

**Visitor Services Project  
Fire Island National Seashore  
Report Summary**

- This report describes the results of a study of Fire Island National Seashore (NS) residents and homeowners, mailed on May 16, 2008, with a pre-notification sent on May 9, 2008. A total of 672 questionnaires were sent to a random sample of people who own or live in homes that lie within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore. Addresses were taken from the Town of Brookhaven and Town of Islip tax rolls for owners of homes on Fire Island, or who were identified as year-round residents on Fire Island. Additional addresses came from a list of the homeowners with full-time or part-time driving permits. Of those 672 addresses, 13 were not deliverable, reducing the usable sample size to 659. A total of 258 questionnaires were returned resulting in a 39.2% response rate.
- This report profiles a systematic random sample of homeowners within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore. Most results are presented in graphs and frequency tables. Summaries of comments are included in the report and complete comments are included in the Comments Appendix.
- Thirty-one percent (31%) of respondents were in groups of five or more and 27% were in groups of two. Thirty-nine percent (39%) were in groups of family and friends.
- United States residents comprised nearly 100% of the respondents, from New York (84%) and 13 other states and Washington, D.C. International respondents represented less than 1% of the total sample population, but this data should be viewed with caution, due to a low number of respondents that answered this question.
- Forty percent (40%) of respondents were ages 41-60 years, 26% were 61 years or older, and 15% were ages 15 years or younger. Six percent (6%) of groups reported physical conditions that made it difficult to access or participate in park services or activities.
- One percent (1%) of the respondents were Hispanic or Latino and 99% were White.
- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents were seasonal residents of Fire Island, staying 3-6 months a year, while 17% live on Fire Island all year round.
- Most respondents (67%) used the Fire Island properties and/or facilities during the last 12 months. Fifty-six percent (56%) of groups occasionally used the park properties/facilities. The months during which respondents most commonly used the park properties/facilities were August 2007 (76%) and July 2007 (74%).
- Most respondents obtained or updated their information about Fire Island NS through friends/relatives/word of mouth (64%) and newspapers/magazine articles (61%). Thirty percent (30%) of respondents did not stay updated on information about the park activities/rules and regulations.
- Of the sites operated by the National Park Service, beaches were used by 76% of respondents, and 51% visited the Fire Island Lighthouse.
- Of the activities in which respondents engaged on *previous* trips to Fire Island NS, beach activities was the most common (75%), followed by spending time with family and friends (65%). The most common activities on *this* trip were also beach activities (79%) and spending time with family and friends (65%).
- Most respondents (67%) rated the overall quality of services, facilities, and recreational opportunities at Fire Island NS as “very good” or “good.” fewer than one percent of rated the overall quality as “very poor” or “poor.”

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho at (208) 885-7863 or the following website <http://www.psu.uidaho.edu>.