

RESOLUTION 2006- 254

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA; SUPPORTING AND RECOMMENDING CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN "ALTERNATIVE C" TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida is in agreement with the findings of "Alternative C" attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, this plan will offer living history to visitors through costumed interpretations and period crafts; and

WHEREAS, this plan will enhance visitor experience by offering many opportunities to experience an authentic feeling of being in the historical period through exhibits, videos, demonstrations, and interpretive talks in a new visitor center located off-site; and

WHEREAS, the new full service visitor center would be located in the Spanish Quarter of St. Augustine; and

WHEREAS, this plan will involve substantial expansion of the fort green and glacis and removal of modern intrusions from two of the fort's casemates; and

WHEREAS, the view of the fort at the entrance would be enhanced by removing the ticket booth and relocating the ticket sales function to a compatible site in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA; and

WHEREAS, the ranger offices would be removed to the new off-site visitor center and the original walls of these casemates would be repaired as necessary; and

WHEREAS, the glacis and fort green would be expanded to a greater extent than in all the other alternatives by removing a large portion of the existing visitor parking lot and contouring and grassing the area to match existing conditions on the remainder of the site; and

WHEREAS, additional parking would be available in the City's new parking garage behind its Visitor Information Center and tourist trains would drop off visitors at the new off-site visitor center.

WHEREAS, the sidewalk would be widened to meet the anticipated increase in volume of visitors to the fort and to offer them greater safety when traveling to the fort.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are accepted as findings of fact and are incorporated by reference herein.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida supports and recommends "Alternative C" as Castillo de Marco's General Management Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 25th day of July, 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: James E. Bryant
James Bryant, Chairman

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Robert L. Platt
Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE 7/26/2006

Effective Date: 7-25-06



ALTERNATIVE C

General Theme. This alternative, in phase 1, seeks to replace more of the parking lot with a graded fort green and glaxis to a more historic look than in Alternative B. Like Alternative B, this alternative retains the administrative, maintenance, and facilities management functions in their current locations while, in phase 2, it returns 2 of the fort's casemates to their previous condition and locates the visitor center authorized by Public Law 108-480 in a very convenient off-site location. The administrative functions removed from the fort would be relocated to this new facility.

Visitor Experience. The visitor would have many opportunities to experience an authentic feeling of being in the historical period through:

- Substantial expansion of the fort green and glaxis and removal of modern intrusions from two of the fort's casemates.
- Living history, costumed interpretation, period crafts and demonstrations.

In addition, the visitor experience would be substantially enhanced through exhibits, videos, demonstrations, and interpretive talks that would be found in the new visitor center which would be located off-site.

Resource Conditions. Some non-historic administrative functions (ranger offices) would be removed from the fort and those two casemates would be returned to their previous condition. The restrooms, Eastern National Bookstore, and other administrative uses of casemates would remain in the fort.

- Administrative offices and the maintenance compound would remain

in their current locations at the north end of the site.

- The glaxis and fort green would be expanded to a greater extent than in all the other alternatives by removing a large portion of the existing visitor parking lot and contouring and grassing the area to match existing conditions on the remainder of the site.
- The view of the fort at the entrance would be enhanced by removing the ticket booth and relocating the ticket sales function to a compatible site in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA.
- The sidewalk from the north end of the site to the south end would be widened slightly to improve the safety of an anticipated increase in visitors walking from the new city parking structure to the fort entrance.

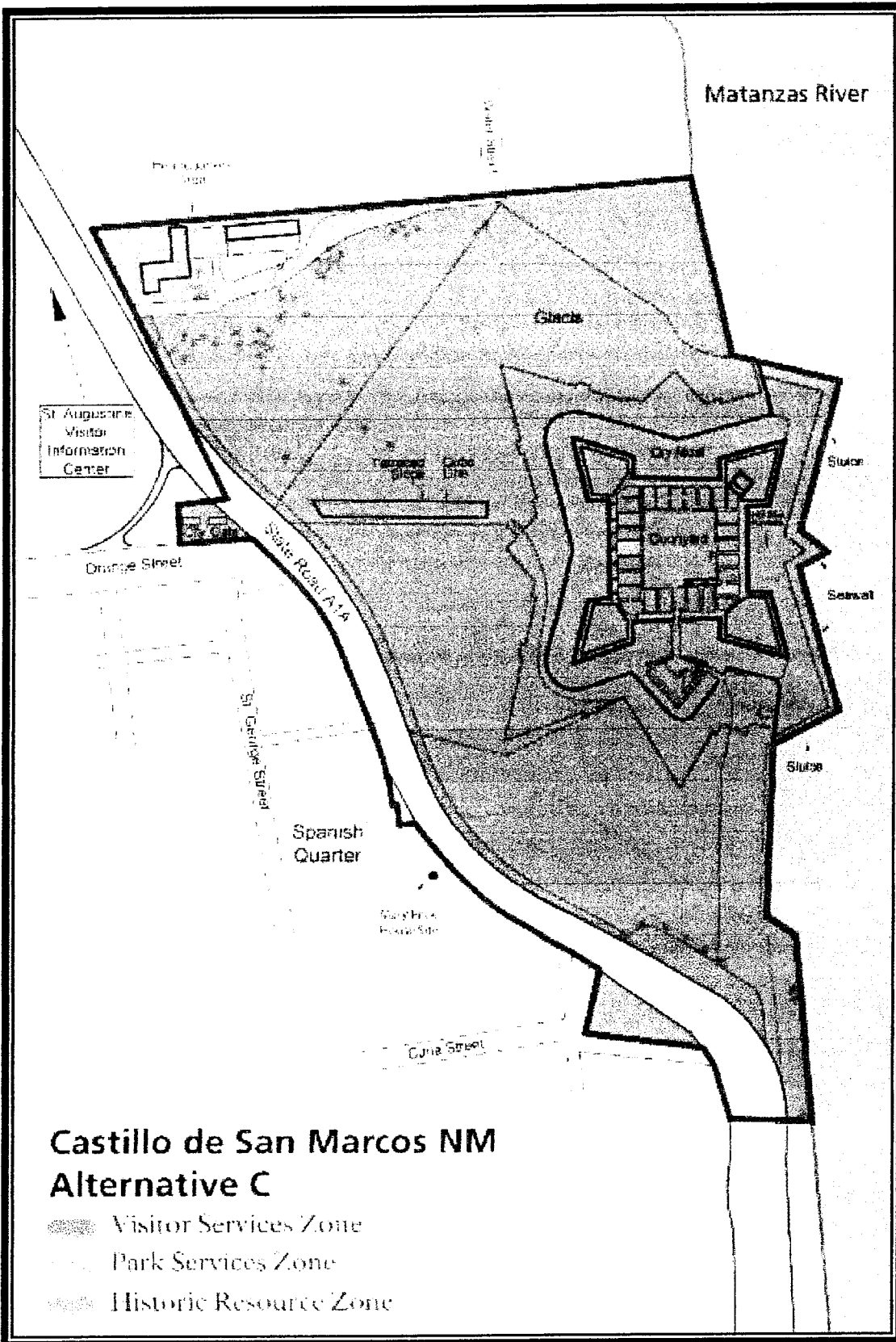
Administrative Uses of the Fort. The ranger offices would be removed from two casemates in the fort and relocated to a new visitor center to be located off site. The original coquina walls of these casemates would be repaired as necessary.

Visitor Center. A new, full-service visitor center would be located in the Spanish Quarter of St. Augustine. One possible location would be vacant land directly across State Road A1A from the north entrance to the current visitor parking lot. Part of this land, currently owned by the City of St. Augustine, is the former site of the Mary Peck' house and part is land owned by the State of Florida. Public Law

¹ The long time home of St. Augustine native, Mary LaVerne Peck, the two-story house was built between 1904 and 1910 and remained a residence throughout its occupancy. The house had been vacant since Peck's death in 1996. It was relocated to property owned by Historic Tours of America on November 18, 2004.

108-480 provides the authority for expanding the park boundary, acquiring property by donation, purchase or exchange, and constructing the visitor center. However, provisions of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, from which the NPS obtains land acquisition monies, require that land owned by state or local governments be obtained only by donation. The design of the visitor center would conform to the most current policies and concepts with regard to sustainability.

Parking. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the visitor parking lot would be removed and the area would be contoured and grassed to match the existing fort green and glaciis. There would be some paved area retained for accessible parking spaces. Additional parking will be available in the City's new parking garage currently under construction behind its Visitor Information Center. The St. Augustine tourist trains would drop off visitors at the new visitor center off-site.



FACTORS	ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION)	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE CASTLE Experience which alternative retains easements to historic evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to use 7 easements for visitor and park services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to use 4 easements for visitor and park services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to use 5 easements for visitor and park services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to use 4 easements for visitor and park services
PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE LANDSCAPE. Extent to which fort uses non-historic features. Uses are present in the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove modern intrusions from 3 easements Remove & relocate fee station to less sensitive area Remove 2 3 of parking lot Construct visitor center in headquarters area Widen sidewalk & construct 2 wayside areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove modern intrusions from 2 easements Remove & relocate fee station to less sensitive area Remove 3 4 of parking lot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove modern intrusions from 3 easements Remove & relocate fee station to less sensitive area Continue location of parking lot & trailer train bus drop zone in the landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove modern intrusions from 3 easements Remove & relocate fee station to less sensitive area Continue location of parking lot & trailer train bus drop zone in the landscape
PROVIDE CONVENIENT VISITOR ACCESS. Distance to visitor parking for visitor access to the fort entrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new visual intrusions in landscape Maintain general parking & train bus drop zone at fort entrance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General parking at new city facility Maintain handicapped parking & train bus drop zone at fort entrance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General parking at new city facility Maintain handicapped parking & train bus drop zone at fort entrance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain general parking & train bus drop zone at fort entrance
PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE VISITOR EXPERIENCE. Degree to which the alternative provides the visitor with more diverse experiences, including both Civilian and Military life at St. Augustine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All interpretive activities occur at the Castle Primary focus is on military life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct visitor center at the park near headquarters to orient visitors & expand interpretation of Castillo and St. Augustine Use 3 additional easements to accept military life at the Castle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct visitor center at Spanish Quarter to orient visitors & expand interpretation of Castillo and St. Augustine Use 2 additional easements to accept military life at the Castle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use 3 additional easements to interpret military life at the Castle
TOTAL IMPORTANCE OF ADVANTAGES	105	180	240	225