](mailto:philadelphia.archives@nara.gov).

This post was written by Matthew DiBiase, Archives Specialist at the National Archives at Philadelphia.

Citations:

*Page eight of the proposal recommending the establishment of the Fire Island National Seashore. The page shows sunbathers on the shoreline and discusses the recreational resources available to visitors.*

*Fire Island National Seashore: a proposal sent to the Secretary of the Interior and the head of the bureau of outdoor recreation dated March 1964; File L58-Fire Island NS 1953-1964; Box 34; Asset ID #HC1-80635374; General Correspondence 1952-1966; Northeast Field Office, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service; National Archives at Philadelphia (Record Entry ID: PH-3512) (NAID: 37489672)*

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

**The National Archives at Philadelphia does not have any upcoming onsite events.** However, we will be participating in the following local program:

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia Annual Genealogy Fair:

Date: September 11, 2016

National Archives at Philadelphia – September 2016 Newsletter

Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: Congregation Keneseth Israel  
Old York Rd (Route 611), at Township Line (Route 73)  
Elkins Park, PA

More than fifteen stations with information to help you trace your ancestry. Free parking and admission. For more information about the Genealogy Fair, please see the following website:  
<http://www.jsgp.org/index.html>

Additionally, there are many NARA programs available online. See a notable example below:

### "AMENDING AMERICA"

A notable NARA initiative is the Amending America program, which is Highlighting the remarkably American story of how we have amended, or attempted to amend, the Constitution in order to form a nation that more closely mirrors our ideals. 2016 marks the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, one of our nation's early attempts to form "a more perfect union." In honor of this milestone, the National Archives encourages the nation to engage in thoughtful debate and discussion of how our ancestors sought to create a more just society and how we do so today.

Through our series of *National Conversations on Rights and Justice*, we invite Americans to explore a range of contemporary issues, addressing the tension between individual rights and collective responsibilities, a process that began with the Bill of Rights.

Want to learn more? Tune in to hear the Know Your Records series video, [U.S. Constitutional Amendments](#), during which co-curator Christine Blackerby discusses the records in our new exhibit, "Amending America."

### Summer Diversity Intern at the National Archives at Philadelphia!

Amelia, our 2016 Summer Diversity Intern, has just completed her 10-week internship at the National Archives at Philadelphia. Throughout the internship, Amelia researched records from our holdings, wrote for our social media outlets, curated an online exhibit, and developed an information guide to records of World War I at the National Archives at Philadelphia (forthcoming). Please join us in thanking Amelia for her hard work, and wishing her the best of luck!



## Reminders

All research and public access areas in every archival facility across the National Archives network, except the Presidential Libraries and Federal Records Centers, will be closed to the public on September 15, 2016.

 Follow the National Archives at Philadelphia on [Facebook](#) and [Tumblr](#) for featured highlights from our collection! We'll be commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service throughout 2016 by highlighting some of our many NPS records.

**Are you on the National Archives Mailing List?** If the answer is "no," then e-mail us with your contact information to [Philadelphia.archives@nara.gov](mailto:Philadelphia.archives@nara.gov). *Per the Privacy Act of 1974 we will not share your personal information with third parties.*