

N20. Feb. 20, 1966

Million Expected at Cape Lookout Park

By ROY PARKER JR.
News and Observer Bureau

WASHINGTON — The National Parks Service expects to move slowly but steadily toward opening up North Carolina's newest national seashore to a flood of summer visitors.

The service expects that a million visitors a year will be heading for Cape Lookout National Seashore Recreation Area within five years.

To handle the flood, the service has a \$3.2 million development program which emphasizes the simple pleasures of sand, sea, and surf and retention of the wild, lonely

character of the long beaches.

The plan envisions a sprinkling of small boat marinas, campgrounds, beach access areas, and fishing camps on Shackleford Banks and Core Banks, and preservation of Portsmouth Island and its ghost village as a major historical attraction.

At the same time, the service plan expects private enterprise to provide the major accommodations and services for the flood of annual visitors.

For the time being, however, the development program will center on a single objective—quick acquisition of remaining privately-held acre-

ages within the seashore boundaries.

A superintendent will set up an office in Beaufort to begin studying the land problem. Funds for acquisition will be available later this year.

The service estimates it will cost \$161,000 to acquire Shackleford Banks. The state is seeking additional funds to acquire remaining privately-held land on Core Banks and Portsmouth.

High priority also has been given to the search for an approximately 40-acre site in the vicinity of Beaufort for the seashore's headquarters.

Clark Stratton, assistant director of the National Park Service, said last week the

service will emphasize "negotiation . . . not condemnation" in its land acquisition program.

Top priority in the \$2.9 million construction program of the service centers on facilities for Shackleford Banks and the Cape Lookout point area.

For Shackleford, the service plans four major visitor-use areas—two campgrounds on the western end of the island, a picnic area in the central part, and the largest development just across from Beaufort consisting of ferry landing, marina, swimming and fishing areas, and staff residences.

Roads will connect the Shackleford areas. Otherwise the service proposes no vehicular traffic on the islands, except by carefully-controlled "beach buggy" concessionaires.

On Cape Lookout itself, the service plans interpretative facilities, campground, picnic area, and guarded areas for swimming and surf fishing. At Lighthouse Bay three miles north of the point, plans call for a marina, campground, and small store for fishing and camping supplies.

An area of 250 acres, now in private hands, is excluded from the park in the lighthouse area. It will be restricted by Carteret County

zoning for private cottages.

On Portsmouth Island, the service plans to preserve Portsmouth village, making it the center of an historical interpretative facility, campground, marina, and store.

Development of small areas on the long sweep of Core Banks will probably wait for at least a beginning of the \$5.8 million artificial sand dune-building project of the Army Corps of Engineers.

That project, which probably won't begin until late 1968, calls for dredging of sand from Core Sound to construct a dune along badly eroded Core Banks.

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Ferry Service Resumes

CAPE LOOKOUT — Cape Lookout Ferry Co. has announced resumption of passenger service between Cape Lookout and Harkers Island, for the current season.

A spokesman said there will be two trips daily on Saturdays and Sundays beginning Saturday. He said full service, seven days a week, will begin May 1.

The ferry will leave Harkers

Island at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. and will leave Cape Lookout on return trips at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Cape Lookout on Core Banks has recently become the nation's newest national seashore recreation area.

It is of important historical interest and a popular fishing and beach spot on the North Carolina Outer Banks. It is accessible only by boat.