

<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>Feedback on the Planning Advisory Group (PAG) Presentation</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	FMA and planners need to think regionally.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Presentation showed only FM, Phoebus, and Hampton as important in planning. Ways to bring Norfolk and Portsmouth visitors to the fort should be included in plans. Existing, as well as newly implemented passenger ferries and tour boats, should be encouraged to make stops at FM. A great restaurant near the docking point would attract many. A reliable and frequent pick up tour bus could help circulate these visitors around the fort and to local cities. Quality tourism attractions at FM, in Phoebus, and Hampton would almost guarantee many visitors.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	3
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	A trolley run from the Fort to downtown Hpt and Pen Town Center
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Need revenue generating draws to the Fort. Also groceries, restaurant, period type housing, camping. Too much open space is NOT a draw there. It has few trees and little character outside of the existing homes, Casemate and Batteries. The 'been here' folks have a false sense of how wonderful Hampton is compared to the rest of the country.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Pat W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	2
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	"Escape from Fort Monroe" Duathlon and/or Triathlon event
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Fort would make a unique destination venue for a multisport race in the spirit of the annual event at Alcatraz and the duathlon previously held at Fort Story. The site could host a 5k running course in and around the fort itself, and a 20 mile looped cycling course around the island and nearby areas such as Phoebus and Buckroe Beach. While I doubt the moat would be suitable for swimming, the beaches could certainly host a swimming or even kayak racing event in the bay. Local race management & timing company Mettle Events has experience running these types of events. Also, J&A Racing has been running several very popular running events at the VB Oceanfront for years.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Mark A
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	2
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Economic considerations
<b>Idea Detail</b>	As in past presentations, this one concentrated on economic needs for FM. Very little thought and consideration has been given to the idea of a truly open (undeveloped) Wherry Quarter. That is a problem! There is overwhelming public support for an undeveloped Wherry Quarter. There is an overwhelming need in the Hampton Roads Region for an undeveloped Wherry Quarter. In fact, the area may be the last chance in Hampton Roads to create a large open area for the benefit of the public. Developing the acreage only to raise money for the operation of the fort, is short sighted at the least, and a continuation of the planning disaster seen as local and state governments allowed most all beach front and open land to be developed. It is very possible that tourism related fees and support by local and the state government could close the economic gap created by not developing the acreage and over time, removing the existing building at the end of their service life.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	We need to develop the land at the fort . Bring in the money to pay for its self. Have summer concerts like in the past . You have all that open space on the creek side lets use it. Just look at other cities. like va. beach   By John W
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>Share your feelings about Fort Monroe</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres
<b>Idea Detail</b>	It's time for friends of Fort Monroe--and of American history, and of prospects for civic enrichment led by economic enrichment--to reassert the need for swift-as-possible unification of the two parts of the split national monument.  This forum's first round's two top vote-getting (i.e., most "seconded") ideas--by far--called for unifying the split national monument/park by incorporating the missing, sense-of-place-defining bayfront land shown in red in the accompanying illustration. (See link below.)  The idea "Let's make a REAL national monument/park!" (link below) came from the conservative politician Tom Gear, honored formally this year by the nonpartisan citizens committee Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park for years of Fort Monroe leadership.  The idea "Virginian-Pilot calls for including missing bayfront Wherry land" reported an editorial (link below) in Tidewater's leading daily newspaper that began, "The Wherry Quarter, roughly 100 acres of state-owned waterfront land dividing two sections of the new Fort Monroe National Monument, should be permanently set aside as open space and added to the park as soon as possible." The editors declared, "Protecting the waterfront from development--any development--is critical to securing the integrity of the new national monument. Its value as a historic site, a natural resource and tourist attraction will be degraded if the Wherry Quarter is not preserved." Please note that word "degraded."  The editors ended by advocating adamant insistence: "Various state and federal officials have said they've heard that message
<b>Idea Author</b>	Steve C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	91
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	58
<b>Comment 1</b>	I will add to Sandra C's comment below that not only residential development is unwise in the WQ, so is business development. In fact new development on any part of FM is unwise. The WQ is no lower in elevation than most of developed area of FM.   By Ron W

<b>Comment 2</b>	The idea of making the WQ a part of the National Monument is outstanding and one I fully support. I hope it will happen. However, given the financial condition of this country and the poor treatment of NPS financial needs it may never happen or not happen for many years. That makes it important for the public to let the FMA know we want them to keep the area open and undeveloped and that it needs to provide the recreational activities and management that it would receive under NPS management.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 3</b>	Ron W's comment falls in step with comments by Hampton city officials who in today's paper admit FM does have a flooding problem and evacuations would be difficult. What isn't mentioned are the flood-related damages and expenses Hampton already incurs from flooding throughout other areas in the city. Hampton taxpayers do not need to foot the bill for more over-development in Hampton's low-lying areas, and FM's Wherry Quarter is one of those areas. Hampton's flood-related expenses already are high enough, and they keep occurring over and over again. Keep the Wherry Quarter open and undeveloped, and let it provide the recreational activities the public and the vets, if need be, can enjoy until the area receives the management it should have under NPS management. Hampton taxpayers only will incur more horribly high flood-related expenses if residential housing is permitted within Wherry Quarter, something Hampton officials didn't mention when they said FM has a flooding problem.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 4</b>	"Let the FMA know...to keep the area open and undeveloped." Yes! But with respect, that phrasing has failure potential built in. Ron and others in the dedicated but public-excluding committee Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park--which I cofounded (and which is treated by reporters as speaking for the public)--think carefully about strategy. But I question some of their judgments. One is their unwise recurring failure to follow the Pilot editors' advice to be persistently forthright about unification. Now, if unification must be delayed for practical reasons, fine. But as one CFMNP leader has declared, the FMA should all the same develop a solid plan for swift-as-possible unification, on whatever schedule circumstances demand. Yes! And by its own founding principles, the committee should consistently say so. Public question for CFMNP: Though this idea posting is smashing all the vote records, you're not saying much, and now Ron is expressing what's almost a reservation. What gives?   By Steve C
<b>Comment 5</b>	Steve, the reality of Federal funding of the NPS, as it is today, may delay NPS acceptance of any additional land into the National Monument. If that happens, the public needs to continue pressure on the FMA to not develop the WQ until such time the Feds will once again begin to fund NPS units the way they need to be funded. You mention the CFMNP in your comment. I am speaking for myself and not for the Citizens group. I am expressing not a reservation, but a potential reality.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 6</b>	Ron, I understand that reality and don't disagree with you about it -- as far as it goes. The problem, though, is that the Fort Monroe struggle is so complex and lasts so many years that it's important not to let first principles be obscured. I believe that that's why the Pilot editorial ( <a href="http://hamptonroads.com/2012/04/next-step-fort-monroe">http://hamptonroads.com/2012/04/next-step-fort-monroe</a> ) urges forthright, consistent, persistent and above all simple and clear insistence on unification. Let me ask either you or CFMNP or both another question: Why not simply insist on swift-as-possible unification (as the present idea posting does) since doing so *inherently* means that the omitted land shouldn't be developed? Then you'd be standing up plainly and clearly for what's needed, but also granting that practical realities may mean, as you say, that maybe it can't happen next week or next month. People are confused about Ft Monroe, in part because of the Big Lie that it's all already a national park. Plain, simple clarity matters here.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 7</b>	Ron, I understand that reality and don't disagree with you about it -- as far as it goes. The problem, though, is that the Fort Monroe struggle is so complex and lasts so many years that it's important not to let first principles be obscured. I believe that that's why the Pilot editorial ( <a href="http://hamptonroads.com/2012/04/next-step-fort-monroe">http://hamptonroads.com/2012/04/next-step-fort-monroe</a> ) urges forthright, consistent, persistent and above all simple and clear insistence on unification. Let me ask either you or CFMNP or both another question: Why not simply insist on swift-as-possible unification (as the present idea posting does) since doing so *inherently* means that the omitted land shouldn't be developed? Then you'd be standing up plainly and clearly for what's needed, but also granting that practical realities may mean, as you say, that maybe it can't happen fast. People are confused about Fort Monroe, in part because of the Big Lie that it's all already a national park. Plain, simple clarity matters here, if you ask me.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 8</b>	Steve C's idea cannot be improved, and today's Daily Press front page story proves it. Hampton officials say if a FM site is chosen as a veterans care center. it isn't safe for elderly, infirm vets, contending strong storms could flood the property and cut off their evacuation routes. Hampton says they can't guarantee the safety of vets because of "the existence of only one main entrance to and from the island." The State goes on to say they would not ask local emergency responders for help in evacuating patients ahead of a storm. Fine, but where does that leave residents of any homes built in Wherry Quarter, on which development is being requested in four of five choices proposed by Sasaki, the consulting firm hired by the FMA.? Today's story about FM being a possible site for the vets care center outlines all the more reasons why Wherry Quarter needs to be permanently sent aside as open space for later inclusion in the FMNM.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 9</b>	Good point Sandra C.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 10</b>	Steve C's idea cannot be improved, and today's Daily Press front page story proves it. Hampton officials say if a FM site is chosen as a veterans care center. it isn't safe for elderly, infirm vets, contending strong storms could flood the property and cut off their evacuation routes. Hampton says they can't guarantee the safety of vets because of "the existence of only one main entrance to and from the island." The OK, but where does that leave any residents of homes built in Wherry Quarter, on which development is being requested in four of five choices proposed by Sasaki, the consulting firm hired by the FMA. The State explains they would not ask local emergency responders for help in evacuating patients ahead of a storm.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 11</b>	Steve C's idea cannot be improved, and today's Daily Press front page story proves it. Hampton officials say if a FM site is chosen as a veterans care center. it isn't safe for elderly, infirm vets, contending strong storms could flood the property and cut off their evacuation routes. Hampton officials say they can't guarantee the safety of vets because of "the existence of only one main entrance to and from the island." Like this won't happen to residents of any homes built in Wherry Quarter, on which development is being requested in four of five choices proposed by Sasaki, the consulting firm hired by the FMA. The State explains they would not ask local emergency responders for help in evacuating patients ahead of a storm.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 12</b>	Sometimes it seems like the only goal for our area is to make a buck. I for one think we should be looking to make the Fort whole. If this can be accomplished it will to attract visitors to our area and to better our community. We need to think long term good vs. short term profit.   By Ellis M

<b>Comment 13</b>	Thanks, Ellis M. I'm with you. Moreover, a longstanding, deep irony in the struggle to save Fort Monroe is that even if your vision is so limited that you care only about financial enrichment -- and not about historical, recreational, environmental, and cultural enrichment -- a <u>real</u> national monument/park is <u>still</u> the best answer. Arguments to overdevelop Fort Monroe -- and to omit the red area shown in the illustration -- are, unwittingly, arguments to suboptimize Fort Monroe's potential, starting with its economic potential for Hampton, the region, and Virginia.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 14</b>	Below are excerpts from the Trust for Public Land's "Bracing for Change, Fort Monroe and the Need for Parkland in Hampton Roads." "... Even more striking is the deficit of public parkland along the shoreline in the Hampton Roads region compared to the three other port cities. Hampton Roads has almost twice as much city shoreline as New York City and more than nine times as much city shoreline as either Boston or the three San Francisco Bay cities. ... Both New York City and the San Francisco Bay area have double the percentage of parkland along the shore, while Boston has almost three and a half times as much waterfront parkland. This shortage deprives the region of many benefits that parks bring -- from recreational opportunities to natural preservation, from enhanced property value to greater tourism revenue, from improved human health outcomes to increased community cohesion thanks to volunteerism in parks and the increased competitiveness of the region....   By Adrian W
<b>Comment 15</b>	A lot of people worked hard to fund that study. Virginia's leaders had been ignoring the green-space dimension of the Fort Monroe question, so in good faith and in a hopeful spirit, citizens took it on themselves to have the waterfront green-space question professionally studied. But when the gentleman from the Trust for Public Land, investing a day of his time, came down from D.C. for no pay to present the findings at a Fort Monroe Authority meeting, one of the commissioners -- a well-known local figure -- tried to silence him before he had said more than a few sentences. This would-be censor claimed that the study's assumptions were wrong. This was a false charge, but even if true, it would not have justified that recurrence of the typical response of those who believe themselves entitled to have Fort Monroe for their own limited circle: if you say what we disagree with, we will try to silence you. Folks, we are up against serious people who do not intend to do right by Fort Monroe.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 16</b>	[Continued] ... to businesses considering relocating to the area, especially those with a significant number of white collar workers." (Excerpt from the Trust for Public Land's study "Bracing for Change, Fort Monroe and the Need for Parkland in Hampton Roads." Link to full study: <a href="http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf">http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf</a> ) The Wherry Quarter and the South Waterfront area need to be parkland to help fill this deficit of public parkland along the shoreline. See <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/</a> for more.   By Adrian W
<b>Comment 17</b>	We would suggest the incorporation of a national monument information center which will disseminate data about ALL of the nation's monuments (with perhaps focus on the Hampton Rds Historical Triangle and environs). A row of antique stores and/or vintage book shops might be a viable commercial outlet as a goal for a "real" natl park..   By Lawrence S
<b>Comment 18</b>	Lawrence S2, Real National Parks do not have the kind of shops you identify. The communities that surround parks provide those kinds of development.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 19</b>	The addition of the waterfront is as important as any aspect of this national monument park -- as others have noted, once lost these acres cannot be regained. For those who would desire and different plan that would allow economic developments, it is worth remembering that the point of this enterprise is not simply for ourselves but for the future. We must weigh the interests of generations who need to know this history, who need to have access to this beautiful place and the richness of it, against the short-term gains of a few developers. We must save this place.   By David K
<b>Comment 20</b>	(Responding to David K11) And besides, we can make the most money anyway by optimizing the asset. That's the big irony here. A handful of people keep saying oh, but what about the money? What about it indeed. In fact the way to make this place make money is to make it grand. Is Tidewater a world-class region or not? Regions at that level don't consign their most precious public waterfront to private use. There's plenty of room for development away from the sense-of-place-defining bayfront, and if we make something grand, it will pay off.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 21</b>	It is imperative that the entire property of the Ft. Monroe Base become a National Park. If the National Park is limited to certain regions, the resulting National Park will be a broken shell of what it could be. A discontinuous National Park site could over time, become overshadowed by development and the context of these historical sites and buildings will gradually be lost forever.  Instead, a Ft. Monroe National Park encompassing the entire property would be a truly unique site providing visitors access to the natural beauty of the Chesapeake Bay along with the historical and architectural landmarks that have witnessed some of the most important events in the history of this great country.  This is a unique opportunity to create a National Park where visitors from around the world could come to learn about how our nation was formed and developed, all while enjoying the natural beauty and resources that drew those first English colonists here before settling at Jamestown.   By Michael K
<b>Comment 22</b>	I thank this gentleman for his comment. I love the spirit of it. But I respectfully submit that patriots and true friends of Fort Monroe are better off advocating the footprint shown in the photo and map illustration above. (Be sure to click the + sign.) The west side of Old Point Comfort is already developed in ways that need to be permanent and that could sensibly, and profitably, be expanded. What we must do is shame grim, relentless politicians into taking steps in Washington to unify the national monument/park by including the area shown in red. Thanks. Steve Corneliusen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 23</b>	@ Steve C6. I think we are advocating for the same thing. A contiguous National Park site at Ft. Monroe. Admittedly, I excerpted my comment from a letter I sent last year to NPS, and my words did not convey that correctly here. As you say, the area in red is what is most vulnerable and must be preserved for future generations.   By Michael K
<b>Comment 24</b>	Let's do this right and include the bay front acres!!   By Lori Z
<b>Comment 25</b>	Let's have a real national park that people will come from around the country to visit.   By William B
<b>Comment 26</b>	Let me add that if some replacement apartments were built it MUST NOT BE A GATED COMMUNITY!   By Gene M
<b>Comment 27</b>	I could see a modernized version of Wherry Housing in at least part of the area where Wherry was. Not high rise, but the same two story concept with green space. Or a hotel/motel/restraunt complex, again two stories tall.   By Gene M

<b>Comment 28</b>	Sir: You say you "could see a modernized version of Wherry Housing in at least part of the area where Wherry was." Question: If the commonwealth somehow came into possession of Monticello, would you envision condos on the hillsides next to Thomas Jefferson's house? On the photo-and-map illustration shown above (and please click the + sign to really see it), even if Virginia's leaders finally relent and do their obvious duty of getting Washington to include the area marked in red in the national monument/park, there'll still be that "development area" on the west side. The best way to maximize enrichment of all kinds, including financial, is to fix the fake national monument while letting the existing village flourish -- but flourish on the west side, not on the sense-of-place-defining bayfront. The mountain setting defines sense of place at Monticello. The Chesapeake Bay defines it at Fort Monroe, and for the first 3+ centuries, there were no condos.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 29</b>	Steve, Wherry Housing WAS housing. Some is still in place though all are now vacant, I believe. You would be but continuing something that was on Fort Monroe from the early 1950s if not late 1940s. So I don't think your analogy is a very good one. This is why I said no more than two story and not a gated community. It would be a continuation of buildings that were lived in for more than sixty years.   By Gene M
<b>Comment 30</b>	Gene: That stuff came along after 3+ centuries of history at Fort Monroe. The sense of place that matters is that of the historic landscape going back four centuries. The several-decades presence of Wherry shacks and miscellaneous structures doesn't establish historical importance or green-space importance. And as to two stories, please run the experiment I recently ran. Go to the northeast rampart, stand on tiptoe, and you still can't see past the two-story structures. They are a blight, and would be a blight even if they got transformed into really nice new condos. This place is a national treasure. It is way bigger than your and my decades of cherishing modern Fort Monroe. You are obviously a good man. I hope you join our side and help us save this national treasure and its crucial Chesapeake Bay sense of place. The politicians won't save it unless we force them. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 31</b>	Excellent points Steve. The modern, second rate enlisted housing may have been appropriate for soldiers stationed at the fort but now, the need for them is gone. I hope that the FMA and their planners, and eventually the NPS will see the value of open space and the addition of that space to the National Monument. Replacement structures of any type are NOT needed.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 32</b>	The Wherry Quarter is the last chance for Hampton Roads to create something wonderful for the area and the nation. Let's not waste it on development.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 33</b>	If the bayfront acreage is not included in a Fort Monroe National Park, Virginia and America will lose a rare and valuable national asset. Let's keep our focus on the future and not short term profit.   By William V
<b>Comment 34</b>	Please don't sacrifice the bayfront acreage on the altar of commercial development. This is PUBLIC land and should be used for PUBLIC purposes.   By William M
<b>Comment 35</b>	There are so few truly public waterfront areas where taxpayers can enjoy the water views and recreational activities. How appropriate to have this treasure maintained for generations to come. Commercial development has no place in this arena.   By Linda D
<b>Comment 36</b>	Fort Monroe is a very special place historically, asthetically and "spiritually." The Live Oaks there are amazing. Anyone who knows about the history of wooden ship building in this country and how those ships made this nation great will immediately recognize the importance of those trees. This should not just be a national monument combining the waterfront area but it should be a World Heritage Site. As an active duty military member I've been coming to the fort off and on for the last 20+ years and it was always a special place for me, my family and friends. Although we no longer enjoy the Officers' Club and other facilities there as we once did :( I still continue to be drawn to/visit the fort whenever I'm "home" in VA. I follow it's future status with great interest. Before moving from the area 4 years ago I walked the grounds and took pictures of some of the green space areas including those amazing trees. Please unify the nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acreage.   By Toni G
<b>Comment 37</b>	Fort Monroe is a very special place historically, asthetically and "spiritually." The Live Oaks there are amazing. Anyone who knows about the history of wooden ship building in this country and how those ships made this nation great will immediately recognize the importance of those trees. This should not just be a national monument combining the waterfront area but it should be a World Heritage Site. As an active duty military member I've been coming to the fort off and on for the last 20+ years and it was always a special place for me, my family and friends. Although we no longer enjoy the Officer's Club and other facilities there as we once did :( I still continue to be drawn to/visit the fort whenever I'm "home" in VA. I follow it's future status with great interest. Before moving from the area 4 years ago I walked the grounds and took pictures of some of the green space areas including those amazing trees. Please unify the nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acreage.   By Toni G
<b>Comment 38</b>	Fort Monroe is a very special place historically, asthetically and "spiritually." The Live Oaks there are amazing. Anyone who knows about the history of wooden ship building in this country and how those ships made this nation great will immediately recognize the importance of those trees. This should not just be a national monument combining the waterfront area but it should be a World Heritage Site. As an active duty military member I've been coming to the fort off and on for the last 20+ years and it was always a special place for me, my family and friends. Although we no longer enjoy the Officer's Club and other facilities there as we once did :( I still continue to be drawn to/visit the fort whenever I'm "home" in VA. I follow it's future status with great interest. Before moving from the area 4 years ago I walked the grounds and took pictures of some of the green space areas including those amazing trees. Please unify the nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acre   By Toni G
<b>Comment 39</b>	When I moved to Hampton Roads in 1999, I was horrified that public water front was just about non-existent on the peninsula . There are so few public beaches. I was also disappointed how poorly Historic places were treated and regarded. The first time I went on the fort I was amazed, I could imaging and see how important a role the fort played in local history. I instantly recognized the type of fort and its rarity in the US and the world. Maybe in a place where every third road is named battlefield this and battle that, it hard for people to value what they have. But once gone, it can only be recovered as a recreation at best. Two things that captivated me the first time I came to the peninsula were the history and the trees. The same two things that seem to be disappearing from the area in at a record pace. As a resident and taxpayer I would love it if we could be bold and brave and have the whole area as a National Monument. Its true market value is priceless.   By Nadine T
<b>Comment 40</b>	Nadine, I would like to see you added to the Fort Monroe Authority Board just as I would like to see its members also consist of Kenneth, Ron, Steve, Adrian, Mark and Dennis for reasons stated in my reply below to Kenneth.   By Sandra C

<b>Comment 41</b>	Thanks, Nadine. Somewhere in this forum Adrian Whitcomb has a posting about the view of the Trust for Public Land. Maybe he'll comment here too. TPL's view sounds a lot like what you say in your opening sentence. I did want to mention your phrase "local history." Probably you really mean "local history which of course includes national and world history." But in any case, I believe it's important to repeat what's said in the text and also the web links at the idea posting "Freedom's Fortress National Park as World Heritage Site" ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site</a> ). Also, you can call for making all of Old Point Comfort a national monument/park if you want to, but I believe that the map-and-photo illustration on this page shows the best real chance for the most sensible outcome. However, our hearts are in the same place on this all the same. Thanks for commenting.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 42</b>	Keeping the site as an integrated whole is the best long term use and permits the best long term value. If the National Monument is maintained as a coherent place, it is something that will draw people year after year. There are many examples of communities that now wish, that in the past, the decision had been made not to disturb an historic place. They are now confronted with something that now cannot be replicated, or with costs associated with rehabilitation. You have a unique asset; keep it whole and integrated.   By Kenneth R
<b>Comment 43</b>	Amen to this post!   By Ron W
<b>Comment 44</b>	How I wish The Fort Monroe Authority had members such as Kenneth, Ron, Steve, Adrian, Mark and Dennis on its board. Then for sure Sasaki Assoc would get the guidance necessary for creating a real and complete Fort Monroe National Monument. Everyone who visits areas filled with history and views left alone, whether by chance or choice, for generations and for others to appreciate knows just how refreshing, awesome and amazing they are. Why then does the Fort Monroe Authority and Sasaki want something different for Fort Monroe's National Monument?   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 45</b>	Another heartfelt amen!!!   By Richard E
<b>Comment 46</b>	TO GET A GOOD VISUAL SENSE OF WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT IN ONE GLANCE, please be sure either: * to click the plus sign on the photo-and-map illustration or * to open the "Link to full-size version of the photo and map illustration." Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 47</b>	I would agree to the State giving approximately one half of the Wherry Qtr to the National Monument, the Southern half. This Southern half requires protection, due to its physical shape. The Northern half already has over a dozen recently constructed brick(modern) buildings. Considering that these structures have already cost the taxpayers an est.15 to 20 million dollars, these should be sold or leased to obtain the revenue needed by the City/State to operate/manage their portion of Fort Monroe. The precedent has already been set for this part of Wherry Qtr. The need for physically connecting to Dog Beach is not necessary. The very narrow Dog Beach is much more valuable as an undeveloped connection to Buckroe Beach. A nice roadway should be built as soon as the ownership of Dog   By Tom B
<b>Comment 48</b>	I am not sure anyone is demanding the demo of the relatively new structures in the WQ. What I have read and heard is to phase them out when they reach the end of their service life. That is something I support. To my mind the ideal would be to make all of the WQ part of the National Monument and eventually have it all green with native vegetation established around large open areas that can be used for public gatherings of all types.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 49</b>	Ron W, I've always agreed with those who say that if the Fort Monroe Authority needs some Wherry buildings for a number of years (but not decades), that's fine. So today I edited this "idea" posting "Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres" to call not for swift unification, but for swift-as-possible unification. Sorry not to have been clearer from the start. As to Tom B7, I hope he begins to agree that Fort Monroe is a Monticello-scale national treasure, and that his vision is therefore akin to placing a subdivision on a hillside adjacent to Thomas Jefferson's house. The Medicare-and-entitlements national debt crisis, a problem of trillions, inhabits a financial scale fully one million times larger than the relative nickels and dimes it will cost us to act like Americans concerning Fort Monroe -- instead of like scared, panicked people who believe that history is over and that our nation's place in it doesn't matter anyway.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 50</b>	I apologize. In my earlier reply, I forgot to add a website where readers can view pictures of the five concepts for Wherry Quarter use which were proposed by Sasaki in July at the FMA Board meeting. You can view the five concepts at <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/master-plan-ideas">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/master-plan-ideas</a>   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 51</b>	Ron, largest bayfront NP in the USA was what I meant to say. Thanks, sac   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 52</b>	Thank you, Sandra C. I think option #2 certainly looks the best!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 53</b>	The consulting firm, Sasaki, hired by the FMA, is ignoring the majority of calls on this website to unify the split NP and are determined to put development inside the Wherry Quarter. With the exception of the Nr. 2 concept out of five proposed concepts for Wherry Quarter use which Sasaki presented at the FMB meeting in July, visitors trying to walk, bike or drive between the two monuments will find themselves having to maneuver around or through or past development. Additionally, in all but Concept Nr. 2, the historic bayfront viewshed from the top of the moat will be looking into backyards or motel rooms (depending on the type of development). Only Concept Nr. 2 will permit the unification needed for a true bayfront FMNP, and it will become the largest waterfront NP in the USA. The amount of tourist dollars brought into the area by visitors wanting to visit and stay near the only such NP in existence in America is mind-boggling   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 54</b>	The NPS has many much larger water front parks and monuments. A unified FM would certainly become the greatest waterfronfron in the Hampton Roads area and a wonderful setting to learn about the history of FM.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 55</b>	Did Sasaki include a token option for green space, or did they include a token option for green space that would be perpetually protected from inevitable degradation by local politics by being included in the national park/monument? Huge difference. Also, what about the rest of the missing bayfront, as seen in the picture? (Note that the posting above contains a link to a full-size version of the picture.) Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 56</b>	As currently constituted the NPS Monument does not contain any "urban" waterfront. A key, longstanding aspect of what made Ft Monroe special to those who had access to it in the past was the ability to stroll a bit in the evening along the seawall. It is absurd that all the bayfront except for natural beach & dune areas are reserved from public protection and ownership. That red area MUST be added to the NPS Monument.   By Dennis L
<b>Comment 57</b>	Totally agree Dennis L1.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 58</b>	You are absolutely correct!!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Temporary Use Only of Wherry Buildings
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The use of any buildings in the Wherry Quarter should be on a short-term temporary basis with the long-term commitment being to transfer all of the Wherry Quarter to the National Park Service. No new construction should take place except for appropriately located restroom facilities.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	23

<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	17
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>If it is compatible with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, I suggest planting a live oak (<i>Quercus virginiana</i>) or two wherever a non-historic building is removed. Native to our area and tenacious in the face of storms and salt contamination that kills most other trees -- they can live for centuries, enhancing adjacent architecture, and their gnarly trunks and limbs and providing a "personality" to their setting.</p> <p>Not familiar with the species?  <a href="http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=78">http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=78</a>    By John K</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Interesting idea--they'd be youngsters to match the historic live oaks , like the Algernon Oak, that have already been living on Ft. Monroe for hundreds of years! By the way, the Algernon Oak is mentioned in the beautiful book, <i>The Remarkable Trees of Virginia</i>.   By Susan B</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>I go a bit further. I would encourage the restoration of the natural coastal ecosystem (in so far as possible) that once stood on all of FM. Yes to the live oaks!   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>The FMA should come up with a plan and a rapid time schedule for transferring Wherry and the south waterfront (the location of batteries Irwin and Parrott) to the National Monument. This plan should include removal of Wherry's non-historic buildings to create an open space. One possible mechanism for the latter goal is a federal matching funds program described in a recent Daily Press article: "The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program ... over the past 25 years has funneled more than \$61 million in federal money — matched by more than \$51 million in state and local dollars — for projects in localities that touch tidal waters. The projects, which include efforts to help oysters and promote eco-tourism, are designed to aid the environment and the economy from Richmond to the coast." A green Wherry would certainly fit those broad purposes, since it would add to public parkland in the region and make Fort Monroe much more attractive to visitors. .   By Scott B</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>Amen, Adrian and Scott.  Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>Great idea--let's hope Ft. Monroe can get those matching funds soon!   By Susan B</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>I agree, except that I would like to see an unobstructive monument erected on the site to commemorate the self-emancipation of the slaves and the contraband encampment which occurred in Wherry. Otherwise, any other construction would be ruinous.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 8</b>	<p>What does "self- emancipation" mean? Wasn't it Abraham Lincoln who emancipated the slaves during the Civil War?   By Tom B</p>
<b>Comment 9</b>	<p>Tom B7: In late May 1861, three brave men escaped their slaveholders in Norfolk by rowing across the harbor to Fort Monroe. They landed on the Chesapeake Bay beachfront. The Union commander of Fort Monroe, Major General Benjamin Butler, declared these men to be "contraband of war", and would not be returned to bondage. Soon, the numbers of "contraband" swelled to nearly two thousand. Wherry became their home and an encampment community was founded there. These self-emancipating men and women contributed greatly to the Union cause during the War Between the States in fortifications, active duty service, espionage, agriculture... President Abraham Lincoln issued the great Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. The 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery in USA was fully ratified in late December 1865. The beginning of the end of slavery was begun at Fort Monroe in 1861, by those three brave men who dared to defy popular convention.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 10</b>	<p>To Tom B7: In late May 1861, three brave men escaped their slaveholders in Norfolk by rowing across the harbor to Fort Monroe. They landed on the Chesapeake Bay beachfront. The Union commander of Fort Monroe, Major General Benjamin Butler, declared these men to be "contraband of war", and would not be returned to bondage. Soon, the numbers of "contraband" swelled to nearly two thousand. Wherry became their home and an encampment community was founded there. These self-emancipating men and women contributed greatly to the Union cause during the War Between the States in fortifications, active duty service, espionage, agriculture... President Abraham Lincoln issued the great Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. The 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery in USA was fully ratified in late December 1865. The beginning of the end of slavery was begun at Fort Monroe in 1861, by those three brave men who dared to defy popular convention.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 11</b>	<p>To Tom B7: In late May 1861, three brave men escaped their slaveholders in Norfolk by rowing across the harbor to Fort Monroe. They landed on the Chesapeake Bay beachfront. The Union commander of Fort Monroe, Major General Benjamin Butler, declared these men to be "contraband of war", and would not be returned to bondage. Soon, the numbers of "contraband" swelled to nearly two thousand. Wherry became their home and an encampment community was founded there. These self-emancipating men and women contributed greatly to the Union cause during the War Between the States in fortifications, active duty service, espionage, agriculture... President Abraham Lincoln issued the great Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863. The 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery in USA, was fully ratified in late December 1865. The beginning of the end of slavery was begun at Fort Monroe in 1861, by those three brave men who dared to defy popular convention.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 12</b>	<p>Tom: Did emancipation come solely from politicians? Or is that just what we still think because we haven't focused on the tens of thousands of the the enslaved who stood up like real Americans and pressed President Lincoln and history itself toward freedom and equality? Adam Goodheart called the self-emancipations that cascaded from Ft Monroe "perhaps even more ... responsible for slavery's extinction" than the Proclamation itself. Ed Ayers says that "African Americans began freeing themselves at the first opportunity, which was indeed at Ft Monroe," adding, "We will need to broaden our understanding...to include the determination of Black people to become free from the first moments of the conflict." He called FM the site of "the greatest moment in American history" -- justified, if you think of self-emancipators forcing America finally to begin at least trying to live up to its claimed principles, thereby finally completing the founding begun more than four score years earlier.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 13</b>	<p>Enactment of law and enforcement of law don't necessarily coincide, neither do proclamations and realization. The slaves took it upon themselves to make a realization of freedom, before the executive order and the legal enactment occurred.   By Jean S</p>
<b>Comment 14</b>	<p>I hope the present deteriorating buildings will be removed SOONER rather than later!   By Susan B</p>
<b>Comment 15</b>	<p>I agree, except that I would like to see an unobstructive monument erected on the site to commemorate the self-emancipation of the slaves and the contraband encampment which occurred in Wherry. Otherwise, any other construction would be ruinous.   By Luis O</p>

<b>Comment 16</b>	I agree, except that I would like to see a monument erected on the site to commemorate the self-emancipation of the slaves and the contraband encampment which occurred in Wherry. Otherwise, any other construction would be ruinous.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 17</b>	I recognize the importance of FM and slavery. Why does a mohument self-emancipation of slaves need to be in the Wherry Qtr.? There are other better suited location I would think.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Ft. Monroe--an unknown treasure that needs to be shared
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I just returned from a trip to California (and discovered that this idea website had reopened with new categories); while there, I had the opportunity to tell several people about Ft. Monroe and its history and natural resources. All of them were amazed--they hadn't heard about most of the history, and were really interested in coming to learn and see more. To me, that's what Ft. Monroe National Park should be all about--bringing Americans (and others) here to learn and see some of America's earliest history and most beautiful natural sights.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	23
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	There are few places in our country as old, important and beautiful as Ft. Monroe. The whole country should know about it and the real beginnings of so many American histories that were fostered here.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	The People Want to be Heard!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I wrote the statement below on June 16th in hopes that this planning process would be different from previous ones that some of us have exprienced.</p> <p>"How great it would be if the people are listened to on this matter of Master Planning and a truly great plan for Fort Monroe is created that puts Fort Monroe National Monument first by uniting both sections with an open green Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront area. There is more than enough room in the North Gate area for development to accommodate tourists and residents of the historic village.</p> <p>Do the right thing and people will come from all over to see and experience a truly great and unique place!"</p> <p>The overwhelming theme of the ideas in most of the original 6 topic areas called for open space in the Wherry Quarter and for this vital area of Fort Monroe to become part of Fort Monroe national Monument. In one of the topic areas nearly two-thirds of all seconds were for ideas advocating for this outcome. Yet this was not adequately acknowledged in the presentation on the 19th. Please go to the links below to see details of my evaluation of the ideas submitted to the Town Hall website.</p> <p>We must all speak up now, louder than before. There is still an opportunity to be heard. We who truly care for Fort Monroe do not want to see any development in the Wherry Quarter or South Waterfron area.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	22
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	12
<b>Comment 1</b>	@Malcolm A - Ditto that!   By Susan W
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Adrian, Steve, Susan, Malcolm, George, Catherine... this is all extremely important information.</p> <p>The original Fort Monroe FADA was stacked with developers, and uninformed politicians and businessowners... not with conservationists, ecological scientists, statespersons, historians, etc., as it should have been. We know that certain developers' interests currently are well-represented on the FMA... but wonder, where are the real experts involved in the planning process. Should the US Army be willing to surrender this most venerable of US historic sites to an inadequately-staffed panel of dilettantes?! We are all aware what decades of Liberal thought has wrought on Hampton, to the ruination of much that was great. Will the Commonwealth and the NPS defer to that same sort of short-sighted thinking? I hope not! We must exceed the bounds of a controlled-comment website and make our legislators and the Department of Interior aware that we know what is afoot, and that it must be stemmed!   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	Amen in spades   By George L
<b>Comment 4</b>	I agree with you except the slam against liberals was unnecessary. Political views are not the driver behind my desire to see Fort Monroe maintained as a premier historical and natural asset.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 5</b>	I'm not trying to improve on this idea as much as supporting it 100%. The Wherry Quarter and the south waterfront (the location of Batteries Irwin & Parrott)need to be preserved and added to the Monument area for safekeeping   By George L
<b>Comment 6</b>	I hope the reopening of this comment/idea website indicates a willingness to listen some more on the part of Sasaki and FMA--the people are speaking pretty clearly about wanting a unified National Park and not wanting new development. Keep the history and the natural gifts of Ft. Monroe accessible to all Americans!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 7</b>	Thanks for exposing Sasaki's misrepresentations, which make me wonder if the latecomers suddenly extolling bayfront residences have been planted so that Sasaki can try to claim that what people really want is a blanket of tasteful condos. Remember Sasaki's predecessor Dover Kohl? DK held July 2006 public discussions where Hampton officials censored national park talk (though everybody defied them). Then DK stood before the world and claimed, falsely, that people wanted condos all across Wherry. (Adrian, why not upload that infamous picture?) Eventually Dover Kohl was discredited -- even by Bill Armbruster, in complaining to Cathy Lewis that for us to cite the DK condo blanket was to be unfair. Unfair? It sounds like the following remains correct: Virginia's leaders have always grimly intended to treat Fort Monroe way more like a development plum to be exploited for short-term gain and way less like a national treasure to be stewarded for real enrichment, financial and otherwise.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 8</b>	Agreed!   By Catherine W

<b>Comment 9</b>	I agree, the leadership of Hampton has almost destroyed the city. They continue to spend huge amounts on failures. Developing the wetlands in a city which has constant flooding issues was bad enough. Look at the downtown area and the Air and Space Center problems. Hampton's current greedy leadership has too many failures to list Take a drive through this city and see how you feel about their accomplishments.To try to sell, and develop America's history in order to profit a few individuals is nothing short of insanity. A few poorly publicized neighborhood meetings are standard practice for opinions that are never heard in Hampton. If the world, including those who love history have a say, it would go like this. There are enough stores, taco stands, souvenir shops and condos in this world already. If we give away or sell our heritage, we leave future generations with the same polluted planet that our leaders have created in so many areas. DO THE RIGHT THING for a change   By malcolm A
<b>Comment 10</b>	Let's do the right thing this time for the long term benefit of the community and the Nation. Ft. Monroe is a national treasure and all of it must be preserved and kept out of the hands of developers.   By George L
<b>Comment 11</b>	Adrian, Steve, Malcolm, George, Catherine... this is all extremely important information. The original Fort Monroe FADA was stacked with developers, and uninformed politicians and businessowners... not with conservationists, ecological scientists, statespersons, historians, etc., as it should have been. We know that certain developers' interests currently are well-represented on the FMA... but wonder, where are the real experts involved in the planning process. Should the US Army be willing to surrender this most venerable of US historic sites to an inadequately-staffed panel of dilettantes?! We are all aware what decades of Liberal thought has wrought on Hampton, to the ruination of much that was great. Will the Commonwealth and the NPS defer to that same sort of short-sighted thinking? I hope not! We must exceed the bounds of a controlled-comment website and make our legislators and the Department of Interior aware that we know what is afoot, and that it must be stemmed!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 12</b>	Adrian, Steve, Susan, Malcolm, George, Catherine... this is all extremely important information. The original Fort Monroe FADA was stacked with developers, and uninformed politicians and businessowners... not with conservationists, ecological scientists, statespersons, historians, etc., as it should have been. We know that certain developers' interests currently are well-represented on the FMA... but wonder, where are the real experts involved in the planning process. Should the US Army be willing to surrender this most venerable of US historic sites to an inadequately-staffed panel of dilettantes?! We are all aware what decades of Liberal thought has wrought on Hampton, to the ruination of much that was great. Will the Commonwealth and the NPS defer to that same sort of short-sighted thinking? I hope not! We must exceed the bounds of a controlled-comment website and make our legislators and the Department of Interior aware that we know what is afoot, and that it must be stemmed!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	"Greatness in Protecting Our Historical Landmarks"
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe is comparable to Jamestown Island and the Yorktown Battlefield in importance to the history of the United States. Imagine the uproar that would occur if any development was proposed on Jamestown Island or on the Yorktown Battlefield. Why would we even consider any development in the Wherry Quarter/South Waterfront area, which is the heart of Fort Monroe National Monument? Such development would only detract from the re-creation of the sense of time and place that is needed here. Development would permanently block the view from the Fortress toward the Chesapeake Bay and from the waterfront toward the Fortress. Creating an enclave within the park would compromise the mission of Fort Monroe National Monument and diminish one of our most valuable landmarks.  Note: Despite receiving more "seconds" than any other idea in Topic 1 "Do You Think the Peninsula is a Great Region?" this idea was not included anywhere in the June 19 presentation. Ideas were included on the slide for Topic 1 that received less than half as many "seconds."
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	22
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Adrian, I like how you are pointing out the shortcomings of the Master Planning process. I hope the FMA and the planners will comment and correct the data presentation part of their future presentations.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	I'm glad you keep emphasizing the really significant history of Ft. Monroe/Point Comfort to the United States--and the need for a great national park to share this history with all Americans.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe is probably the most venerable historical site in USA. It was occupied by settlers before Jamestown was founded, and its presence allowed Jamestown to survive it's 90 years. Fort Monroe continued to exist and serve the vast Virginia Colony, and, eventually, the nation for more than 403 years. And, it is home to many events of first importance in global history. To accept lesser treatment than that accorded to Yorktown or Jamestown would be an affront to the nation.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe is probably the most venerable historical site in USA. It was occupied by settlers before Jamestown was founded, and its presence allowed Jamestown to survive it's 90 years. Fort Monroe continued to exist and serve the vast Virginia Colony, and, eventually, the nation for more than 403 years. And, it is home to many events of first importance in global history. To accept lesser treatment than that accorded to Yorktown or Jamestown would be an affront to the nation.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe is probably the most venerable historical site in USA. It' was occupied by settlers before Jamestown was founded, and its presence allowed Jamestown to survive it's 90 years. Fort Monroe continued to exist and serve the vast Virginia Colony, and, eventually, the nation for more than 403 years. And, it is home to many events of first importance in global history. To accept lesser treatment than that accorded to Yorktown or Jamestown would be an affront to the nation.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Wherry Qtr
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Open the Wherry Quarter as much as possible by removal of residential buildings and any other structures that block the creation of a large public space.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	20
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	When the apartments along the Wherry Quarter and demolished, nothing should be built there. Let all of that be open to the public and retain the gorgeous view and let the park service suggest trails, walkways and bike trails.   By Barbara S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Just like to make a comment that Fort Monroe was built by slaves. Aren't we going to give them some credit?   By Tom B

<b>Comment 3</b>	If you were in on the first round of topics, you might have seen all the spectacular ideas being generated for the Wherry, regarding the stories of slavery and the self-emancipation episodes, which are so vitally integral to the history of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Yes! Open this land to all the world so we can enjoy it's beauty and maybe experience a bit of the slavery and contraband history that began here.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Quote from Theodore Roosevelt
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>"Here is your country. Do not let anyone take it or its glory away from you.... The World and the Future and your very children shall judge you according to the way you deal with this Sacred Trust."</p> <p>President Theodore Roosevelt, 1903</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	19
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	13
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great quote from a great visionary. Roosevelt was committed to establishing great national parks, even though he faced similar problems of strained resources. He had the additional burden of procuring the land (very controversial). Perhaps we can muster a bit of his courage and willingness to make the best outcome in the long term, given that our challenges are not quite as daunting.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 2</b>	We used to have the will to do great things, not simply compromise and end up with mediocrity. What say you, Sasaki? You too have only one life to make your mark. What will be your legacy as planners?   By mark P
<b>Comment 3</b>	I firmly believe this statement. Thank you, Adrian.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	A great dictum befitting a great national treasure, Fort Monroe!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	A very relevant quotation (and remember Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to establish National Parks)!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>Great stuff. I remember that someone -- Scott Butler? H. O. Malone? -- used this quotation in the early years of the struggle to save Fort Monroe. I'm glad to see it return. Here are three people I'd like to see comment in light of this quotation on national monument unification (<a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Adam Goodheart, the planet's leading explainer of Fort Monroe's importance, who surely believes in unification.</li> <li>* Fred Merrill of Sasaki Associates, an organization with a sterling record, but an organization trapped between the controlling, narrow parochialism of Virginia's leaders and the reality pinpointed in the quotation.</li> <li>* President Bill Harvey of Hampton U., leader of Hampton's revitalization, but a leader oddly silent on Fort Monroe's international importance that literally began along with Hampton U. itself.</li> </ul> <p>Thanks. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	Just a point of clarity for your last statement: Ft. Monroe began in 1607 or 08. It's international importance arose in 1616, and then again in 1619. Hampton University began in 1868.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 8</b>	Just a point of clarity for your last statement: Ft. Monroe began in 1607 or 08. It's international importance arose in 1616, and then again in 1619. Hampton University began in 1868.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 9</b>	To Jean: I'm familiar with that chronology. Assertion: What makes Fort Monroe a World Heritage Site -- what makes it absolutely a place of international importance -- happened on May 23 (NOT May 24), 1861 (and contributed pretty directly to the founding of Hampton Institute). Sheri Bailey of the Juneteenth movement and I would be honored if you would have a look at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site</a> and at the links included there. I am not disputing the importance of all that you note. Instead, I'm proposing that we all need to honor this centrally important, but not yet well recognized, 1861 train of events in American history and in the history of freedom itself. Thanks. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 10</b>	To Jean: I'm familiar with that chronology. Assertion: What makes Fort Monroe a possible World Heritage Site -- what makes it absolutely a place of international importance -- happened on May 23 (NOT May 24), 1861 (and contributed pretty directly to the founding of Hampton Institute). Sheri Bailey of the Juneteenth movement and I would be honored if you would have a look at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site</a> and at the links included there. I am not disputing the importance of all that you note. Instead, I'm proposing that we all need to honor this centrally important, but not yet well recognized, 1861 train of events in American history and in the history of freedom itself. Thanks. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 11</b>	Steve, I agree that Ft. Monroe was extremely important the Civil War era, but its previous 260 years of existence made most of what we see in Hampton Roads possible to arise (Including Hampton Normal School). With or without the pivotal episodes of the 1860s, Fort Monroe is worthy of becoming a World Heritage Site for its beauty, longevity and multiple layers of history and international importance, spanning 4 centuries, not only 150 or so years. I just don't want the great early history to become obscured in favor of later events.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 12</b>	Jean, maybe you're right that FM merits World Heritage status on broader grounds than the 1861 story. Fine with me! But I'm not betting on it. Adam Goodheart -- who has deep respect for FM's early centuries -- focuses on the 1861 events. Ed Ayers calls them the greatest moment in American history. My own amateur summation: much that happened at FM mattered importantly, but those people in May 1861 sparked the completion of America's very founding as a nation of ideas, the first on the planet. They affirmed our founding beliefs in freedom and equality -- beliefs enunciated more than four score years earlier, but never respected. It seems to me that that's a very big deal. Now, I don't think you and I really disagree greatly in the overall view. You say, "I just don't want the great early history to become obscured." I certainly agree -- and much of that is related to 1861 anyway. But you add "in favor of later events." There we do disagree, but I doubt by very much.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 13</b>	Just don't forget, that 1616 marked the very beginning of our national economy, thus our form of government. Ft. Monroe (called something else then) was most important in securing the onset of international commerce. Slavery was yet to be a factor, but this foundation enabled slavery to begin in the Virginia Colony a few years later.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	"Avoid Overdevelopment and Maximize Open Space"

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>By limiting new development to the North Gate area the built-up area of Fort Monroe will be more compact, making it more walkable. Sidewalks and bike paths should be created and maintained throughout Fort Monroe, including along the Chesapeake Bay and Mill Creek waterfronts and around the moat.</p> <p>There should be pedestrian/bicycle connections to both Phoebus and Buckroe</p> <p>Note: Despite being the top vote getter, receiving 7 more "seconds" than the number two finisher in the topic "How Can We Ensure a Pedestrian Friendly Street Network?" this idea was not included anywhere in the June 19 presentation.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	18
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	This definitely should be (and should have been) included in any plans for the future of Ft. Monroe/Ft. Monroe National Park!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	This definitely should be (and should have been) included in any plans for the future of Ft. Monroe!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Protect Ft. Monroe from developers & the Hampton power structure
<b>Idea Detail</b>	As one of the last natural coastal areas on the East Coast, Ft. Monroe must be protected for our citizens and not turned into a compound for the elite. However, it appears that the developers, along with the Hampton power structure, are moving toward turning Ft. Monroe into a "private elite development" that will exclude the average citizen from accessing what should rightfully belong to everyone and not the chosen few!! To see what the Hampton power structure intends for Ft. Monroe, we only have to look at what they did to accommodate the developers at Buckroe Beach!! The answer is for our citizens to unite in opposition to the "few"!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Alfred S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	18
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	12
<b>Comment 1</b>	The exchange below about the Hampton City Council's recent resolution in favor of a large scale green space and against residential development in Wherry has reached the point of repetition. I invite anyone interested in the subject not to confine themselves to the last couple of comments, but to read the whole exchange.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 2</b>	This reasoning has apparent and maybe actual glass-half-full merit, and is of course the politically correct kind that gains the approbation of the developer-supporting Daily Press and of Cathy Lewis, a genuinely stalwart civic leader and citizen who nevertheless believes in suppressing civic conflict, even when it's healthy or necessary, for the sake of a false veneer of civic happiness. As I know from extensive experience over the seven years, departures from glass-half-full belief--and from Cathy's orthodoxy of false smileyness--can bring on attempts, sometimes unethical, at getting you silenced. (Tom Gear knows too.) I say again: just look at the result. The national monument now being cemented for the ages is plainly a fake. It is *self-evidently preposterous.* The seven years' effort has failed. If the mayor and city council are suddenly serious, let them stand and lead. We saw lip-service resolutions when they were misappropriating public bayfront at Buckroe for private use.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	I think it's a mistake to write off Virginia's politicians--seemingly all of them--as grimly intent, no matter what they say or do to the contrary, on developing the heck out of Wherry. Better in my view to support those public officials who endorse a higher vision of Wherry than Condo City or McMansion Estates, who have expressed the desire for Wherry to have a public, tourist-oriented character, than to assume they are being duplicitous. Better to affirm the good in what they have done, and see if they can be moved further along in the next few weeks or months toward the idea of a green or mostly green Wherry slated for inclusion in the National Monument. To me, common sense suggests that the attitudes of public officials can evolve over time, especially over a period of seven years when new politicians come on the scene--and when, in this case, there is the new presence of the National Monument to consider.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 4</b>	There can be no sensible doubt that Virginia's politicians continue to intend what they've grimly intended for seven years: to exploit Ft Monroe as a development plum with an incidental history accent, rather than to carry out their plain (and, ironically, profitable) duty to steward it as a national treasure. In proof I submit yet again the map with the red area showing the *self-evidently preposterous* land omission: <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/images/Please_unify_split_national_monument.gif">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/images/Please_unify_split_national_monument.gif</a> . That's why the posting I cited below says: "But Council, if you seek to avert the overdevelopment danger to the green heart of Old Point Comfort as shown in the red area...why in the world only a 'significant green connection'? If the most sensible--including economically most sensible--disposition is as you say, then why not stand up and lead on the obvious need to unify the national monument? And what about the rest of the land shown in red?" Council and the mayor have no answer.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 5</b>	There are two ideas below about the Hampton City Council resolution. One sees it as a sincere expression of the Council's vision for Wherry; the other as--possibly--an insincere gesture to give "plausible deniability" to the Council when, not if, the worst happens to Wherry. If you think there is a real possibility that the Council is being sincere, then I strongly urge you to support its voice on the FMA. At a minimum, the Council's wish to exclude residential construction--the condos and the McMansions we all fear--is a very positive development, in my view.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 6</b>	Concerning the positive development cited just below -- Hampton City Council's resolution -- I hope people will consult the brief "idea" posting in this forum at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/significant-green-connection-yes-but-needs-nps-and-more-land">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/significant-green-connection-yes-but-needs-nps-and-more-land</a> . I also hope that people will recognize the potential for the resolution simply to give cover, or plausible deniability, to the council when the fake national monument is either cemented at its present level of fakeness or cemented with a fake "significant green connection" that still gives the heart of the public historic landscape up for private use. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 7</b>	There's been a positive development since this idea was posted. The Hampton City Council has approved a resolution that expresses its vision of Wherry as substantial parkland with any development geared to tourist-oriented activities, not harmful to viewsheds, and complementary to NPS goals. This translates into plenty of green space and NO residential development--no elite communities in Wherry. I hope everyone will support the Council's vision, while still pressing for something more: incorporation of Wherry into the National Monument.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 8</b>	I am in total agreement! It makes me sick to think of this wonderfully historic, charming and breathtakingly beautiful place being turned into a commercial machine. Does anyone have concrete ideas on how to prevent this from happening?   By Deborah W

<b>Comment 9</b>	Yes. Get people to "second," or vote for, the idea posting in this forum at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> . As the mere citizen-owners of this national treasure, we're mostly, but not entirely, powerless to prevent the people with the actual power from doing the wrong thing. It's about Big Money, not democracy. Still, we're not entirely powerless -- as discussed at the cited "idea" posting. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 10</b>	Uniting "our citizens" means all Americans need to be made aware of the importance of preserving Ft. Monroe as a NATIONAL treasure and not the exclusive possession of one city in Virginia or one group of politically-appointed people .   By Susan B
<b>Comment 11</b>	You are so right!!! There is no room for mistakes on Ft. Monroe!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 12</b>	You are absolutely correct. Our local history for land abuse is dismal. We can not allow any of those same irreversible errors to occur on any portion of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	historic landscape and buildings
<b>Idea Detail</b>	When I think of Fort Monroe, where for many years I've enjoyed walking and gazing out at the bay, I think of a beautiful, historic landscape of old oaks, dunes, and striking water views, and of the fortress, batteries, and other historic structures--and never of the bowling alley and the post-50's military buildings, except to wish them away.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	17
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	I agree, except that I liked the bowling alley.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	"Re-Create View to Honor Fortress and Those Who Have Served Here
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>We should honor the Fortress and those who have served here by re-creating the viewscape.</p> <p>Why was Fort Monroe built? It was built to help defend this country from foreign ships that attempted to sail up the Chesapeake Bay, as they had during the War of 1812. During the 1800's and into the 1900's there were soldiers on top of the walls of the Fortress, with their eyes directed toward the Chesapeake Bay. Today, because of development during the 20th Century, the opportunity to see what they would have seen has been lost. Photos and videos have been posted at <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/</a> , <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/open-space/viewsheds/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/open-space/viewsheds/</a> , and <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/open-space/796-2/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/open-space/796-2/</a> that illustrate this situation.</p> <p>With the decision to demolish the Wherry housing in the next year or two and the possibility of removing other non-historic structures at some future time, this viewscape can be re-created. Because all of this land is in public ownership we have a great opportunity to accomplish this goal. Any new development can be carefully situated on the Mill Creek side of the fortress, in the North Gate area. Not only would the view from the fortress toward the northeast be restored, visitors could actually see the fortress from a distance as they approached it, walking on an expanse of green. Those who enjoyed the views of the Chesapeake Bay, as they walked or rode their bicycles along the seawall, could also have a clear view of the fortress, instead of several rows of apartments and other buildings.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	17
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Definitely an important idea for the planning process--views from the fortress will be (and should be!) one of the major attractions of the Ft. Monroe National Park.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Again, thanks, Adrian, for this refresher. Implementation of your suggestions would only add to (and preserve) the full living history aspect of the Fort Monroe experience.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	"Fort Monroe's Uniqueness Makes Hampton a Destination City"
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Hampton should use its influence to see that Fort Monroe's uniqueness is maintained, that open space is maximized, and that all of the waterfront remains public. A unified Fort Monroe National Monument that includes the Wherry Quarter and the South Waterfront area will help to reach these goals.</p> <p>Placing development in the middle of Fort Monroe National Monument will detract from its mission to re-create the sense of time and place that is crucial to teaching the great history of this national treasure. Let Charleston be Charleston. Let Savannah be Savannah. Let Fort Monroe be Fort Monroe.</p> <p>Note: Despite being the second place vote getter in Topic 2 "How Does Fort Monroe Contribute to Hampton Being Recognized as a Great City?" this idea was not included anywhere in the June 19 presentation. An idea that received less than one-third as many "seconds" was included.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	17
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes--let Hampton redevelop itself into a destination and then the Hampton tourists could have lodging and restaurants in Hampton and tour a beautiful, natural, historic Ft. Monroe National Park that would contrast with Hampton's development.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Many thanks, Adrian, for re-posting a valuable and most pertinent statement; and, also, for keeping an accurate record of these proceedings.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	What's Best for National Monument is Best for All of Ft. Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>It needs to be clearly recognized in this planning process that adding the Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront area to Fort Monroe National Monument will greatly enhance both the national monument and the portions of Fort Monroe remaining under the control of the Commonwealth of Virginia.</p> <p>It also needs to be acknowledged that whenever the public has been asked for their opinion they have overwhelmingly supported the concept that most if not all of Fort Monroe should be a national park. There is and never has been support for more than a very limited level of new development at Fort Monroe, and that restricted to the North Gate area.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W

<b>Number of Seconds</b>	17
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Boston Regularly Adds to Parkland
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>“Although many of Boston’s most famous parks were created by the end of the 19th century, the city – like New York – is remarkable for regularly adding to its parkland supply year in and year out. (Even today, hundreds of acres are added each decade, including everything from converted landfills to demolished house parcels to decks over highways and subsurface parking garages.) Among the most interesting efforts is the creation of the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area, a col-laboration between federal, state, city and non-profit partners to manage more than 250 acres of parkland, including several old forts.</p> <p>Fort Warren, located on Georges Island, defended the harbor from 1861 through the end of WWII and during the Civil War served as a prisoner-of-war camp and a jail for political pris-oners. It was closed in 1947 and is now a national historic landmark and a tourism site operated as a state park by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Although the fort is accessible only by ferry, an estimated 100,000 tourists visit each year. Fort Independence and Castle Island are on the state and national registers of historic places, and the fort is a national historic landmark. Fort tours are conducted by the Castle Island Association and there is interpretive signage for self-guided tours. The principal program theme, the History of Castle Island, stresses the role of the fort in harbor defense.”</p> <p>(Excerpt from the Trust for Public Land’s study “Bracing for Change, Fort Monroe and the Need for Parkland in Hampton Roads.” Link to full study: <a href="http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf">http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf</a> )</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	17
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	This is one of those moments when people get to choose whether they'll be on the right side or the wrong side of history. The right side, in this case, is creating a beautiful, unified Fort Monroe National Monument that will add real luster to our region. The wrong side is to dilute Fort Monroe's sense of history, its natural beauty, and its attractiveness to visitors by developing Wherry. The general public has forcefully chosen the right side; now it's up to government officials to follow their lead, however difficult. If they do, they will become a part of what's truly good and valuable about Hampton Roads and the Commonwealth.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 2</b>	You are so right!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	I would add that Boston also took opportunity of the Big Dig to add a necklace of new parks along Charles River and on top of the now buried highway. Hampton Roads is often treated as a second rate sort of place that does not merit parkland -- development of the Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront should be absolutely out of question, as out of the question as building new apartment blocks in the green space between Storrow Drive and the Charles.   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	Wouldn't it be great if Virginia--a state that has as much, if not more, historical land as Massachusetts--would follow Massachusetts's lead and add more to the parkland at Ft. Monroe? (Of course, adding the Wherry Quater and South Waterfront to the National Monument would help accomplish a part of that; there are other parts of Ft. mnroe that could be made more open space, too.)   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Open space and history
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Preserve the history of the Fort and keep it as open as possible so it can serve the entire region and the nation. Fort Monroe is not a place for excessive development for the benefit of the private sector.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	16
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	You said it well!!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Hundreds of Thousands Attracted to Forts in Savannah, Charleston
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>“It is important to recognize that some of Hampton Roads' park shortage is due to the area's heavy military presence. Of the region's 12 major bases, nine are in the main cities. And because the shoreline along these bases is not publicly accessible, it is critical that Fort Monroe's shoreline be conserved as open, public parkland in the future. Lastly, it is indisputable that parks created from old military installations prove themselves as significant tourism draws. Two nearby cases in point -- Fort Pulaski in Savannah, Ga. and Fort Sumter near Charleston, S.C. -- attract hundreds of thousands of visitors every year as national parks. As a more impressive fort in a larger metropolitan area, Fort Monroe could be expected to have an even greater tourism impact.”</p> <p>(Excerpt from the Trust for Public Land’s study “Bracing for Change, Fort Monroe and the Need for Parkland in Hampton Roads.” Link to full study: <a href="http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf">http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf</a> )</p> <p>It’s important to take advantage of the full potential of Fort Monroe by providing the proper setting for the Fortress and sufficient open space to accommodate hundreds of thousands of visitors per year, both from outside this area and local residents.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	16
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Fort Monroe has been an "open base" for a very long time. Anyone with a valid drivers license had access. The Casemate Museum has been around for 50 years, open 7 days/week. Tourists could walk or drive the Fort at their choice. Jefferson Davis prison cell is even open for viewing. MY QUESTION: Having visited the Fort numerous times since coming to the Peninsula in 1979 I have never seen the lines of thousands (or hundreds) of visitors that you seem to be anticipating. Who will be paying for all these "grand" ideas? See para. 2 "Show Me the (operating/management) Money".   By Tom B

<b>Comment 2</b>	Tom, if I understand right from comments you've made about Ft Monroe's history, you don't even know what Luis was referring to when he mentioned the self-emancipators of May 23 (not 24!) 1861, or why Edward L. Ayers -- while he would no doubt agree with you that Patrick Henry made an important speech -- calls Fort Monroe the site of the greatest moment in American history. As I've said before in answer to you: Yes, of course, the last 50 years don't project a tsunami of tourism. But as I also said, there were decades after 1776 when no one even remembered the Declaration of Independence. My guess is that you and I will never agree on overdeveloping the Ft Monroe bayfront, so when I answer you, I'm mostly writing in hopes of reaching others. But I'll challenge you this: On July 4 ten years from now, our vision for Ft Monroe will look valid, and yours -- even if it prevails and leads to "compatible" condos -- will look parochial, short-sighted and, ironically, economically costly. Thanks   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	Great points--good info. comparing the other Southern park-forts and their tourist draw to what a grand national park at Ft. Monroe could do for this area. And I think at least some of the tourists coming to Ft. Monroe National Park would be former military people interested in seeing their "old stomping grounds."   By Susan B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Of all the US military posts around the globe, Army personnel seem to recall Fort Monroe most fondly.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	Adrian, I have carefully read every posting of yours on this site. You have only valid and pertinent concepts to convey. I wonder, why are not the consultants bringing forth this wealth of valuable information that you keep providing?   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Don't close the pool!!!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The pool location, right on the beach, is a prime spot. Every time I have been there, I have felt like I was on vacation. The kids love to be able to swim, then play on the beach. Having live entertainment on a Friday or Saturday night also brings in the adults who love being on the water. There is nowhere else on the peninsula that has this kind of view!! Do NOT close!!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Nicole S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	16
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	I just hope that in due course the National Monument reworks the Bay Breeze Club and environs to be more suitable to a National Monument. It is no jewel of a building, although I do hope the pool is kept.   By mark P
<b>Comment 2</b>	Yes--there are some really nice National Park lodges/restaurants/clubs in places like Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Skyline Drive, and it would be nice to have a more suitable, beautiful and accessible Bay Breeze Club than what is already there.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	I just hope that in due course the National Monument reworks the Bay Breeze Club and environs to be more suitable to a National Monument. It is no jewel a a building, although I do hope the pool is kept.   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	Don't mind paying a little bit to keep it open!   By Cindy H
<b>Idea Title</b>	TPL Study: Deficit of Public Parkland Along the Shoreline
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Below are excerpts from the Trust for Public Land's "Bracing for Change, Fort Monroe and the Need for Parkland in Hampton Roads."</p> <p>"... Even more striking is the deficit of public parkland along the shoreline in the Hampton Roads region compared to the three other port cities. Hampton Roads has almost twice as much city shoreline as New York City and more than nine times as much city shoreline as either Boston or the three San Francisco Bay cities. ... Both New York City and the San Francisco Bay area have double the percentage of parkland along the shore, while Boston has almost three and a half times as much waterfront parkland.</p> <p>This shortage deprives the region of many benefits that parks bring -- from recreational opportunities to natural preservation, from enhanced property value to greater tourism revenue, from improved human health outcomes to increased community cohesion thanks to volunteerism in parks and the increased competitiveness of the region to businesses considering relocating to the area, especially those with a significant number of white collar workers."</p> <p>(Excerpt from the Trust for Public Land's study "Bracing for Change, Fort Monroe and the Need for Parkland in Hampton Roads." Link to full study: <a href="http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf">http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf</a> )</p> <p>The Wherry Quarter and the South Waterfront area need to be parkland to help fill this deficit of public parkland along the</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	15
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great reference material, very appropriate! Thanks for sharing it here.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 2</b>	Shocking statistics, Adrian! Thanks for finding and sharing them.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	I would think that this would be enough to convince the Commonwealth that conservation, protection and unification are the only logical way to go.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I agree, Luis. You'd indeed think that. But please consider: Because it was increasingly clear some years ago that commonwealth leaders were paying zero attention to this urban-waterfront green-space dimension of the opportunity--a competitiveness factor--constructive people worked hard, raised \$15,000 and commissioned this study by the internationally respected Trust for Public Land. A TPL official and his colleague kindly took an unpaid day to come from D.C. to a Ft Monroe Authority meeting to speak. When he started talking, a commissioner interrupted, condemned the study's not-yet-explained assumptions, and suggested that the effort was simply a waste. This blatant rudeness caused spectators to erupt in nearly unanimous booing. Observation: Often in this online forum, constructive people understandably call for cheery optimism. But what we've been up against for seven years often requires serious--and sometimes frank--persistence of the kind seen in Adrian's faithful contributions.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	ODU's Dr.. James Koch on Economics of Open Space

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Comment by Dr. James Koch, Old Dominion University professor of economics, ODU President Emeritus, and author of the annual State of the Region report:</p> <p>“Still, of all the factors that currently challenge the availability of open space and parks in Hampton Roads, it is the progressive and almost relentless conversion of these areas to residential and commercial use that is most ominous, for once unsettled land has been urbanized with residents and structures, it seldom reverts to open space or park status.</p> <p>If another 50 years pass that devour open space at the same rate as the last 50 years, then we will have eliminated a huge swath of land that could have been turned into parks or preserved as open space for all to enjoy. We will have made an almost irrevocable decision that parks and open space are not going to play significant roles in our urban future.</p> <p>The political diversity and geographical breadth of Hampton Roads (a euphemistic way to explain an absence of regional unity) have tended to exacerbate this tendency toward narrowly defined, disconnected initiatives. No single body serves as an open-space advocate for the entire region.</p> <p>The quality of life and the ultimate sustainability of a growing region like Hampton Roads depend on managing conservation as well as development in a thoughtful and comprehensive manner.”</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	15
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	14
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>The same thing will happen at Fort Monroe that has happened in Buckroe if citizens lose the "battle" to have the Wherry Quarter unified within current NP holdings. In the early 1900's, Hampton's 100,000 residents (not counting visitors and tourists) had approx 30 acres of bayfront in the Bayshore and Buckroe Beach amusement areas for public use and enjoyment. In the mid-60's, with Bayshore closed, 120,000 residents still enjoyed about 25 acres in the Buckroe amusement area. Today, with a population over 144,000, the City of Hampton has squeezed public use of Buckroe's bayfront into a measly 8 acres between 1st Street and the Boardwalk, and they are working on developing the rest of the bayfront property with private homes. This is exactly what leadership is trying to do at Fort Monroe, i.e. squeeze public use of FM's bayfront into current NPS holdings in order to develop Wherry Quarter's historic 100 acre bayfront gap with private homes. Only the greedy would accede to this   By Sandra C</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Your statements are absolutely valid, Sandra C. We do not owe a living to any developers. Hampton's elected owe it to America to butt out of Fort Monroe. Political favoritism is just as ugly here as it currently is in D.C.   By Jean S</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>Amen, Sandra and Jean. But please let me add one thing. Hampton's elected -- and also the unelected handful who are in on this fake-national-monument scam -- don't owe it to America to stand _aside_, as Jean suggests. Instead, they owe it to America to stand _up_ for the stewardship duty that they scorned from 2005 until about a year ago, and to which they then feigned responsible attention by engineering the self-evidently preposterous national monument/park with its big ugly gap -- and then by promoting the Big Lie that all of Fort Monroe was now a national park. (Want me to justify that charge, anybody?) Mayor Ward's supporters brag constantly about her tremendous civic contribution. Well, there's still time for her to live up to that. She could take the lead on marshaling Virginia's politicians, journalists and congressional delegation to assertively and aggressively fix the fake. But we don't see that happening, do we? To learn why, please see Sandra's comment above.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>Your statements are absolutely valid, Sandra C. We do not owe a living to any developers. Hampton's elected owe it to America to leave personal and friend considerations out of Fort Monroe. Political favoritism is just as ugly here as it currently is in D.C.   By Jean S</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>More wonderful info. from Adrian! But I wonder why it says it was originally submitted in Dutch? Are you multi-lingual, Adrian? Wasn't one of your earlier postings supposedly submitted in Estonian or some other language?   By Susan B</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>Steve: For a moment I thought that I misread Dr. Koch's quoted report when you and your buddies are incorrectly using it to back up your ideas on "waterfront open space". I reread it and find that he supports parks and open space in general. There is no reference to waterfront as you seem to refer. I maintain that the many miles of prime beach a few miles North at Grandview and Buckroe are accessible and physically as pleasant as the beaches of Fort Monroe. And the other local parks which are mentioned in my reply are huge by anyone's standard. Each and everyone also have large freshwater lakes if you like to look at water. I will gladly accept your experts definition of open space to satisfy our citizens needs. And thank you for reminding me of Sandy Bottom another "green, open space, park, and lake. Add this to two other waterfront Parks in South Newport News, King Lincoln and Anderson.   By Tom B</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>Tom, yes, Dr. Koch addresses open space generally. Any comment on his warning that it "is the progressive and almost relentless conversion of [open space and parks in Hampton Roads] to residential and commercial use that is most ominous"? Is "ominous" justified? And yes, Adrian--like many that you label my "buddies"--applied that warning to "much needed open waterfront space." They're right to do that, because in fact people do have insufficient access to the bay--and to the York, the James, Hampton Roads, and the ocean--despite what you say about Hampton's bayfront. (I hope Sandra Canepa addresses that one, BTW.) Just look at a map--or for a parking space. Moreover, Sandy Bottom's lake is no ocean or bay. I don't know the NN parks that you cite, but I doubt that TPL missed any contribution they make to waterfront green space that TPL assessed by carefully comparing us to other harbor/ocean metropolitan areas. (Again: No disrespect, but do you represent the developers in some way?)   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 8</b>	<p>What you may maintain and of what you have thorough knowledge are, obviously, not in concert. Hampton has less than 9/10 (nine tenths) of a mile of public beach at Buckroe... that's all... not much for a waterfront city with the size population we have. Grandview Beach and Preserve is inaccessible to many... even the residents there have difficulty getting to the shore. Likewise, Sandy Bottom and Newport News Park are of no consequence to this topic.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 9</b>	<p>Tom, I'd like _also_ like to respond to your possibly somewhat sarcastic (forgive me if that's an over-reading) claim "that our informed citizens have been very successful in preventing or at least challenging any and every effort to reduce our open spaces through commercial development." Recently in Chesapeake people opposed an apartment development on privately owned land. Well, that developer had some rights too, and he owned the land. Fair enough. But there was a huge difference at Sandy Bottom years ago, or at Buckroe Beach and Ft Monroe in the last decade or so: Developers don't own it. We do! Citizens do! We aren't taking rights and "vested interests" away from developers. Instead, a financially and culturally counterproductive overdevelopment mindset in our leaders is causing _us_ -- and in Ft Monroe's case, America -- to be robbed. And again, the irony is that our plan is actually better even if you care only about the money enrichment, not other kinds of enrichment.   By Steve C</p>

<b>Comment 10</b>	With the dearth of publicly accessible open space and unspoilt natural environment, the Wherry and Chesapeake beachfront on Fort Monroe will be a most welcome venue for public appreciation and recreation; not to mention the important historical implications of those areas.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 11</b>	It has been my observation over the past 25 years or so, that our informed citizens have been very successful in preventing or at least challenging any and every effort to reduce our open spaces through commercial development. And, on the Peninsula they have been particularly successful. Hampton has miles of waterfront in its Grandview Park/Buckroe areas. Newport News has the largest Park east of the Mississippi River as well as Huntington Park, plus the Noland Trail. Plenty of open space to satisfy our needs for many years to come, don't you agree?   By Tom B
<b>Comment 12</b>	Hampton has just short of .9 miles of public beach at Buckroe... not much for a city with the population we have. Grandview is inaccessible to many, even the residents there have difficulty getting to the shore..   By Luis O
<b>Comment 13</b>	No, Tom, I don't agree. Adrian's and Fort Monroe's subject is not Newport News's landlocked public forests, but <u>waterfront</u> green space. I think you have it upside down. Tidewater-wide and in Hampton too, public access to the water is lacking. (Ever tried to park in VB on a summer weekend?) As the Trust for Public Land study (please see Adrian's "idea" elsewhere in this forum) authoritatively demonstrates, our region is substandard when it comes to waterfront green space that could aid the economy by enhancing the quality of life and boosting authenticity, thereby making the region more attractive. To call for developing the bayfront land at Ft Monroe is to call for <u>diminishing</u> , not enlarging, the national treasure's overall economic potential -- not to speak of disrespecting a Monticello-scale, Liberty-Bell-level treasure. (BTW: No disrespect, but do you represent the developers in some way?) (P.S. to Adrian: No mention of unification in your final paragraph?)   By Steve C
<b>Comment 14</b>	Hampton has just short of 9/10 (nine tenths) of a mile of public beach at Buckroe... not much for a waterfront city with the size population we have. Grandview is inaccessible to many, even the residents there have difficulty getting to the shore.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	As Population Density Increases So Does Need for Parkland
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>"Boston is one of the most densely populated cities in the U.S., but its generous supply of park-land – 17.7 percent of the city's area, more than twice the percentage of Hampton Roads' five cities – helps keep it a desirable place to live and work. Moreover, the city's skillful development and marketing of its parks, historical sites and cultural landmarks continues to keep it at the forefront of the nation's tourism industry. (In 2006 the city of Boston received 18.8 million visitor-days.) Finally, Boston has been exceptionally successful – more than twice as successful as the Hampton Roads area – in preserving and providing parkland along its water shoreline, making available the great views, breezes, fishing, boating and swimming opportunities that waterfronts provide the citizenry of great urban areas."</p> <p>(Excerpt from the Trust for Public Land's study "Bracing for Change, Fort Monroe and the Need for Parkland in Hampton Roads." Link to full study: <a href="http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf">http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf</a> )</p> <p>As the population of Hampton Roads increases over the next few decades, so will its density, particularly near its central core. Fort</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	14
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	American History that Needs to be Preserved
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I respect and enjoy the history of Fort Monroe. It should be kept as a place for children to enjoy and learn American history. It's an unique part of early American history that we cannot afford to lose.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Monika M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	14
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	I fully support Monikas idea and the three comments below. I have a simply question. What does the view to the North East have to do with the success of her thought. Keep in mind that this Fort and its museum has been available for 50+ years at no cost to its visitors, but, relatively few tourists have come. With the present economy the "new normal" I doubt that the Natl. Park Service will be able to cover the monuments operating costs. Anyway, this remains to be seen. The intelligent thing to do would be to "hedge" our bets. Do not add the Wherry Qtr to the Federal owned Monument/Park. Give the City/State the option to add another attraction to the Wherry Qtr to improve the draw for tourists/visitors who have never been here before. I also suggest that the City "capture" Dog Beach for immediate citizens use. And most importantly, lets not get ahead of ourselves in pursuing this complex matter.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 2</b>	No, we can not afford to lose this. We have the opportunity to make great things happen at Ft. Monroe. There are thousands of lessons to be learned here.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	With proper treatment of this treasure, millions of others will have the opportunity to appreciate what you do. Architecturally, environmentally and, of course, historically, Fort Monroe is something for the entire world to share.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Amen. A privilege to second this one. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	One Time Opportunity for Greatness and Doing Right Thing
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Army provided us a one-time opportunity to establish a grand public place for the region and nation, blending historic, architectural, cultural, natural and scenic treasures in a seamless 565 acre whole, along the highly scenic Chesapeake Bay. We cannot fail to take advantage of that opportunity.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	I agree, this property is too valuable to allow shortsightedness to rule its future.   By Susan W

<b>Comment 2</b>	It would be tragic if the state, having come so far in its evolving vision of Fort Monroe, fell short of creating the optimal Fort Monroe that Mark describes. We are 100 Wherry acres away from the grand public place, rich in natural beauty and historic ambience, that the public has wanted ever since the post closing was announced. And an open, green Wherry is possible. For revenue the state can rent and even sell historic buildings on the post, it can add new, historically compatible construction to the historically insignificant North Gate area--an action to which no one will object--and it can benefit economically (as will Phoebus and Hampton) from the non-local tourism and regional repeat visitation that a beautiful Fort Monroe will generate. Along with preserving, occupying, and finding the right adaptive uses for the historic buildings, a green Wherry slated for transfer to the National Monument should be, and must be, a top priority of the FMA.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 3</b>	We would be foolish not to see this through. A non-partitioned national historic park is the only logical conclusion. The entire 565 acres of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe is worthy of World Heritage status.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I can't imagine being closed-minded to not feel exactly as you do!!! Thank you, Mark!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	I'd like to do more than just second this point--I want it SHOUTED out!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Interior Secretary Salazar Let the People Stand Up and Speak
<b>Idea Detail</b>	During a listening session on February 1, 2012 at the Richmond Battlefields Park, Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar invited members of the audience to stand up and make comments or ask questions. He followed the same procedure during the June 29, 2011 meeting that he conducted at the Bay Breeze Center. We the public should have the opportunity to stand up and speak in the larger group setting as well during the Fort Monroe Master Plan process. Also during the Richmond meeting it was announced that hundreds of acres were being added to the Richmond Battlefields Park. These acres were added to prevent development that would detract from the battlefield setting. We need to learn from this action and the action of NPS elsewhere and not create the kind of problem that they are trying to solve. Please go to <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/visual-info/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/visual-info/</a> for photos of this and many other meetings and events (arranged in reverse chronological order).
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great idea! I'd suggest opening the discussion to a national forum as well. Ft Monroe represents a National treasure, not a Hampton City treasure.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 2</b>	Adrian, was your idea originally submitted in Italian?   By Scott B
<b>Comment 3</b>	See... logic, sensibility and foresight can prevail! Let's make it happen for a non-partitioned Fort Monroe National Historic Park!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Yes--let the people speak AND LISTEN to them!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Please stop fuelling the race track idea with comments!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The more people comment on an idea that they don't agree with, the higher that idea rises on the list of "most active ideas." It seems to me better to comment instead on those ideas that one likes. By focussing on the really worthwhile ideas offered in this forum (that is, by writing comments about them in addition to seconding them), those ideas might rise to the "most active" status and therefore get more attention. That way, we can accentuate the positive and avoid any perception of negative or personal attacks.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	30
<b>Comment 1</b>	Time out. There's a lot of chatter here about this silly, cowardly business of anonymously (and spuriously) alleging abuse, and now Jason Pillow is even implying that I've alleged abuse. (Jason, you wrote addressing me, "you dont have to put me down , or report abuse because you dont agree.") Nothing that has appeared from anyone yet in this forum even comes close to justifying the anonymous, cowardly act of clicking "Report Abuse." So I actually agree with you, Jason, if you're calling for people freely to have their say, without having others try to silence them or complain -- anonymously or not -- about perfectly valid stating of opinions. If you'll notice, Jason, that's what I call for too. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 2</b>	yes perhaps it was a blatant stab in the dark, but i infered it, not implied it, the statement didnt actually say u did, but i infered you did, mostly because of the things you have said. anyone here could have done it, and it will be ok. i did poke at a few because of how i felt receiving the reported abuse. No offense Steve.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 3</b>	I changed my explanation of this topic, but the website wouldn't let me change the title--sorry! the new title should be: "Emphasize the positive by commenting only on the ideas you like!"   By Susan B
<b>Comment 4</b>	"Emphasize the positive by commenting only on the ideas you like!?" I sympathize but I respectfully object. The thousand-year future of this imperiled national treasure has been a political issue for seven years, however much the authorities, sometimes abetted by journalists, especially at the Daily Press, have tried to frame it instead as a benign, friendly, technocratic project with everybody supposedly -- ahem -- "at the table." But Fort Monroe's actual owners have _not_ been "at the table." That's why the governor looked us in the eye and deliberately stiffed us on appointing Mark Perreault to the FMA. (I have a thousand examples of the civic perfidy.) When a bad idea comes up -- racetracks, filling in the moat, or the FMA's own unwise intention to make the place more a "village" and less a national treasure -- it is our duty constructively but firmly and clearly to oppose it, and to do what we've always done: present a better alternative. Politics ain't beanbag. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 5</b>	But Steve, it is your opinion, and u have a right to one, that the racetrack is a bad idea, you dont have to put me down , or report abuse because you dont agree with it. your only concern is for the betterment of youm and your opinions, if you start thinking about what will actually help save the place, instead of giving to many options, then the whole website is purpousless. if nho ones idea will be considered, then whats the point, i have discussed my idea with hundreds of people in person, over the past 7 years, and so far the only people that think its a bad idea, are those in this website complaining, when in fact, you all dont even realize what, and how im trying to save the Fort. But go on, and keep putting me down, as i said, the more its talked about by this group, the eaiser it will be for me to get others on my side. i dint need the 250 ppl on this site to support me, i can get 25000 people that can and willingly will, because they want a drag track closer to vabeach.   By Jason P

<b>Comment 6</b>	Also Steve, i havent read one good idea for the whole place as of just yet, so if its a village you dont want, its what we will get, my proposal dosent necessarily make it a villiage, but does make it an accessable facility where people young and old alike can come to enjoy whatever type of racing they may enjoy.go cart tracks will be there too. you all have submitted many ideas regarding areas of this place, but these people in power want something that can be done with the whole thing, and just because a few people dont like the idea i have submitted, dosent mean it cant be conversed about among those who do like it. its gonna be something, and i believe a community where people can go to compete against each other in whatever means they want is a moneymaker for this national treasure that will inevitably slip thru your fingers unless something big is done. that is my opinion, and im allowed to have it, and express it. dissagree all you want, it wont change whos descision it is to make.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 7</b>	Gee, someone reported me as being abusive because of my comment: "Good point Susan". Someone obviously has some issues....   By Ron W
<b>Comment 8</b>	your right ron, tis whoever reported what i said as abusive. at no point is anything i have said been abusive, yet i got notified it was. so i went on, and reported everyones comments that said something i didnt like as abusive, why, because the child in me said to. if someone is gonna do it to me, i will do it to all of you so i can figure out who it was, and make a point known that it is as wrong as me reporting everyone. this website is here to allow ppls opinions to be heard, not put down because one dosent like someone elses opinion.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 9</b>	in my other idea where i mention that in england they are gonna make a race track that goes near the palace, it stands to make 125 milion a year for england, just having the track there. hmm. you can look the story up on line if it pleases you to see that tracks make money. racing makes the most money over all other sports, which is why it is watched more, all racing is seen by more people each year in this world, than those that visit all the parks in the country, to get a piece of the money spent world wide is all i propose, Save the Fort, come and race.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 10</b>	what makes the land environmentally important, i do understand its history, but it wont matter to those who will inevitably develope it, wouldnt a place to race and live be a better option than having every inch of it go to housing. no, ok, housing it will be. i cannot stop anyone with an idea, it will take many to convince power to be that they are making a mistake, but my idea may not be the best idea, but it can create opportunity to fix, and repair the history, otherwise it dies with development. thanks for clearing your view in all this. thanks for the support as well.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 11</b>	no matter what happens to Fort Monroe, Money is the issue at hand, and those who want it will get it, im just trying to create an idea that can save the land that exists, and use a couple of roads to drive on. roads that are already there, and a place where a community of people, a small township can be established, people that love racing, and love it on a historic place.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 12</b>	Haters Hating   By Jason P
<b>Comment 13</b>	I don't know what brought this comment on--I have no hatred toward the racetrack idea; I just don't agree with it as a viable option for the best use of Fort Monroe's historical and environmentally important land. Did you submit a report that this idea was abusive? Why? If you did it because you think I sent such a report in on your idea, you're wrong. I have never reported anyone's ideas on this forum as abusive. I'm sorry it seems to have gotten so personal, but I want you to know that I'm not the one doing the attacking. You certainly have the right to express your views about how to use Ft. Monroe's land, and I have the right to express mine.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 14</b>	agreed, and what brought this on was someone reported my idea and a comment posted in this section as being abusive   By Jason P
<b>Comment 15</b>	yes, i was being childish reporting everyones comments as abusive, and that was wrong of me. this may not be the best viable option, but it is the one that can make the most money for the Fort. and not real estate developers. this idea can come down to one thing, people love to compete, and why not make a resort people can visit, and pour money in to hampton, and the Fort. its all good, i understand you didnt do it, i have asked the website people to clear this all up, so we will see who is making this personal.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 16</b>	The race-track issue has run out of gas, or is it electricity now? Let's raise the checkered flag on it and get back to addressing directly what could and should happen at Fort Monroe. By treating an outlandish idea so seriously, I think we trivialize the discussion--and I include myself amongst the trivializers, since I submitted one of the first responses to Mr. P. If somebody opines that Fort Monroe should become another Coney Island, Atlantic City, or Lily-Dale-like Spiritualist center, or that it be used as a paintball war zone, giant outlet mall, or terrorist detention camp, I will do my best not to react.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 17</b>	Yet here you are still talking about it. not many people are a part of this site huh steve?Open your mind to the future, its comming, oh wait there is it, and now its gone. Fort Monroe can be saved, but not by you all here. i propose to keep the "turtle" in place( i call the moat area the " turtle" ) and keep the inside premises untouched, but the area outside of it, near the airport, what will become of it. you know there is no small place airport active in this area, i also plan to have that become available again for users. My proposal will have people flooding the gates to race, lets see what your idea can do.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 18</b>	Trivialize the discussion? On one level, that's impossible to rebut. But then, this whole Fort Monroe discussion itself is surreal. That's why I sort of like discussing Jason's preposterous idea. It obliquely illuminates the bizarre situation that we've descended to after seven years of struggle. Jason has no power and will not prevail. But the people in power are in the process of prevailing, and either way, Fort Monroe's sense of place gets stolen. If Fort Monroe is what we say it is, and not what Jason says it is -- and not what Virginia's leaders plainly believe it is -- then that gaping hole in the national monument is (here it comes again!) self-evidently preposterous. Yet instead of demanding responsibility from leaders who are grimly executing a national-level land grab, in this new thread we're merely holding a meta-discussion about an idea that has no chance. Trivializing indeed. Surreal for sure.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 19</b>	you see when i started commenting on my idea, Steve here started gawking at my idea , i wasnt afforded the opportunity to explain all the points of this racing resort, i have said that i origionally thought about having a place where only electric was raced, but this wont bring any kind of money to hampton any time soon So making a place where people can go, and race, instead of being on the streets , is what i suggest, allowing for larger events such as nascar and indy to race at this place once or twice a year. im telling you , if its not a racing community, it will be a community over run with housing. its just land to the people in office. lim saying keep the history, just put a place to race in the back, away from all the houses. it wont be as loud as you all think either. trust me, push for a racing community, and you will be able to save more of the history than if you fight against them about building houses. my idea leaves the bay shore free of houses.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 20</b>	And what i propose will not reduse Fort monroe at all, it will add to it, by allowing more people the ability to see it. Go on hating the idea. what i propose is less hurtful to this place than you are giving me credit for. any way you look at it, i can and will unite people , power is easy to atain, Steve, thanks for the support.   By Jason P

<b>Comment 21</b>	and the money would go into the whole place, Susan you really dont understand just what im trying to acomplish with my idea, please read all of the comments i have made , my proposal would bring money to the Fort itself because the Fort is the whole reason people will show up. i really do believe you have been sadly mistaken on what i am trying to say.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 22</b>	im not trying to make most of it a racing resort, just the back part.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 23</b>	Jason: The entire free world uses economics in making decisions which affect their citizens interests at home and abroad. Politics, historical and environmental interests also come in to the equation, but at a much lower level. This is just how things are and will continue to be. Now I hope that you will agree to allow me to disagree. Why in the world would you wish to use land, having history and choice location, giving it an estimated value of about \$250,000/acre, for racetracks when you can find good flat farmland acreage in the county for about \$5000/acre? This would be called a bad economic decision. We need this high value land to obtain needed capital for Fort Monroe's future infrastructure maintenance and operations, and a side benefit of bay front.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 24</b>	Tom, why do you think the military abandoned this land, because it was not making any money, they were losing money to keep it, so they relinquished the land. what makes you think that this place will make money under civilial control if it stays the same if the military couldnt find value in it.The estimated amount will still be viable, as what i propose uses only the roads that are present, and any additional housing that is needed to fix the dilapidated area that is being called the national treasure area. the reason one would use this location to have a racing resort is because it sits on valuable space. im saying rent/ time share the places that are there now, and the racing placee will make money hand over fist because racing pays for it self. but its all good. this is after just my idea. one that some may not like, but this idea can help save the Fort because the money will go back into the Fort.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 25</b>	nobody wants to drive way out into the country to go to race tracks anymore. the tracks that get the most attention are those in good locations, not on the farm. the price per acre dosent matter here, because if you want to save the Fort from being overdeveloped, then a place to race is the answer. the need for speed is everywhere, u never know who has the need, so if we get em all in one place, and let em race, then its a little more controllable, and we can get the speeders, off the hiways, and somewhere where they can do what they want. Race.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 26</b>	I sympathize with this notion, and thought of it myself when I was contributing comments. But I did contribute, and I did so on purpose, because in the end, Jason Pillow's racetrack idea is really comparable to the disrespect that Virginia's leaders plainly intend for this national treasure. True, the racetrack idea is blatantly wrong, and the overdevelopment idea is less objectionable. But Mr. Pillow's special interest group has no power, whereas the overdevelopment special interest has plenty. And in the end, what that special interest is plainly planning is just as deadly for Fort Monroe's crucial sense of place -- deadly in the sense of killing it in a classy way instead of with stock cars. So the racetrack idea is useful as a reminder that Fort Monroe as an integrated, respected national treasure is in as much peril now as it was in 2005 -- which is why the Virginian-Pilot says that without unification of the split national monument, Fort Monroe will remain "degraded." Race on.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 27</b>	a race resort can help the Fort maintain its history. not take it away. As i said, it must be done properly, but this place can make millions as a race resort. Millions. preposterous as it may seem, it can, and should be done, as to save the Fort, is to make it worth saving. racing resort will pay for its rebuilding, and its upkeep. Trust me on this, if you get behind it, then control of what happens can be maintained by those who want to keep the Fort as a national treasure. I have no intentions on scaring the area, we want to make it a place to have fun competitions of all kinds. land sea, and air.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 28</b>	Thanks... the speedway concept was inappropriate and tiresome.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 29</b>	your comment is inappropriat and tiresome.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 30</b>	Good point Susan.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	19-mile loop of linear trails along Boston's Charles River
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>"The Charles River Basin defines the center of Boston's metropolitan area and provides access to outstanding river scenery in addition to recre-ation opportunities. It was artificially dredged and shaped almost 100 years ago from tidal marshes and mud flats. Although not natural, it nevertheless provides outstanding wildlife habitat for hundreds of animal and plant species and plays a critical role in the ecology of the region.</p> <p>Surrounding the river basin on both the north and south sides is a 19-mile loop of linear trails. Most famous is the Esplanade which connects more than 20 parks and natural areas and is suitable for road races, walkathons, biking, inline skating, running, dog walking, bird watching and sunbath-ing. The parks along the river provide city dwellers with concerts and performances, playgrounds, par courses for exercise, athletic fields for baseball, soft-ball, football and soccer, tennis courts, swimming pools, seasonal ice-skating rinks, picnic areas and community gardens. The river itself offers rowing, canoeing, kayaking and sailing, with public boat ramps as well as private boat tours.</p> <p>The Basin parklands are owned and managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) with help from the Charles River Conservancy. Founded as an advocacy group, the Conservancy's mission is to restore, enhance and maintain the Charles River Basin and its surroundings, particularly its parks, parkways and bridges."</p> <p>(Excerpt from the Trust for Public Land's study "Bracing for Change, Fort Monroe and the Need for Parkland in Hampton Roads.")</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	My general feeling about The Fort
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe (to me) constitutes one of Virginia's primary historical sites, with the potential for the education and enjoyment of both present and future generations. The contamination of such a site with private development and/or crass commercialism would be a travesty, a testimony to the failure of government at all levels to recognize the importance of the preservation of our heritage.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Clarence S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Beautifully stated! Thank you.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Let's not allow any level of government to prove failures to society, at Fort Monroe!!!   By Jean S



<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Ft.Monroe must be self sustaining. So far these debates have not dealt with this issue. The issue is not overdevelopment. The issue is determining how much development is necessary to enable Ft. Monroe to be self-sustaining.Unifying the national monument serves no real purpose except eliminating all development in the Wherry Quarter. This would in all likelihood eliminate the possibility of Ft. Monroe becoming self-sustaining. Steve admits he and his group have been working since 2005 and 2006 to have most of Ft. Monroe included in the national park. When his efforts failed he had to find a new way to accomplish his goals. Unifyng the national monument is simply his lastest effort to make certian our childern and grandchildren get to pay for Ft. Monroe. Let's lobby the interior department to take thie hands off the North Beach area and let the FMA do their job. Including the Wherry Quarter would simply make it impossible. The "Preservationists" do not believe in self-suatainability.   By keith D
<b>Comment 2</b>	Save Fort Monroe? Easy to agree with that! For the site <a href="http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> my e-address is SaveFortMonroe@gmail.com, and I also have a Facebook page called Save Fort Monroe (and I need to use it more). The phrase angers some good people. They think that by overdeveloping Fort Monroe, they're already saving it. No personal disrespect, but I think they're wrong. One thing, though: Those of us who have been trying to save Fort Monroe since 2005 and 2006 have always believed that the residences and campuslike buildings should be used. We think the most sensible solution doesn't require avoiding all development. We just think it should be restricted to the bridge-tunnel side of Old Point Comfort. In this forum, please see the photo and map at the "idea" posting "Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres" ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> )   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	History and Waterfront
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe is a national asset that combines important history with a beautiful natural setting for viewing and recreation.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Brian K
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	10
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I enjoy being on Ft. Monroe several times each week for these very reasons.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Take advantage of the open spaces and beaches by making trails with history and nature signs. And open at least some of the beach area to dogs again...there was a large clientel there before. Dog friendliness made these beaches unique.   By Brian K
<b>Comment 3</b>	And more people need to hear about it!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	1,480 Acres of Public Parkland Added to San Francisco Area
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Like Hampton Roads, the San Francisco Bay area brings together outstanding wetlands and riparian habitat, a huge expanse of sheltered water, and a long history of military fortification and bases. In the case of the third largest city on the Bay—Oakland—much of the vast military infrastructure is still in place. In the case of San Francisco itself, almost all the defenses have been decommissioned and converted into the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). The largest city on San Francisco Bay, San Jose, has little military presence but has vast acreages of marsh-land and natural parkland in and alongside the Bay.</p> <p>GGNRA, created in 1972, spans three coun-ties and comprises more than 75,500 acres. (Since this study tabulates only parkland within major cities, much of this vast acreage, which is outside municipal boundaries, is not counted.) The park is home to many distinct historic and cultural re-sources and ecological zones, and many San Fran-cisco Bay area residents rate GGNRA as one of the primary benefits of living in the region.</p> <p>(Excerpt from the Trust for Public Land's study "Bracing for Change, Fort Monroe and the Need for Parkland in Hampton Roads." Link to full study: <a href="http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf">http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf</a> )</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Good point about the benefits of open land in congested metropolitan areas. By the way, why does this say it was originally submitted in Dutch?? Does this mean that MindMixer can't really understand our comments?   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Yet more substantial information to support the great cause of unification of all of Cape Comfort in a Fort Monroe National Historic Park. Thanks, Adrian.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	What Fort Monroe Should Mean to All Americans
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Defender of the first colonies; home of our economic, maritime and military history; bastion of human freedom and equal rights; greatest of American fortifications; the oldest site of living history in USA.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Each one of these phrases is a gem. I especially liked the implications of "living history."   By Scott B
<b>Comment 2</b>	It is difficult to say everything you want in only one sentence or phrase!    By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	It is difficult to say everything you want is one sentence or phrase!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	A Special Place. . .

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Fort Monroe is a special place to hundreds who lived there as maturing young adults; where values, ethics and a sense of patriotism were formed. It is a place where the careers of future military officers were launched as they followed in the footsteps of their parents into service to our country. Monroe is the most unique military assignment that our parents could have given us and where most of our fondest memories of army life remain. She continues to hold us in her grip (photo shows high schoolers reunited after 50 years and relaxing on the Lincoln Gun) as we recall the stories of our lives there in much the same way they are told in "Everytown" across our land. She is the place where we continue to return, long after our parents have passed, to re-unite and reflect upon her great historic past and the cherished time when we were privileged to call her "home."</p> <p>Just go sit on the parapet overlooking the Bay and Hampton Roads on a summer's night, stars twinkling, an occasional ship slipping past Fort Wool, and if the timing is right, "Taps" wafting across the parade ground. See if you catch the fever.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Marcia M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	A lovely evocation. My hope is that visitors in decades to come will have a similarly pleasant experience of Fort Monroe, and return many times. But for this to happen, the fort's historic architecture and natural beauty must be preserved.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Spot on, Scott!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Spot on, Scott!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Very nice.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 5</b>	Absolutely beautiful!!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Promote Tourism and Educate America
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Some folks have commented on this site that tourism won't work, saying that it hasn't flourished in the past. Bear in mind that Ft Monroe was not a national park, but a working military base with restricted access, making it more difficult to visit and limiting the opportunities for development of more tourist-oriented focus. With the openness that a National Park status brings, tourism would be expected to increase significantly, especially if "marketed" to the specific historical aspects that would appeal to average American families. I think there is great potential of spreading the story of "Freedom's Fortress" as seen through various lenses - obviously the Civil War aspect, but also as it impacts the whole civil rights history of this country. Don't undersell tourism at Monroe. Don't undermine the historic story of Ft Monroe. Make Fort Monroe a grand public place by preserving the Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront, and unifying the National Monument.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Lets not sugar coat this. President Obama declared portions of the fort a National Monument primarily for the African history. He stated that this is where the first Africans landed and where three slaves sought refuge and became Contraband of War. Freedom's Fortress is where thousands of African escaped to for the right to be free. The new Fort Monroe Authority slogan is "Where Freedom Lives". That could mean the role Fort Monroe had in preserving freedom on the land and sea. But to many that means where Africans sought sanctuary from slavery. I read that some are promoting it as a tourist attraction for the architecture and scenic view. Did not mention that the primary attraction is the African history. Standing on the ground where the first African ancestors in America landed. Recognizing America's first African family and the birth of the first child of African descent born in America. Tracing ancestral roots. This all started at Point Comfort and then Fort Monroe. Welcome visitors.   By Calvin P</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>This gentleman, from Project 1619, has a connection to the Ft Monroe legacy requiring special respect from the likes of me. Nevertheless I'd like to emphasize, respectfully, that in early 08, when the nation's leading scholars of slavery met to discuss Ft Monroe--well, to discuss the fortress anyway, for the Ft Monroe Authority's convening official forbade them from discussing the rest of Old Point Comfort, since that would threaten developers' divine rights to precious public property--the historians stressed one central message. Yes, it was Black people who started the events at Ft Monroe that make it internationally important. Yes, that's African-American history. But here's what the historians wanted everyone to remember: in the end, this fundamentally important story is an _American_ one, albeit led by brave African Americans. It's about the principles that America was supposed to have been founded upon, and that those brave Black people pushed us all to begin respecting, finally.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	Thanks, Susan W2. Common sense quietly spoken is very compelling.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>Susan; Let me amplify a past contribution re. Ft. Monroe tourism. Except during a National crisis, anyone with a photo drivers license in an auto had unrestricted access during stated hours to the Fort. Although you did not address it, this included access to the Casemate Museum and the ramparts. I agree, due to recent publicity, visitors will increase. Our goal is to keep the visitors in the area for more than a day. We need another significant "all weather" attraction on the site to attract visitors Winter and Summer. My idea is to reserve some of the Wherry acreage for private development of VA's first Resort/Casino. This would give us the "sustainability" for a year 'round, cost neutral, operation that benefits all taxpaying citizens of Virginia. I am disturbed that the preservationist contributors to this site seem unconcerned about the economic aspects of this significant undertaking. There is enough room for their required "vistas" and more. We all need to cooperate.   By Tom B</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>As I said earlier today elsewhere in response to Tom B7, it is nonsense to make statements like "I am disturbed that the preservationist contributors to this site seem unconcerned about the economic aspects of this significant undertaking." That's upside down. The way to maximize the economic value is to optimize the asset, which is -- to use a phrase that Tom B7 placed within in disdain quotes not long ago -- a national treasure. American history charges us to respect this site, and American history is not over. To consign this Monticello-scale national treasure to squalid casinohood on the basis of economic hysteria and panic would be to trash the stewardship duty that we owe to the country and the planet.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>I have yet to see a casino that did not bring crime and blight to an area. Developers conjure visions of Monaco, reality never comes close. Money made and spent in a casino is money not spent in the local businesses.   By Nadine T</p>

<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>I'm glad I get to second this fine idea. And forgive me, but it's important to say certain things over and over, so here are three directly related "idea" points that I hope people will consult if they like what Susan W2 says. The first two are from the first round, now closed. The third is alive right now, and crucial. Thanks.</p> <p>* Freedom's Fortress National Park as World Heritage Site (<a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site</a>)</p> <p>* Peninsula's Historic Diamond: full story of America's founding (<a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-do-you-think-the-peninsula-is-a-great-region/peninsula-s-historic-diamond-full-story-of-america-s-founding">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-do-you-think-the-peninsula-is-a-great-region/peninsula-s-historic-diamond-full-story-of-america-s-founding</a>)</p> <p>* Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres (<a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a>)   By Steve C</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Everything great and good is here!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Birthplace of our nation, natural beauty, timeless traditions, magnificent edifices, living history, national heritage, defender of Hampton Roads, cultural and artistic catalyst, enduring heritage, environmental jewel, historical diversity, bastion of freedom: all describe what Ft. Monroe means to my heart, mind and soul.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jean S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Fort Monroe, my family tradition...my Father brought me here first as a young child...My uncle was stationed here...Fort Monroe was always here to welcome me home.   By Patricia H
<b>Comment 2</b>	Nicely put Jean.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 3</b>	Thanks, Jean, for a myriad of colorful and valid impressions/depictions of Fort Monroe. (I believe you mentioned, in the first round of topics, that you were born in the Post Infirmary.)   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Yes, I was--and I have had close ties to Fort Monroe all my life.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	"Significant green connection"? Yes, but needs NPS and more land
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Thanks, Hampton City Council, for your August 8, 2012, resolution that moves toward fixing the split national monument. "Viewshed protection"? Amen! "Tourism, hospitality, recreation and open space concepts" for the bayfront acres between the two parts of the split national monument/park? Amen!</p> <p>But Council, if you seek to avert the overdevelopment danger to the green heart of Old Point Comfort as shown in the red area in the accompanying illustration, why in the world only a "significant green connection"? If the most sensible -- including economically most sensible -- disposition is as you say, then why not stand up and lead on the obvious need to unify the national monument? And what about the rest of the land shown in red?</p> <p>Another phrase from your resolution also merits an Amen: "Foster economic sustainability." The first step for doing that is to fix the split national monument by taking the missing land out of local politics in perpetuity, placing it instead in National Park Service stewardship. You have great power to lead and to do good in this matter. This issue, with its thousand-year implications, is way, way bigger than even so venerable a city as Hampton!</p> <p>I hope forum participants will read (and consider "seconding") the closely related "idea" posting "Please unify nat'l monument by</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Steve C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	10
<b>Comment 1</b>	Steve and friends; First, if sacrificing a "national treasure" requires not giving up 100 or so acres of what may be the most valuable ground in the mid Atlantic States, than so be it. And, second, if the Fort Monroe National Monument cannot stand on its own merits (without the NE viewshed) it should not be considered a "national treasure".   By Tom B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Yes, national treasure. Tom, your use of sarcastic, dismissive scare quotes around the two-word phrase that's the key to this entire seven-year struggle tells all anyone ever needs to know about why it's hopeless even to try to discuss this with you (though I'll be trying again anyway). And I thought you disapproved of the term _viewshed_. And I hope I'll find somewhere that you responded to my answer to your false analogy elsewhere about Big Ben being in an urban setting, allegedly showing that the moated fortress at FM could do fine in such a setting too.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	I am sorry to inform you, that we can no longer keep real property off the tax rolls. The Country is up to its neck with sixteen trillion in debt. Get those 72 acres appraised and on the books.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 4</b>	The actual national debt is in the neighborhood of \$222 trillion. The measly return gained from possible land sales will make no difference to our debt. Fort Monroe is not the panacea for the fiscal failures of government, but it certainly will enhance the national and global standing in cultural advancements, as well as provide great positive impetus in the regional economy.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	The actual national debt is in the neighborhood of \$222 trillion. The measly return gained from possible land sales will make no difference to our debt. Fort Monroe is not the panacea for the fiscal failures of government, but, as a fully-integrated national park design, it certainly will enhance the national and global standing in cultural advancements, as well as provide great positive impetus in the regional economy.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 6</b>	The national debt bomb is no reason to sacrifice a national treasure. The debt bomb does matter hugely, mind you, but I agree with Luis. Ft Monroe is only a relative nickel there--one isolated nickel, unlike the constantly spiraling entitlements that are the _actual_ bomb. America mustn't become hysterical, fearful and rash about Ft Monroe any more than we should about, say, NASA. Tom B7: What about those scientists who are now going to use the Mars rover that engineers have placed on the red planet? Their salaries and expenses add a relative nickel to the debt bomb too. Should we fire them to save that relative nickel, while we dither about the _actual_ debt bomb that is many tens of millions of times more huge? Or should we act like a great nation and--without the desperate panic that, in effect, you're advocating against our heritage--find ways to eliminate the _actual_ debt bomb while continuing to cherish, respect, and honor what makes America great?   By Steve C
<b>Comment 7</b>	Fix it for the memory of our ancestors and for the greater good of our descendents!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 8</b>	Yes, please exercise any influence that you may have toward correction of this error.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 9</b>	YES unify the national monument, at all cost/////////   By Kenneth T

<b>Comment 10</b>	Yes, unify the national monument!   By Catherine W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Peaceful and quiet - a relaxing family freindly place
<b>Idea Detail</b>	That's the way Fort Monroe has been for our family for years and I'd like to see it remain that way. The military kept the park safe and quiet and it would be a real tribute to keep it that way for future generations.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Glenn H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Ft. Monroe has always been attractive to families. It will become the same for families from all over the world!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Unfortunately the Fort wont last very long in the real world with the real people, the money hungry wolves out there will consume it, and ruin it. the military got rid of it because it became very expensive to continut its upkeep. how can it remain untouched, and still make the money it takes to keep it up. you know the seas are rising, and the shore on the bay is getting smaller and smaller? to keep the boardwalk from falling into the bay, something big has to happen to this place. something that can have half a billion dollars poured into it. if its not spectacular , this place will go away just as its shores are .   By Jason P
<b>Idea Title</b>	Preserve this beautiful Fort.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Our son was stationed at Fort Monroe until the year before it closed. We visited many times and fell in love with its history and beautiful coastline and views. It needs to be preserved for others to experience. The existing housing could be upgraded for short term (weekly, monthly) vacation type rentals. Our son and his wife were inside the moat in a two story duplex. It was old but in no way dilapidated. The whole Fort should be included in a National Park. Many state parks have rental cabins. I would be a regular visitor to such a place!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Virginia M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	no housing
<b>Idea Detail</b>	putting anything here is an insult to the principles of our entire nation. If we put housing here we might as well start building on the national mall in DC. Leave it open and as a public recreation area for now and all future generations! I consider the fact this is even a debate despicable and a testament as to how backwards this country has become!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Chris D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe is a National Landmark
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe is a National Landmark for both Virginia and the United States. Please make it a National Park we can be proud of!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Michael C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Richard E2. The Hampton Roads area does not need another golf course, or expensive beach cabins. What it does need is a large natural area that groups and individuals can use and enjoy. Expanding the campground and a kite shop are ideas that appeal to me. There will be many opportunities for small business like a kite shop. However it is important to me, and many of my friends, that they be operated out of existing buildings or from mobile carts. I think Ranger talks are a given once the land transfers to the NPS and once NPS planning is accomplished.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	Expanding the campsites add cabins at the beach, add a 9 hole golf course, add historical presentations in theater, museum and fireside talks from National Park Rangers. Add kite shop near beach   By Richard E
<b>Idea Title</b>	Sea Level Rise and Major Storms
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I have not seen any mention of the threats to Fort Monroe from sea level rise and major storms. Those threats are real folks! They are the reason that there should be no additional development of structures in the Wherry Quarter. In fact, the FMA and planners should pay attention to the fact that a Catatagory 5 storm CREATED Willoughby Spit and poor planning decisions allowed it to be over developed. A repeat Category 5 storm could well take it away. Ditto for Fort Monroe. Another point is that Fort Monroe is built on a barrier island. Mother nature uses barrier islands to protect land areas. They are created and destroyed by natural forces.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	10
<b>Comment 1</b>	In addition to your well-made observation, it's worth noting that climate change is not the only contributor to sea-level rise in Hampton Roads. According to a study by James V. Koch, Hampton Roads "gradually is sinking at a rate between 5 - 7.5 inches per century...The bottom line is that this "sinking land effect" must be added to the projected sea level rises...to determine the total tidal increase that we will observe in Hampton Roads and any other similarly impacted mid-Atlantic Coast metropolitan areas." <a href="http://www.jrap-journal.org/pastvolumes/2010/v40/koch40_1_pdf.pdf">http://www.jrap-journal.org/pastvolumes/2010/v40/koch40_1_pdf.pdf</a>   By Susan W
<b>Comment 2</b>	To add to my above comment, I talked with Skip Stiles of Wetlands Watch, probably the area expert on sea level rise yesterday and suggested he do a presentation for the FMA. He said he would. This is a major issue for Fort Monroe and the FMA and planners need to be educated. I also mentioned MindMixer to him as an appropriate forum for his reality message.   By Ron W

<b>Comment 3</b>	It's true that the commissioners ought to engage these realities. But it's also worth reporting that a cursory check of my thousands of Fort Monroe e-mail messages in multiple folders shows that in January 2008, the then-chairman of what was not yet (but should have been) called the Fort Monroe Authority, Preston Bryant, engaged the issue of sea-level rise. As I recall from possibly faulty memory, he also led a state climate-change study of some sort that involved sea rise. And on May 11, 2008, the Daily Press published an editorial called "Fort Monroe awash: Base's re-use plans have to factor in the fact of a rising sea." It made the points being made here. I also believe that sea rise and hurricanes were discussed even before 2008 for Ft Monroe. Ron, it's not clear you had seen my comment below concerning Skip Stiles when you cited him, but in any case, I repeat here what I said there about the likelihood that these overdevelopment-dedicated commissioners will bother to care.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 4</b>	That's the problem with much of America... failure to look ahead, and turning a blind eye to the past. This is why failures are repeatedly compounded, to satisfy temporal and unfulfilling desires. We study history, not only for pleasure, but to learn, so we can chart a better future. If Sasaki is interested in doing something good at Fort Monroe, then environmental reinforcement and national park development are the most logical courses.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	And here are the country's historical roots at Ft. Monroe. What a great place to learn, but if we can't learn from something as recent as hurricane Isabel, what good is having a real historical resource like this?   By Jean S
<b>Comment 6</b>	Ron is right. Having worked for years at Fort Monroe, I cannot count the number of times following a heavy rain that employees had to remove shoes, socks, and sometimes hose before holding up skirts or folding up pant legs in order to wade to and from their cars. I recall too the pumps working to remove water from flooded out homes and offices. This situation has not changed and will only get worst as sea levels rise and the land sinks. FMA AND its consulting firm, Sasaki, need to take this situation into consideration....altho if they succeed in pushing forward with their agenda to put development in the Wherry Quarter and along the south beach area, the rising sea levels and flooding of homes in those areas won't be their problem. Most of them will have returned already to their homes in other areas and/or in other states.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 7</b>	Ditto, Sandra C.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 8</b>	Ditto Ron, Sandra, and Jean. Last April I asked Skip Stiles of Wetlands Watch about this when he was on Cathy Lewis's "HearSay." I asked by e-mail, and not only did he answer, but after the show he wrote to make sure that I got it. Here's what he wrote: "Don't put anything more permanent than picnic shelters -- or if you do, do it so that in 20 years you can take it off when it becomes unusable. I think the withdrawal of private insurance will make that piece of land very difficult to develop." But I don't predict Virginia's leaders will pay much attention to this. They grimly and single-mindedly intend to do what they have intended to do for seven years. If respect for their national stewardship duty doesn't appear in them, why would the threat of sea rise bother them? Their fake, split national monument is just a ruse -- a convenient one that doesn't cost them much developable land, and that even gives them some nice access to federal money.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 9</b>	Ron is right. Having worked for years at Fort Monroe, I cannot count the number of times following a heavy rain that employees had to remove shoes, socks, and sometimes hose before holding up skirts or folding up pant legs in order to wade to and from their cars. I recall too the pumps working to remove water from flooded out homes and offices. This situation has not changed and will only get worst as sea levels rise and the land sinks. FMA AND its consulting firm, Sasaki, need to take this situation into consideration....altho if they succeed in pushing forward with their agenda to put development in the Wherry Quarter and along the south beach area, the rising sea levels and flooding of homes in those areas won't be their problem. Most of them will have returned already to their homes in other areas and in other states.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 10</b>	Ron is right. Having worked for years at Fort Monroe, I cannot count the number of times following a heavy rain that employees had to remove shoes, socks, and sometimes hose before holding up skirts or folding up pant legs in order to wade to and from their cars. I recall too the pumps working to remove water from flooded out homes and offices. This situation has not changed and will only get worst as sea levels rise and the land sinks. FMA AND its consulting firm, Sasaki, need to take this situation into consideration....altho if they succeed in pushing forward with their agenda to put development in the Wherry Quarter and along the south beach area, the rising sea levels and flooding of homes in those areas won't be their concern any longer. Most of them will have returned already to their homes in other areas and in other states.   By Sandra C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Keep Tourist in Area!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Convert quarters or the guest house on Ingalls into a bed and breakfast and a nice hotel in Phoebus. You must offer accommodations at the site for people to come and experience the history of Fort Monroe. Going to a hotel off Mercury loses the people
<b>Idea Author</b>	Nita R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes--especially to the nice hotel in Phoebus idea (with transportation to the National Monument)!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	As pointed out in another post, green transportaton arrangements connecting Fort Monroe to surrounding community amenities and other attraction will be very important to keeping tourists in the area until their pockets are empty of the green stuff.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 3</b>	All the hotel-motels near the Coliseum are for those attending shows or conventions. They are too remote for tourism--not conducive for visitors to Ft. Monroe.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	This is so true. There is nothing for serious tourism in Coliseum Central, so the extended-stay tourist would have no real reason to remain in that area. Otherwise, on Fort Monroe, there are several hundred reasons tourists may wish to stay for an extended period of time; and an inn or hostel, in any of a number of existing structures, would be a welcome feature. Outside of Fort Monroe, Phoebus and Buckroe would be the logical sites for complementary extended-stay accommodations.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	This is so true. There is nothing for tourism in Coliseum Central, so the extended stay tourist would have no real reason to stay in that area. Outside of Fort Monroe, Phoebus and Buckroe would be the logical sites for extended stay accommodations.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	One Sentence
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe is a beautiful and irreplaceable piece of American History from the very founding of our nation up to the present day.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Hugh B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0

<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes-"irreplaceable" so it must not be lost to special interests and overdevelopment!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	A great encapsulation! Thanks, Hugh B.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I agree. But Sasaki's employers -- a handful of back-room deciders plus the citizens they designated for the Fort Monroe Authority - regularly and brazenly interpret statements like this eloquent, pithy one as justification for the split national park with its gaping, overdevelopment-destined bayfront-land omission. The forum asks, "How would you improve this idea?" Much as I hate to tamper with a crystalline statement, I'd say that as a matter of practical politics, the sentence needs this addition: "which is why its bayfront sense of place requires a unified, expanded national monument/park." (Please see the two largest -- by far -- vote-getting ideas from the first round: <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land</a> and <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/lets-make-a-real-national-monument-park">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/lets-make-a-real-national-monument-park</a> .)   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Speed limit
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Too many drivers are speeding. More enforcement of 25miles an hour or less on all roads at fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	charlotte B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Walking, bicycles, golf carts and limited-use motorways will make experiencing Ft. Monroe safe and comfortable.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Union of Souls
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe has many memories for me, but the most important one is my marriage. My Dad was transferred to Fort Monroe in 1968. We spent many fun summers at Dog beach, the sand pool and enjoying Fort Monroe even after my Dad was sent to Viet Nam. When he returned to the "Fort", I was engaged to be married. My favorite place of worship was the Chapel of the Centurian and on May 23, 1970, my Dad gave me away at that beautiful, little white chapel. It was so special and now 42 years later we still consider it our "Union of Souls" with an annual visit to that wonderful Chapel of the Centurian! Fort Monroe has many memories for me but being married there will always be the best!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Judith S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Thanks, Judith, for this nice contribution, and please let me tack on a few thoughts, including two links. I too was married (to a girl who grew up mostly in Hampton and at Fort Monroe) in the chapel. That was in 1977, and my sister was married there in 1984. It's great that your anniversary is May 23, also the anniversary of what Edward Ayers calls the greatest moment in American history, which also happened at Fort Monroe. (Please see <a href="http://hamptonroads.com/2012/05/men-who-freed-themselves">http://hamptonroads.com/2012/05/men-who-freed-themselves</a> about that.) And it's great that you implicitly highlight Fort Monroe as a wedding location, which is something I began pushing several years ago, and that I wrote about in this forum at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/a-cherished-location-for-weddings">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/a-cherished-location-for-weddings</a> under the heading "A cherished location for weddings." I'm glad I got to second your idea here.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe and the Hampton City Council (part 2)
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Acknowledging the community's desire for a "large scale open space park," the Hampton City Council has recommended putting "a significant green connection" with "viewshed protection" in Wherry, and limiting any development there to that which is "complementary to the National Park Service plans such as ... tourism, hospitality, recreation and open space concepts and which is of an appropriate scale to the NPS goals and objectives and which does not adversely impact both a significant green-connection and viewshed protection between the two National Park Service National Monument areas." Given the concept of viewsheds--in this case, Wherry viewing areas from the fortress and to the fortress--the green connection would have to be significant indeed: somewhere around 50 acres extending north from the fortress into the Monument parkland and including the Bay shoreline and at least some of the Mill Creek shoreline. It would be synonymous, in fact, with the "large scale open space park" desired by the community. That leaves 20 plus acres (out of the Wherry total of 72) adjacent to North Gate and along Mill Creek that might be used for hospitality/tourism-oriented development to generate revenue for the Fort Monroe Authority
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Preservationists; What are your ideas/plans for the 15 or so recently constructed, brick buildings located in the "significant green connection" of Wherry Qtr? Sell, Lease, or level these valuable, non-historic structures? I also have noticed that you continue to ignore one of Fort Monroe Master Plans stated goals, Sustainability. Or, can we assume that the preservationists will foot the bill for all the extravagant, initial and continuing, costs of this Project?   By Tom B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Your charge about sustainability is nonsense. What most makes a national treasure (and further comment from you on that phrase, Tom B??) sustainable is to respect the asset, not to suboptimize it with parochial, redneck short-sightedness. As to the rest of your comment, please see my answer to what was pretty much the same comment from you at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/fort-monroe-and-the-hampton-city-council-part-1">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/fort-monroe-and-the-hampton-city-council-part-1</a> . Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	Ditto, Nicely said.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 4</b>	This is nice stuff, but in my view Dr. Butler (Scott B6) did even better elsewhere in this forum the day he called forthrightly for the Fort Monroe Authority to devise a serious plan to get the fake (not his word or view) national monument unified. The Virginian-Pilot has urged everybody to focus assertively and relentlessly on the main goal: unification. That's what needs to happen. That's what Councilman Tuck and others could advocate forthrightly too, just as Dr. Butler has done in some cases. Anything else just complicates the struggle, it seems to me. So I respectfully request, again, that readers consider what's proposed in this forum at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> . And I hope city council finally catches on and catches up. They have enormous power to steward this national treasure while aiding Hampton taxpayers (as opposed to developers). Thanks.    By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Historic Pictures Show Open Areas to N & E, for Line of Fire

<b>Idea Detail</b>	The most historic view, the most important view on Fort Monroe is to the north and east. A clear line of fire was needed to be maintained in order to allow for the firing of cannons from the casemates and other guns from the tops of the Fortress walls. The Wherry Quarter should be maintained as open land and become part of Fort Monroe National Monument to insure that this view will be restored and maintained in the future.  Please view slides from a Fort Monroe Power Point at <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/power-points/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/power-points/</a>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	You are absolutely correct, Adrian W. The Wherry was fully open until the mid 1900s. The housing that was later erected there was sub-standard, and not comparable to the structures on the west and south. They are of neither historical nor architectural interest. The un-obstructed east and north view, across the Wherry from the fortress, was crucial for defensive preparedness, to Hampton Roads Harbour. Also, the Wherry was the site of the great encampment of the earliest self-emancipating slaves. For these extremely important historical reasons, this land must be incorporated into the entire park design, with no unneeded, view-obstructive construction; and should be maintained as natural environment with historical interpretive activity. A natural swath of land between the fortress and the Chesapeake Bay will make the entire site more inviting for tourism, which will be tremendous!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	You are correct, Adrian W. The Wherry was fully open until the mid 1900s. The housing that was later erected there was sub-standard, and not comparable to the structures on the west and south. They are of neither historical nor architectural interest. The un-obstructed east and north view, across the Wherry from the fortress, was crucial for defensive preparedness, to Hampton Roads Harbour. Also, the Wherry was the site of great encampment of the earliest self-emancipating slaves. For these extremely important historical reasons, this land must be incorporated into the entire park design, with no unneeded, view-obstructive construction. A natural swath of land between the fortress and the Chesapeake Bay will make the entire site more inviting for tourism, which will be tremendous!    By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	National history and preservation for the future
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The national history of Fort Monroe is intricately interwoven with the history of the United States and needs to be preserved and treasured for future generations to study, learn, and enjoy.
<b>Idea Author</b>	alan P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future
<b>Idea Detail</b>	My Vision for Fort Monroe is twofold: protecting the integrity of the Fort and surrounding area. Fort Monroe is a historical gem; an integral part of the history of our country being instrumental in the picture of what this country is all about a FREEDOM FORTRESS for all. Secondly, by recognizing the importance of Preserving the Past, we are able to embrace how the past successes/failures/lessons helps us in Protecting the Future.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Karen F
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I think this person has the right vision: protecting the fort's integrity as a first and foremost goal, followed by recognition of the fort's historical past, along with understanding how that history can help guide us into the future! Great words, but a bit short on specifics, and lofty goals (a good thing!) without a concrete plan. I think (hope, even) that EVERYONE involved in the Fort Monroe debate could agree with this broadly stated, well-articulated vision. SPECIFICS TO ADD: preserve the Wherry Quarter at all costs (if the integrity of the fort is to remain uncompromised, it is obvious that these 100 acres which might split the monument in two must remain as part of Fort Monroe National Park); ensure that batteries Irwin and Parrott are safeguarded by including the south waterfront in the monument!   By Robert Y
<b>Comment 2</b>	Thank you for this positive and valuable addendum.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I whole-heartedly agree with your comments on Wherry and the south waterfront.   By Scott B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Use what is currently there
<b>Idea Detail</b>	If the buildings that are currently available are being used wisely, ie renting residential homes, using military buildings for classrooms and office space, then you'll find plenty of income to maintain the entire Ft. Monroe. This way the public can enjoy the spaces that are currently open. Youth groups can use soccer/baseball fields and playgrounds.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ute W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I agree. Why not make the best use of what's available now - generate some immediate revenues from events, for example. Leadership is needed to visualize and manage the best outcome for this important piece of history. It's lazy thinking to want to just turn it over to developers for a quick buck because of "economic" concerns. Hampton has the annual Hampton Bay Days festival. Does that make money? Imagine what could be done with Fort Monroe as a festival venue in conjunction with its historic story. An example might be Wolf Trap - class acts that draw folks from all over. Fort Monroe could be even better!   By Susan W
<b>Comment 2</b>	Great idea to aim for something like Wolf Trap--or Chatauqua!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Unique historical and geographical treasure
<b>Idea Detail</b>	A national park or monument designation should be implemented to preserve this landmark which inspired me to appreciate history and heritage. Please unify this area by including the missing bayfront land.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Peter P

<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Easy access to Fort Monroe's bayfront beaches
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Already the public's easy access to Fort Monroe's bayfront beaches is being hampered, and this is happening on NPS property. Right now the entire huge parking lot surrounding the newly opened Paradise Ocean Club at Fort Monroe is off-limits to all but the club's membership. Surely some of that lot can be made available to those who wish to visit the lovely open beach adjacent to the club's fenced off property? Very seldom was that lot full even when used by the O-Club and later the Bay Breeze Community Center. Is blocking easy access to that beach a sign of what the public can expect if the Wherry Quarter and its beautiful bayfront are privately developed? The answer most definitely is YES.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Sandra C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Exclusion... is that what we are to expect and accept on Fort Monroe? I certainly hope not!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	I do not think the NPS has ownership of the National Monument Lands at this time. So don't blame them. The FMA should certainly discuss this issue with the clubs management. I sure hope the contract didn't allow exclusive use of the parking lot!   By Ron W
<b>Comment 3</b>	Ron, I was not blaming the NPS. I simply wanted to point out the entire parking lot is off-limits to non-members of the club regardless of whether it is NPS property now or later. Even the club's staff cannot park in the lot. Their parking is toe in along the street, outside of the lot. In other words, it appears anyone wanting to visit the small "public" beach beside the club has to hike a great distance to get there whereas before all they had to do was park in the lot, cross the seawall and hit the beach. Actually, I imagine once the NPS has complete ownership of that property, they will ensure that public parking is closer to that beach. Right now, however, while the property is still under FMA rule, this is a good sign of what to expect if Wherry Quarter is privately developed.   By Sandra C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Retreat & Conference Center
<b>Idea Detail</b>	With the closure of the well used Holy Family Retreat Center on Mallory Street across Mill Creek Pond from Fort Monroe, has FMA and Sasaki considered a similar small-scale retreat and conference center for the North Gate (Zone C) or Wherry Quarter (Zone B) areas? The brick butler buildings could provide excellent meeting spaces, but some analysis of the school or other buildings would be needed to find something appropriate for ensuite rooms, dining or catering facilities, etc. The retreat & conference center could be sized on the small side (circa 40-80 participants) so as to not compete with other larger-scale facilities in the Hampton Roads area. A retreat & conference center could also benefit from joint use of the on-site church & chapel, exercise facility, and other outdoor areas. This facility could support a wide range of events, from off-site business meetings, to religious retreats, and even military reunions. To expand: Building 100 on Ingalls Road was originally a barracks building, and it may be possible to convert this into a lodging facility with ensuite bathrooms to support a retreat & conference center. This lodging facility would be relatively close to other
<b>Idea Author</b>	Glenn B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	The old marina diner has been renovated and recently re-opened. There is also the new Ocean Paradise club at the old Bay Breeze community center. Both would be of interest to those attending a conference. If we are talking about the large bilding on the left as you enter Fort Monroe, I was recently informed that it has an existing mess hall capable of feeding many people.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	There is the capability for a restaurant at the marina, which is in the vicinity of this building. There used to be a seafood diner there that was operated by MWR.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 3</b>	I had dined at the Old Point Comfort Marina many times. I was accessible to marina guests and the general public. It would be great to see it re-opened.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I had dined at the Old Point Comfort Marina many times. The restaurant was accessible to marina guests and the general public. It would be great to see it re-opened.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	Great concept! Business retreats and conferences were advocated in the first round, along with weddings, reunions, seminars, etc... A small inn would complement the agreeable, campus-like setting to accomodate such guests. Fort Monroe is a spectacular site to host any of these events; many of which could be recurring.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 6</b>	Great concept! Business retreats and conferences were advocated in the first round, along with wedding, reunions, seminars, etc... A small inn would complement the agreeable, campus-like setting to accomodate such guests. Fort Monroe is a spectacular site to host any of these events; many of which could be recurring.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 7</b>	Great concept! Business retreats and conferences were advocated in the first round, along with wedding, reunions, seminars, etc... Fort Monroe is a spectacular site to host any of these events; many of which could be recurring.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe in a phrase
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Freedom's Fortress: the gateway to independence for all Americans
<b>Idea Author</b>	Anne P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	"Freedom's Fortress: the gateway to independence for all Americans" -- yet with a sense of place not worth respecting if the development industry that bankrolls Virginia politics would rather see this national treasure as a near-term fast-buck opportunity with a history accent.  Also: Please see this idea posting from the first round of this online discussion: "Freedom's Fortress National Park as World Heritage Site," <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-foret-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-foret-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site</a>  Glad to second this pithy one-line idea posting. Thanks very much.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	THIS is for the IMAGE CONSULTANT Group

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>THINK Oyster Shell....</p> <p>The land is in the shapesome what similar to an Oyster Shell...</p> <p>the Land is "Old Point Comfort"- It INCLUDES everything on/in that Oyster Shell.... ..it is a single, uniting symbol.</p> <p>Now OPEN that OYSTER Shell... what do you see inside? FT. Monroe, THE PEARL!</p> <p>This concept allows us to utilize the true history of Hampton, and the Bay, as the Oyster Capital it was... and allows the visual graphic of opening the Oyster shell to the Pearl Inside, which translates beautifully to inside the Fort.... you get it?</p> <p>Old Point Comfort, the Oyster, sitting in the Bay, surrounded by water...</p> <p>Discovering the hidden treasures it has to offer... This gives us lots of marketing opportunities to play with, and develop, in one symbol.</p> <p>Even the scalloped edges in the photo of Old Point Comfort are similiar to the scalloped edges of an oyster shell.</p> <p>Research the history of Hampton, and you will find that OYSTERS were a major part of how we grew.... Oysters are remarkable... they filter and clean the waters of the Bay, and are a positive Icon.</p> <p>Thanks- and I really hope you will give this some time to "percolate" in your mind.... please.</p> <p>Rhonda (the Redhead)</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Rhonda W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I like it. This is positive and creative thinking. Please share more ideas with all of us.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	I remember the mountains of oyster shells at the end of South King St. Unfortunately, they are gone--like most of the evidence of Hampton's history. Let's not allow one bit of the valuable historical evidence fade from Ft. Monroe. Thanks, Rhonda, for your colorful analogy.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Interesting metaphor.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Big part of our lives
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe was a great place to raise our family in an awesome historical setting!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Guy M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Fort Monroe has been a major part of my life since I moved here in 1962... and it will continue to be a major part of my live and of the lives of all my family and friends.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	And I think many former Army people stationed at Ft. Monroe would feel the same way--and want to come back and visit it as a great National Park!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Keep it simple!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Protect & restore natural areas. Keep park accessible for swimming & paddling, possibly with shuttles. Adaptive reuse of some post-fort structures, tear down others for natural restoration. NO NEW DEVELOPMENT!
<b>Idea Author</b>	David B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	No! No! No! and a fourth resounding NO! Who will contribute to the "requirement" that the preservationists continue to avoid_____ Sustainability. You must retain the North portion of the Wherry area as insurance in case the tourists (God forbid) don't come. Remember, all we have now is a "one trick pony", the Fort, moat, and for just six months of the year, beaches. Even the significant attractions of Outer Banks, Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown operate in the red for half the year. Some businesses even "lock the doors". Let us try to be practical and, above all, realistic. There is no room for "dreamers in business.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 2</b>	The one-trick pony (commercial development) is exactly what we wish to avoid.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Yes, new development would only detract from the integral greatness and beauty of the site; and would diminish the value.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Yes! Yes! Yes!   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Purchase and preserve.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Fort Monroe is a great place to live, work and play with great history, natural beauty and recreational facilities. There is no site like it for the natural beauty and history. However it also has to be economically stable with out taxpayer support. There needs to be a major fundraising effort for an endowment by those most interested in preserving the open spaces. The National Park Service choose the assets they wanted.</p> <p>When the land is for sale it can be purchased by the endowment and placed in a land bank not to be developed. This way we can be specific about which parcels are protected without depending on state, city or federal taxpayers.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	10
<b>Comment 1</b>	This seems like the best type of idea. The only way to ensure protection from development and encroachment from McDonalds, WalMart, etc. is to have the land owned and preserved. Thank you.   By Al V
<b>Comment 2</b>	Excuse me, James, but the tax-payers' money is our money. We generate and pay tax dollars. We are not the beneficiaries of entitlements, so we wish our share of our tax dollars to go to a Fort Monroe National Historic Park... not to welfare recipients; and, certainly, not to developers. It's time for the givers to be heard and heeded, not just the takers, anymore.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Excuse me, James, but the tax-payers money is our money. We generate and pay tax dollars. We are not the beneficiaries of any entitlements, so we wish our share of our tax dollars to go to a Fort Monroe National Historic Park... not to welfare recipients; and, certainly, not to developers. It's time for the givers to be heard and heeded, not just the takers, anymore.   By Luis O

<b>Comment 4</b>	The National Park Service was slow to come to any decision about Fort Monroe because of budget constraints. After months of discussion with several national organizations, it finally decided to include 244 additional acres of beautiful open space and shoreline within the proposed national park, but it balked at assuming control of areas with buildings because of maintenance costs. The state, for its part, wanted to keep the buildings and some areas that could be developed, notably the Wherry Quarter; but to its credit, it backed off plans for developing any land north of Wherry. The whole process of who wants what at Fort Monroe has been evolving ever since the creation of the Fort Monroe state board, and the existence of the National Monument is now a factor in this process. In pursuing a National Monument, the state put Fort Monroe on the path to becoming a major tourist destination. To fulfill that goal, and reap the economic benefit for the region, the state must now work with the NPS to unite and extend the National Monument, specifically by incorporating Wherry and the south waterfront. As land planner Edward T. MaMahon has said, "Tourism involves more than marketing. It also involves making destinations more appealing. This means
<b>Comment 5</b>	The Park Service did <u>not</u> choose the assets it wanted. It did what political reality forces: it carefully reflected Virginia's evolving Ft Monroe politics. In Amy Broad's and Cathy Lewis's 2007 WHRO documentary, Hampton's mayor declared "They don't want it"--*any* of it. Later, as Virginia's leaders became embarrassed at their own brazen dereliction of their stewardship duty--and as they realized federal funds would be nice--a tiny, token national park became possible. At that stage, trapped by political realities, the NPS itself was brazen. It declared that the "natural resources"--the bayfront, some of which is now in the fake, split national monument--had no national significance. In fact, most of Ft Monroe, and most or all of its bayfront, had <i>*already*</i> been a national historic landmark for a half-century. The NPS is not the decider, but it's convenient for Virginia's overdevelopment-obsessed leaders to have you believe so. The leaders, not the Park Service, are the problem.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 6</b>	As expected most comments want to make the taxpayers responsible rather than put their own money into preserve the land. If it was purchased by the people making comments it would be win win. They could reserve the land they want and the FMA would have some income to care for the remaining property. Also there would be no waiting for anyone to make a decision it could all be done locally.   By James N
<b>Comment 7</b>	I would be more than eager to contribute to an endowment fund for the preservation of all of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 8</b>	James; The land should be developed so that the City and the State can benefit financially. This should be done with great thought and care. Help me out on this; if it is endowed and "land banked" who pays the property taxes and who furnishes the upkeep? I recommend limited development to at least cover all future costs, and still provide the citizens with recreation and jobs. There are many great ideas coming in. They must be carefully analyzed to determine the "highest and best use" (a term used in realstate economics).   By Tom B
<b>Comment 9</b>	To Tom B7: Why should the city of Hampton, the Section-8 capital of the Eastern Seaboard, benefit?...What, in the past 45 years has Hampton done good for itself and its tax-generating, tax-paying citizens?   By Luis O
<b>Comment 10</b>	If Ft Monroe means what historians, the secretary of the interior, and comment sense all say that it means, then Tom's comment here is self-refuting. Definition of the highest and best use of a national treasure of the first rank cannot begin, as Tom's comment does, by presuming development for local profit as the very first criterion. The irony, of course, is that if we actually did steward this national treasure for its highest and best use -- a Grand Public Place built on the foundation of a unified national monument/park -- Hampton, the region and the commonwealth would profit not less but more, starting with <u>financial</u> profit. Fort Monroe belongs to America,not to Hampton and the developers. (Note to Adam Goodheart: Where are you, man? Your country needs you for Fort Monroe! Look what we're up against!)   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Speed limits
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Bring the speed limit down for the drivers and enforce it. Keep it more bike and pedestrian friendly.
<b>Idea Author</b>	charlotte B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	I walk on Ft. Monroe several times each week. I never seem to have any problem with motorists. The more densely built areas have 25mph posted, and the Army did a great job marking pedestrian crossways. The speed limit on the open roads may be higher, but they don't warrant having any change, yet.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	I concur, Jeas S3. Even with 6000 persons on the land each day, foot travel and motor travel were compatible. For those long stretches, There's currently no need to make the posted speed forbiddingly slow.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I concur, Jeas S3. Even with 6000 persons on the land each day, foot travel and motor travel were compatible. For those long stretches of open road, there is currently no need to make the posted speed forbiddingly slow.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I concur, Jean S3. Even with 6000 persons on the land each day, foot travel and motor travel were compatible. For those long stretches of open road, there is currently no need to make the posted speed forbiddingly slow.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Opportunity Unlimited
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The State of Virginia has been given a great gift in Fort Monroe. Every effort must be made by our leaders to maximize its value from the perspective of cultural benefits, historical preservation, and economic gain. Transitioning to these goals must be attainable especially in its cost- benefit ratio. No increase in taxes. Financially, self sustaining. Transparency in management. Public input. Minimize costs. Create jobs, jobs, and more jobs.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes to all the above... particularly cost-benefit ratio. We all know real estate is stagnant in it's tax value once it becomes private -- so let's keep it ALL open to the public, and gain continually growing income!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree, let's keep it all open to the public.   By Susan W
<b>Idea Title</b>	racing resort
<b>Idea Detail</b>	NONONONONONONONO. Fort Monroe - she does not deserve that.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Beverly P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	What Fortress Monroe means to me
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fortress Monroe is where I met the lady who became my wife of 53 years, and counting. Need I say more?
<b>Idea Author</b>	Glenn B

<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Congratulation on 53 years!   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	That is great! :-)   By Karen C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fourth Jewel
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fortress Monroe is the fourth jewel in the crown made up of Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown - the roots of American History are preserved there, in its entirety, from the causeway to Buckroe Beach. Keep it together, do not degrade this historical gem by opening up an opportunity to commercialize the Fort beyond the moat.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Roberta J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Thanks for this concise, great idea. People who like it might also want to see two others from the first round: * Peninsula's Historic Diamond: full story of America's founding ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-do-you-think-the-peninsula-is-a-great-region/peninsula-s-historic-diamond-full-story-of-america-s-founding">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-do-you-think-the-peninsula-is-a-great-region/peninsula-s-historic-diamond-full-story-of-america-s-founding</a> ) * Freedom's Fortress National Park as World Heritage Site ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site</a> )   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe and the Hampton City Council (part 1)
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Fort Monroe that the vast majority of citizens want is a wonderful historic village and fortress, preserved and adaptively reused as necessary, giving way to a beautiful landscape with water views, live oaks, reforested areas, beaches, walking trails, picnic facilities, other recreational opportunities, and perhaps a nature center focused on Chesapeake Bay. The area crucial to this transition is the Wherry Quarter, and the Hampton City Council, in its August 8 resolution, has provided some good ideas about relating Wherry to the public's vision.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	12
<b>Comment 1</b>	Steve; Thanks for directing me to the applicable posting. I did not mean to imply, that my input was censored. Is it possible that the site moderators move some inputs to "offline" storage when approaching online capacity? However, I still stand by my two respectful "National Treasure" labels, whose purpose was solely to support my debate argument. And, Scott, I am very sorry to say, that if I had the choice to save only a single battery and to enjoy an expanded Bay vista from the roadway, I would take it. If you don't like the "fill the moat idea" we could make beach saving rip rap from the remainder. What do you prefer, "view" or pitiful looking concrete bunkers?. Kind of like the AF Minuteman Missile, save 150 concrete silos for posterity, or save only one or two as historical examples? A few were sold to civilians as bomb shelters..I'm beginning to feel that you preservationists have a problem when it comes to agreeing to disagree. Sometimes that is what it takes to progress.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 2</b>	ScottB6/Steve06; I want to clarify my position on things. I come from simple beginnings so I am by nature "cost conscious". Scott, I cannot comprehend a suggestion for anybody to "tear down" something valued at \$15-\$20 million for a vista, which I thought you would do before you explained the "time frame". I am definitely against the construction of Condos/McMansions in the Wherry Qtr.. Steve, I believe the MM site Mgr removed your misinterp.of evidence, that I disdained the "National Treas. phrase". Seriously, I believe the Fort is a National Treas. Really, my only concern is the economic sustainability of the FMMPlan. I see no harm in making the Project Sustainable by ID-ing adequate acreage (having the least impact) in the Wherry Qtr.to construct VA's first Resort/Casino. I honestly believe that to make the entire project a long term success we will need an 2nd ,serious, all weather attraction, to attract the semi-affluent market to spend a minimum of two days in Hampton.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Tom B7--and did you also want to throw the batteries in the moat, or was that another Tom?   By Scott B
<b>Comment 4</b>	The moderators don't censor legitimate criticism, Tom. This is still America (even if we do have a situation in which developers are using politicians to steal a national treasure from its actual owners, us). At the posting "'Significant green connection'? Yes, but needs NPS and more land," your twin launchings of sarcastic, dismissive quotation marks around the phrase _national treasure_ still appear, and so does my reply blowing the whistle on you for it. I mean you no personal disrespect, Tom, but I also don't mean to leave Fort Monroe undefended. So I say even more bluntly: I believe you don't even understand the scope and majesty what we're really talking about here. (But then, neither do Virginia's and Hampton's leaders, or the publisher of the Daily Press.) Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 5</b>	The moderators don't censor legitimate criticism, Tom. This is still America (even if we do have developers using politicians to steal a national treasure from its actual owners, us). At the posting "'Significant green connection'? Yes, but needs NPS and more land," your twin launchings of sarcastic, dismissive quotation marks around the phrase _national treasure_ still appear, and so does my reply blowing the whistle on you for it. I mean you no personal disrespect, Tom, but I also don't mean to leave Fort Monroe undefended. So I say even more bluntly: I believe you don't even understand the scope and majesty of what we're really talking about here. (But then, neither do Virginia's and Hampton's leaders, or the publisher of the Daily Press.) Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 6</b>	Preservationists; What are your plans for the 15 or so newer brick structures located in the northern Wherry Quarter? Sell, lease, or level? Please be mindful that these are valuable assets.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 7</b>	Most preservationists -- who by the way are <b>**more**</b> economically responsible about Fort Monroe than are those who see only an exploitable "village" with a history accent -- believe that everything in Wherry is open for short-term (measured in years) facilitation of the transition to Fort Monroe's decades-long and centuries-long future, but that in the long run, we must for enrichment reasons -- financial, historical, cultural, recreational, environmental -- make everything from Buckroe to the southern shore mainly into sense-of-place-respecting green space. We've talked like this for seven years, by the way. Hope you join us, Tom B7. (Do you have a comment yet on my complaint about your use of disdain quotes on the phrase national treasure?)   By Steve C

<b>Comment 8</b>	Most preservationists -- who by the way are <b>**more**</b> economically responsible about Fort Monroe than are those who see only an exploitable "village" with a history accent -- believe that everything in Wherry is open for short-term (measured in years) facilitation of the transition to Fort Monroe's decades-long and centuries-long future, but that in the long run, we must for enrichment reasons -- financial, historical, cultural, recreational, environmental -- make everything from Buckroe to the southern shore mainly into sense-of-place-respecting green space, leaving the bridge-tunnel side for development. We've talked like this for seven years, by the way. Hope you join us, Tom B7. (Do you have a comment yet on my complaint about your use of disdain quotes on the phrase national treasure?)   By Steve C
<b>Comment 9</b>	Perhaps unlike some supporters of Fort Monroe National Monument, I don't see a rapid transfer of Wherry to NPS control as very likely. It would mean forming another bipartisan coalition in a presidential election year. So in the short run there might be uses for those buildings that could generate FMA revenue. This would be okay with me as long as a process were put in place to transfer all or most of Wherry to the NPS. I suspect, however, Tom B7, that you'd like to see those buildings razed too, in order to make way for condos or McMansions.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 10</b>	Nobody called for a rapid transfer. What's vital, and what some defenders don't recognize, is persistent, unambiguous widespread insistence on unification. Too often, defenders forget or don't recognize that the Pilot editorial is dead right about that persistent, plain-spoken, relentless insistence.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 11</b>	Nicely said Scott.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 12</b>	The resolution does have nice ideas, but it's probably mainly a diversion. It dodges the central issue that must be resolved before anything else about Fort Monroe can matter importantly: the imperative to unify the split national monument by placing the missing bayfront under National Park Service ownership. For more on the resolution itself, please see in this forum "'Significant green connection'? Yes, but needs NPS and more land" ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/significant-green-connection-yes-but-needs-nps-and-more-land">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/significant-green-connection-yes-but-needs-nps-and-more-land</a> ). (I hope people who tried to save precious public bayfront at Buckroe will comment both here and there, by the way.) For a chance to do what really needs doing, please consider "Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres" ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> ). Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Self-sufficient community for residents
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Ft. Monroe is as large as some towns. If residents can meet most of their needs there, it will cut down on traffic and encourage a sense of community that will be appreciated by both residents and visitors. We might plan for a community garden, an old-fashioned general store, and a venue for regularly scheduled entertainment (bandshell, community room), etc.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Anita H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	I suppose this would eliminate the need for Phoebus, or at least eliminate the need for it to blossom. It sounds like you want Ft. Monroe to become a private self-contained community -- not inviting to "outsiders", much less tourists.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	That's going a bit farther than I intended. Please note I didn't suggest a supermarket, a carpet store, a hairdresser, a post office or a bank. An ATM could serve both residents & tourists. There may already be a band shell on Ft. Monroe. Attractive, history-focused communities all over the country invite tourists all the time.   By Anita H
<b>Comment 3</b>	That's going a bit farther than I intended. Please note I didn't suggest a supermarket, a carpet store, a hairdresser, a post office or a bank. An ATM could serve both residents & tourists. There may already be a band shell on Ft. Monroe. Attractive, history-focused communities around the country invite tourists all the time.   By Anita H
<b>Comment 4</b>	Some interesting thoughts here--but I'd add that there should be no new or dense development, just careful renovation of existing buildings and careful mangement of residential areas.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Racing resort,I bled for this fort, so consider the following :)
<b>Idea Detail</b>	My idea for the most of Fort monroe is to have a racing resort, a place where those who feel the need for speed can go, and stay off the streets. there is room for 3 tracks, as it stand, a road coarse, a drag strip, and a dirt track. Fort Monroe is in a prime spot to attract people. i have thought about this for a long time, and there is much more involved than what i can put here, but what i envision for Fort Monroe is something that will work, spacifically because there is only one consistance that has lasted since the invention of the auto. Racing.i dont have to run the place, a job would be nice to have, On the off chance that the idea is accepted, one myst also consider that the attraction to this race track will inevitably be the ability to send race cars into the Fort, around the road and back out, mind you , only pro drivers. This also can be taken a step further, and make the whole place golf carts only, to lower the carbon foot print. there are plenty of golf cart people, so that wont be a problem. I really cant stress how much this will work, if given the chance, and given the proper research on how to make a race track good enuf to last the test of time. Drag raging will never die, we can start with that. Please think seriously about this. Also consider places for women can be
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jason P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	57
<b>Comment 1</b>	Also, the boardwalk will be open, that part of the whole thing is not a road, and the racing surface would be behind a wall, and fence, so you can enjoy the bay view. i do understand what you all are saying, i dont really have plans for every building on the property, i know you all do, and would, just as my wife would like to have a place to have a salon, which would do well in a place where men will inevitably drag their wives. eventually women will be dragging their hubbies to the Fort so they can do their thing. this works in so many ways, all the ideas you all have, with some exceptions will be able to happen at the Fort Monroe Racing Resort and Spa...of course it can still be lost to the developers, and my idea can still work, things have to be adjusted. i have back up plans too. im just going big with the idea because thats what the 7 cities area needs. a place to let all the lead footed people get their aggression out somewhere other than the roads. why not a place to race?????   By Jason P

<b>Comment 2</b>	Nascar has just renewed a contract. Im not sure if anyone here realizes what stock cars visiting the Fort once a year could do. here is the thing tho, the stock cars will only show up if they like the race course design. otherwise my other plan involved making a 1/2 mile highly banked track, one that would have to have specially made panels made for the turns. I actually created a small wooden version of the track that i would love to build, and i raced 28th scale cars on it. that was my original photo when i signed up. you all seem to think im trying to ruin Fort monroe, but the fact is i am just trying to get some money into the fort, while giving the Racing Community somewhere, near the 7 cities, to race. I know most of you cannot fathom this, but the whole place needs to be redone, and if its made into a racing resort, The inside of the Fort can be restored, and so can the buildings that need to be protected. people will invest in racing. a Place to race will attract weekly return   By Jason P
<b>Comment 3</b>	Noise, noise, noise POLLUTION!!! Unless you are going to restrict it to Prius type vehicles, take your race track somewhere else!   By Diann C H
<b>Comment 4</b>	Hmmm, someone didnt read all of what i had to say, now did u , no. i have stated more than once, my original intent for this whole plan was for electric vehicles, but American, and overseas racing hasnt caught onto the electric racin future, so in the mean time gas will dominate. and unless your living on Fort Monroe, the noise will be a far cry from being loud, and if you are living at the Fort Monroe racing resort, the noise from the cars wont effect you. Do you hear the cars from langly, nah, its not close enuf, the fact is that only a select few people in the adjoining land across the water will ever hear any noise, and the noise can, and will be dispersed by noise reduction walls. And i am aloud to have an opinion on the subject, and i know not everyone here agrees with it, but the fact remains that racing makes more money than most everything else in this world. just in case u didnt see it, in england they are putting a track in near the palace, and stands to make 125 mil a year.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 5</b>	i have changed my profile pic to a proposed land moving, and track layouts. this will work, and keep the historic value out of the land. F1 racing is about to build a track around and near buckingham palace, and it stands to make 125 million a year for the track. Alot of money gets spent on Racing, and if you want to save the best of the Fort, then its best to put in a place to race, and live.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 6</b>	I dont want to Wreck Fort Monroe, i just want to use its history to make a place for people to come and race. its gonna diminish in the heart of americans because when the military abandons the land, it means it is meaningless to them, i can help keep its memory alive with my idea. but you all are shooting it down like i want to ruin this reasure. origionally as i said i wanted to have it stricly Electric only. but thats a few years off on this side of the country. i can tell you that making a racing community would enhance the Fort as a whole, because the draw alone from seeing someone race through the tunnels would be huge, people would want to live there, and have a place to go where they could race in whatever fashion they choose.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 7</b>	building a community that has racing in its midst is one part of a whole idea. there is more than cars involved in racing, as you may or may not know, anything with wheels gets raced . scratch that everything with a means of propulsion gets raced. my idea involves giving a place for this to be done, so its not done in the streets. implimenting electric cars and racing is on the table too, but to get the money to come in we have to let the gas go. i am not by any means trying to take up the whole Fort Monroe, just the area labled recreation, or whatever they are calling it now, i say a map, and it said what all the parts were. i only want to take a few buildings down( warehouse) and put in some better houses, but you all have made it seem that i want to wreck this Fort with my idea   By Jason P
<b>Comment 8</b>	And im only wanting to use like 25% of it for racing, the rest would be housing, and buisness. im sure others have ideas as to what to do with this place that seem better than mine, but telling others to ignore it will only get them to come even faster. you dont have to like it Steve, i do know its not inevidably your choise, or anyothers who have commented on this thus far. what you dont know is i know somebody who is important in this whole thing. i will keep them to myself, but lets just say ive worked for him before.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 9</b>	"i know somebody...important in this whole thing...ive worked for him. " Maybe Sen. Warner, a nice man who makes friends, and wins votes, among racing fans? As governor way back when Ft Monroe was misframed as a development plum for a city rather than as a national stewardship opportunity, he might be more responsible than anyone for Virginia's Ft Monroe failure. Of course, the Republicans (except for Tom Gear) are also responsible for what's now being cemented. But Jason, I admire the senator's candor, like yours. In 2010 he was the first politician finally to admit -- not his word, but accurate -- that our leaders see Ft Monroe mainly as a big ol' development plum. When they engineered the fake national monument, he was filmed uninterestedly repeating the new party line: "Historic place. President needs to make it a national monument." It? No, just parts of it. If unfixed, that ruse will leave Ft Monroe permanently degraded. If he's your guy, Jason, I hope you tell him.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 10</b>	nah, not even close you have no clue, let it go its not worth guessing   By Jason P
<b>Comment 11</b>	and i dont know how many times i have to say it, i dont want to take away the historic aspect, as it will be its selling ticket point.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 12</b>	By the way I accidently seconded this when I tried to make comment. Please withdraw second.   By mark P
<b>Comment 13</b>	Mark, once logged-in, you can revisit the topic and hit the "second" button to remove your mis-hit. Then delete your last comment, and mine will be deleted, as well. Luis   By Jean S
<b>Comment 14</b>	Mark, after you've logged on, you may remove your "second" by clicking on it again. (I have had to do so, after mistakenly "seconding".) You can also delete your (this) comment, which will eliminate my reply. Luis   By Luis O
<b>Comment 15</b>	Or maybe we should put stands around inside of moat ad feed Christians to ions on parade ground. That might generate big bucks.   By mark P
<b>Comment 16</b>	Jason Pillow asks, "Why should you guys get your way? What makes your way any more worth using than mine, or others?" Like the special interest that really does have Ft Monroe by the throat -- parochial, fatuously self-entitled, politician-controlling, president-bamboozling overdevelopers -- he simply doesn't agree that we're defending a place that requires a special kind of dignity and respect. He disputes that a real national park would deliver prosperity wonderfully well and that character- and authenticity-laden green space in a memorable, multidimensioned signature location can attract prosperity-enhancing, world-class enterprises for the region. His own special interest group -- racing -- won't succeed in stealing Ft Monroe from the nation and posterity. But the overdevelopment special interest will -- by grimly developing the bayfront, thereby sacrificing the sense of place. Still, at least quaint boutiques and "compatible" condos will be less noisy than stock cars, right?   By Steve C

<b>Comment 17</b>	YOur wrong Steve. i am not saying that the national park wouldnt do what you say. i am saying that to turn the whole thing into a park would be a mistake. i really believe you all have really mistaken what im saying, or you just dont get it. you can still have park space, what im saying is that if you dont do something worth doing, then it will end up washed into the bay. you are seriously missing my point. i do agree that a park would do good, i just say something better can and will be done.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 18</b>	Also Steve, you missed another post stating i would rather just introduce an electric racing facility, where no fuel will be used on the base at all, with very strict exceptions. except there is just one issue, the people will come to a place to drag their cars, and race around a track, but if one says no gas, then the established facility will fail, and if i got nascar to come, it would only be once a year, as they wouldnt do the road coarse but once, and if i got a half mile oval built that would only be once as well. the stock cars are noisy yes, but im saying for those with cars in general will have a place to meet, and race their cars in a controled environment, instead of being on the hiways, and city streets. you all here so far only tell me one thing, you dont even understand why the military abandoned the Fort. its a money pit unless its completly restructured. they want to develope it, i dont, i dont want to add any more housing, just use whats there and in good shape Gas powered racing may die, but Racing will never fail to make money.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 19</b>	But Jason, no one is asking to turn the whole thing into a park. (You wrote: "i am saying that to turn the whole thing into a park would be a mistake.") Please look at the map at FortMonroeNationalPark.org. We're saying that Fort Monroe will be "degraded" -- the Virginian-Pilot's word -- without unification of the national monument. But on that map, you'll see that even with unification, plenty of development space remains. And what I believe YOU have missed is all the ideas for making money without stock cars. Lots of us have long considered revenue generation. P.S.: There's now an "idea" comment in this forum saying that all should ignore you. But I think you're providing a useful service even though, with all due respect, I believe you're horrendously wrong. I also sort of admire your tenacity -- though again, I hugely disbelieve in your cause. I still hope to see you join the side of people who are trying to save Fort Monroe from costly overdevelopment. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 20</b>	your turning the whole place into a national monument, and national park, right, isnt that your intentions, and its certainly amazing how someone would go and tell others to ignore my thread. that in itself is wrong. i am allowed my opinion.you can certainly disbelieve in my cause, but i can and will get a whole lotta people involved, should it become needed.i will visit every race track within 500 miles, and leave notes to pass it on beyond that. what you fail to understand steve is that im not trying to take anything away from your cause, but all of you are taking everything away from mine. i havent read the other ideas because i havent figured out how yet. i was doing good to get to the point that i could start my point. it does certainly seem that the thought of doing something that you dissagree with would be futile, but i do believe highly in giving people in this area a place to race. you know very little about what my point is, but i will say it in a vew simple words. put a race track facility inplace, or u will all lose this to the development. there is more money in a race track facility than housing. and certainly more than a monument / park. this isnt the statue of liberty after all, there wont be people lined up around the block to go to Fort Monroe, the monument
<b>Comment 21</b>	Jason Pillow now asks, "Why should you guys get your way? What makes your way any more worth using than mine, or others?" Like the special interest that really does have Ft Monroe by the throat -- parochial, fatuously self-entitled, politician-controlling, president-bamboozling overdevelopers -- he simply doesn't agree that we're defending a place that requires a special kind of dignity and respect. He disputes that a real national park would deliver prosperity wonderfully well and that character- and authenticity-laden green space in a memorable, multidimensioned signature location can attract prosperity-enhancing, world-class enterprises for the region. His own special interest group -- racing -- won't succeed in stealing Ft Monroe from the nation and posterity. But the overdevelopment special interest will -- by grimly developing the bayfront, thereby sacrificing the sense of place. Still, at least quaint boutiques and "compatible" condos will be less noisy than stock cars, right?   By Steve C
<b>Comment 22</b>	And i also mentioned making the waters a lake, but i neglected to mention that we also need to move the land that will be reveiled once the (Lake) is formed, this way the nastiness thats out on that area can be cleaned up.all the shores on that (Lake) can be cleaned, and a real place to swim can be had. also we need to build a bridge on the back road, and we need to connect it to atlantic avenue , buy the land that is on the corner, and make some deals with the land that can be filled in. and before you all blow this out of proportion, take a google earth view of the shores, and tell me we shouldnt clean the whole (Lake) shore up.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 23</b>	Tell me If i am so trying to kill a national monument, why havent i driven a car to work since december instead of the electric bike, and trike i just built for me and my wifee? i built them for future use on Fort Monroe, or like i do where i live, and just around town gettin groceries. You all are taking this so hard you dont even give me the chance to revel all that i had plans for. Look here, competition will never die, why not have a place where competition can take place, and people can come together and have a good time, instead of coming to see trees . and grass acording to steve here, Im not saying we need to ruin this place, heck, i even first had the idea to exclude gas powered vehicles all together, put em in a parking garageand keep the motors off, but gas racing makes money right now, so we cater to in to get the money to impliment electric racing.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 24</b>	cater to it to get the money. ( its eairly, lol)   By Jason P
<b>Comment 25</b>	Once you've seen a car drive around a track... what else is there to see? I want to experience nature, beauty and history. I have enough of cars just driving for work... I certainly do not wish to see or hear them in my leisure time. Langelly Speedway (which is more than adequate for a town our size) is distanced from residential areas and the nearest of these is well buffered. The logistics would not work. There would be unmanageable traffic concerns, both on the Post and in the adjacent neighborhoods. The Phoebus and Buckroe residents would be assailed by excessive noise and traffic. I prefer to enjoy a beer in my backyard in relative peace, without all the noise and congestion generated by a racetrack.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 26</b>	Im glad you know all there is to know about racing. seems like u wrapped this right up. the Fort is the perfect place cause it is just off the hiway, and secluded enuf that the noise will be minimun. im sorry you dont enjoy driving a car faster than the law allows, because that what your opinion seems to show. there are alot of folks out there who do enjoy the sounds of internal combustion, somethings gotta give. the more people that comment mean attention is still being paid. haters can hate, it makes me feel good inside to know others dont like it, it will go to show you that its understood that not everyone will agree on what to do. why should you guys get your way. what makes your way any more worth using than mine, or others?   By Jason P
<b>Comment 27</b>	Driving a car fast , at high speeds changes every time, its never the same. why do u think Nascar is doing so well, its the racing.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 28</b>	once you see that tree, what else is there to do. see it again next year when its a few feet taller, i am not saying take the history away, please keep your facts straight. and you dont have to race, heck dont ever show up again, its your choise. just because you dont like cars, dosent mean half the world dosent.there would not be umanagable traffic, as my plan has 3 ways in to the Fort, and its not like it will be that bad, the hiway is very close.   By Jason P

<b>Comment 29</b>	<p>Not sure i agree that people care more about NASCAR races than our nation's history. History is not just celebrated in a big noisy track with thousands of folks gathered around a single event on a warm summer day but in hundreds of ways, in big groups and small groups, a father and his son, individually, in good weather and in bad, at very famous places like Gettysburg and in less famous places like Halifax, NC or Deerfield, MA.. In other words in more subtle, less noticeable ways than the Firecracker 500, but arguably by more people, more frequently, in more places.</p> <p>  By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 30</b>	<p>Yeah Yeah, i again say i understand that famous places make money, big park make money. Fort Monroe isnt on but a select few peoples brain.this place may have history, but its not significant enuf to be to be on everyones brain. but racin is my friends, racing is, yes, yes it is.</p> <p>Either u hate it or love it, one way or another a type of racing / competition is on everyones mind, and enuf want to do it in vehicles of transport. cars dont have to be the biggest thing forever, you all didnt even give me the chance to include all the things that need to be done. my reasoning for intruducing golf cart for everyone to drive will off set some of the racing. one other thing i planned on mentioning was that i did want to get electric cars racing too.   By Jason P</p>
<b>Comment 31</b>	<p>Hello, the noisiness would be few and far between , the loudest of the cars usually only visit once a year. and you dont have to agree, its your right. just as its mine to disagree with what you say here, ignorance show in your words. have a good day   By Jason P</p>
<b>Comment 32</b>	<p>Jason, would you want to put a track in at Monticello or other nationally significant historic sites? Doing so would destroy them. A well known National Park Service historian said that of all the historic forts in the NPS lineup, Fort Monroe is the most significant. It is a place to see and learn about our national history and coastal natural history, not a place to race. I enjoy racing, but have enough sensitivity to know Fort Monroe is not the place for it.   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 33</b>	<p>Then the Fort becomes meaningless to society. sure historians can say all they want, but the people as a whole dont care as much about history as they do racing. please dont make me look up and then quote how much money nascar, luscas oil, indy/f1 racing has made this past year as opposed to how much all the national parks have made. dont make me do it. i dont want to ruin this Fort with racing, i want to help preserve it , and use some of the land for entertainment. but you guys rule out whatever you want, i can tell you this for a fact, you will ruin this Fort if you listen to those who want it only to be a historic place. do nothing else with it, and it will fail just as buckroe beach has failed. remember my words, and heed this warning; if you dont make it worth something to visit, it will go down in history as another place that was run into the ground because hard headed people want to sve a bunch of land that will be meaningless to others unless its notariety is raised.   By Jason P</p>
<b>Comment 34</b>	<p>We have lots of golf courses but only one Fort Monroe. As for a drag strip, I don't get it. Rather than indulging young people who would rather watch a noisy, polluting drag race than appreciating the Bay, our history and the largest moated fort ever built in North America, we ought to be attempting to interest them in these things by preserving and protecting Fort Monroe for future generations.   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 35</b>	<p>its not only young people, your showing your ignorance toward the racing community, people into their 80s race still at drag strips. you dont have to get it, its not your choice. you just get an opinion. i dont want to take much away from the Fort, i just want to give people other reasons to show up besides to see a mediocre museum, and some run down bunkers. A racing resort will quadruple the income into hampton, what will a park do. double, if that.   By Jason P</p>
<b>Comment 36</b>	<p>And Steve, wanting a golf course isnt selfish, its economics.</p> <p>  By Jason P</p>
<b>Comment 37</b>	<p>People who care only about money enrichment from Fort Monroe, as opposed to historical and recreational and environmental enrichment, should still join those of us who are insisting on unification of the split national monument. Here's why: a REAL national monument/park is the best way to tap Fort Monroe for Virginia's enrichment. (Again: That's even if you only care about money enrichment.)   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 38</b>	<p>A park will never make as much money as u want it to, because the fact is once u have seen it once, why go again, a racing resort will have events every day, and weekend that will bring 4 to 6 times the amount of people, but i digress, i wont get anywhere with you all, as you have only your own selfish interests at heart. you have no clue what you are about to do , so i will stop now.   By Jason P</p>
<b>Comment 39</b>	<p>And make sure you look at the google earth view of Fort monroe, Pay close attention to the mouth of the bay, and its flow direction. it blasts the side of Monroe , and will take it away from all of us , and way sooner than a thousand years. i dont want to ruin Fort Monroe, i want to impliment a system that will bring money to hampton, and make hamptons beaches a place to play again, i have to go now.   By Jason P</p>
<b>Comment 40</b>	<p>I have walked the beaches Steve, and they are nothing to have tourstists over. i understand the land, and buildings. i do, i am not trying to take anything away from Fort Monroe be putting a racing forum in place, i am trying to use the land for something that will have a purpose greater than what can be brought by bringing just a park in to this place.</p> <p>  By Jason P</p>
<b>Comment 41</b>	<p>Mr. Pillow, that's nonsense. There's no conceivable "greater purpose" for Fort Monroe than respecting this precious place as an American treasure. And if you think that those beaches are not going to get plenty of use, you haven't tried to go to the beach in Tidewater, where getting access to the beach can be a real problem.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 42</b>	<p>i have gone to the beaches in tidewater, they all smell bad. the beach is nice, but there are rocks keeping one from walking from one end to the other. another idea i have is to turn the inside area into a lake instead of allowing the dirty ocean waters into it. this way we can make a beach thats worth hanging out on. i understand that the beaches in other places are crowded, and im not saying at all that the beach cant be used, im merely saying, about the whole thing, you are gonna throw away a military fort that will never see tourists like a racing facility infused with the fort would. there is money in racing, and if you dont open your eyes, and get your head out of the history books, and look to the future, you will end up losing Fort Monroe . Not as many people visit that place any more huh, its declined. people will never be as interested in history as they woould be if it was combined with something that is a major draw of people. i can go on, but i wont.   By Jason P</p>
<b>Comment 43</b>	<p>Steve, Steve, Steve, ask any young person today the significance of Fort Monroe, no one can tell you. its simply being left to memory, and altho i am not saying we need to forget about it, what better way to attract people to the history, then by making a place people will return to. they will talk about Fort Monroe like never before. Make the history side a little more interesting and people wont just come for the racing. a golf course was my first idea, but i couldnt come up with enuf space for the course when i layed it out.   By Jason P</p>

<b>Comment 44</b>	A golf course is a terrible idea, and so is racing -- and so are bayfront condos. Yes, Fort Monroe is little known. But so is the importance of Black contributions to emancipation. They say that the Declaration of Independence was not valued for the first few decades. Give it time. And don't foreclose opportunity over the course of centuries by rash decisions made over the course of years.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 45</b>	the history of this fort can be maintained, the areas in the back, away from the most of the historic buildings will never be disturbed.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 46</b>	In fact the authorities intend to develop the very bayfront center of the place. Please see the map at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> .   By Steve C
<b>Comment 47</b>	if its the space u are worried about, then i can propose the tracks in a different place, the section in the map wasnt included in the last map i saw, so perhaps things can be different. but reporting abuse on something that is obviously not is just bothering the people who run the website. its wrong, and u know it   By Jason P
<b>Comment 48</b>	continued, it is slowly dissapearing in to the bay, the military did extensive work trying to save its shores, but the military figured out is was to much to keep up with. With the ideas i have, we can at least have a place for another 100 years. if nothing is done , it will dissapear in less than 50. the military kept up with the erosion, Are you gonna be able to keep the hectic schedule involved in keeping Fort Monroe from becoming an island? My plans have the shore being reinforced, but only money from racing will be strong enuf to accomplish this. No matter how much money a park is given, it will never be enuf to sustain the needed maintainance. There will be people who dont like this, or think its a joke, but the fact is , if you want Fort Monroe to stay then consider making something worth maintaining, something that will give more joy to people than anything else in the world does. Alot of the land on Fort Monroe needs to be fixed, not left to die like the memory of it.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 49</b>	Sensible patriots agree with you about sea-level rise. But Virginia's overdevelopment-obsessed, real-estate-industry-controlled leaders ignore this reality just as they ignore the obvious reality that by making a REAL national park, we could do the most for enriching the region in various ways. The best answer to sea-level rise at Fort Monroe is obviously green space -- which is also the best answer to the national fiduciary duty that Virginia's leaders snubbed when they engineered a fake national monument/park, and that, with Sasaki's complicity, they appear determined to continue to snub. Please see <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> . Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 50</b>	Steve C6, i understand what u say about the history of the place. are we gonna hold on to the past all our lives? the military got rid of it, meaning they dont care about its history, why should the land go unused for anything fun? i think filling the moat is not a good idea. what must i be being satirical, as this place provides the perfect setting for control of people who love the need for speed. Are you telling me that you are not open to making one big "amusement park. Think outside the box. the land itself wont have to be changed very much at all to acomidate a racing resort, and when i refered to the historic part that i have since deleted, i was mostly refering to the buildings. Ive been in most every building on this Fort working on one thing or another, so i know whats what there., why hold so tight on to something that served a purpose, and now is no longer needed ? are we just gonna leave the land bare until it disappears in to the ocean. OH yeah, a little history, it is.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 51</b>	"are we gonna hold on to the past all our lives?" More than that, we're gonna hold on to it for a thousand years -- the land, not the buildings that are crummy and that need to go. It's that important. And the struggle right now is to make sure that overdevelopment-obsessed Virginia leaders don't ruin what we must keep. They claim that they plan only "compatible" and tasteful development, but even then, what they have in mind is not much different from building a dirt-bike track around the house at Monticello -- not because the dirt-bike track is a bad thing, but because it's important to remember Monticello in clear ways. You cannot remember a place that has lost its sense of place. You're a passionate guy, Mr. Pillow. We need you on our side. Please go to Langley or Martinsville to see racing. Fort Monroe is precious. (P.S.: You mention fun. With green space there'll be plenty of fun. Have a look at those beaches!)   By Steve C
<b>Comment 52</b>	why does it have to be a joke   By Jason P
<b>Comment 53</b>	It doesn't have to be a joke, Mr. Pillow. But it's no different in principle from suggestions for a golf course. As a golfer, I sort of like that idea -- in a selfish way. Yet if I had the power to make a national treasure into a golf course, it'd be selfish of me to do so. Here's why: the sense of place, the setting, the "viewshed," the historic landscape -- these contribute to American civic memory of things that are precious not just for us, but for our contributions to the world. In important ways our country models freedom principles for the whole planet. Fort Monroe has a vital, unique position in that story. You're a passionate guy. We could use you in the struggle to convince Sasaki Associates that for their own international standing and just for the cause of doing the right thing, they should oppose Virginia's leaders' grim -- and ultimately selfish -- intentions to do the wrong thing with the sense of place of Old Point Comfort. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 54</b>	This has to be a joke!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 55</b>	It's all historic land! Mr. Pillow, thanks for signing your actual name in an important civic forum. But I assume you're being satirical about the racing, like the man who says he advocates filling in the moat so there'll be more room to build condos. Whatever your aims for this national treasure, it's important to correct one thing that readers might assume is valid. You mention "all of the land that isn't historic." Mr. Pillow, it's all historic -- every square inch, including the land that has accreted over the decades and centuries. The sand spit that constitutes Fort Monroe goes back in our history over four centuries. It's where the first captive Africans landed en route to Jamestown. A half-century ago, almost all of it was designated a national historic landmark. The historic landscape has integrity as a setting for all that happened there -- or anyway, has it unless Virginia's leaders make the place permanently "degraded," as the Virginian-Pilot put it. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 56</b>	Yikes. This would go along with Tom's idea of filling in the moat, perhaps. Or maybe Jason would prefer a ring of fire for the race cars to pass through.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 57</b>	Ditto Scott B6!   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Typical Old Army Post

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I lived there as a teenager and served there as an officer with my family. To me this is the ultimate "typical old Army Post". It is not the Presidio, or Riley, or Sill, but in my mind this is what living on an Army Post meant. But change must always come, nothing is static. Things get better or worse, they never stay the same. And someone must be in charge to insure the right things are done. That someone must have decision authority since not everyone can be pleased.</p> <p>Money is the engine of progress and it is of vital importance that funds can be generated in perpetuity to maintain the land that is not maintained by the government. Their funding is too fickle and limited.</p> <p>So give up enough land to the commercial developer so that they can have a robust project that will draw a well-paying crowd and make them, and YOU, a good profit every year. At Belvoir we signed a 50-year lease with a renewable option. Then we got out of the way and tried to accommodate our developer. After all, it was in our best interest that he be happy and successful. After almost a decade, things are going very well.</p> <p>Our portion of the profits goes into an escrow account and cannot be used for "new ideas" somewhere else.</p> <p>Make sure whoever is chosen to be in charge has at least a 5-year contract. Choose him/her carefully and then be ready to live with what you discover after they have been on a job a year.</p> <p>Good luck, you have great responsibility....and great opportunity!</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Maury C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	16
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Maybe you were not aware that you were a part of history; a four-century history with several great firsts of national and global importance. Are you not aware that this is the only existing site that can be claimed as the origination of USA? Sure, things change, but we need to ensure that it is change for the good... it's really time for a positive change; and Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe, the birthplace of our nation, is the best place to begin. We do not need to accomodate developers, anymore!   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Nothing typical here--only the significant and outstanding!!! The longevity, the maritime history, the economic history, the military history, the social history, the political history, and the great beauty of architecture and natural environment of Fort Monroe make this site a most sacred one!!!   By Jean S</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	Ft. Monroe is definitely NOT a typical old army post!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>One comment about the Ft Belvoir development - the use of the leased property was spelled out in great detail prior to leasing it. There were many restrictions and requirements related to building of housing units (which was the purpose of this lease). The situation at Fort Monroe is not really comparable to the situation you're referring to at Ft Belvoir.</p> <p>I would add too, although the units look very nice at Belvoir, the development was very dense - this would be inappropriate for development at Ft Monroe. Another issue is that Monroe is entirely within the flood plain, so that development would have to be built on a lot of fill to get it adequately above sea level. If planning at Monroe is done per parcel rather than as a whole entity, I can imagine the potential impact of runoff from new construction against existing structures.   By Susan W</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>To Tom B7: Thanks for asking. Jamestown was founded, after the landing at Cape Comfort in 1607, and was abandoned in 1699. It no longer exists, except in contemporary replicas and facsimiles. Philadelphia was founded in 1682, came into international prominence around 1745, and still exists. Only two significant 18th-century structures survive: Constitution Hall and Christ Church. Fort Monroe was first manned by colonists in 1607, and was de-commissioned 404 years later... the longest such history in the Western Hemisphere. Both the aforementioned settlements are quite small in scale, when compared to the historical eminence of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	Are you kidding??? Tom, why would you even think to ask such a question, when the answer is so glaringly obvious!?!?   By Jean S
<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>The industrial-looking, non-historic North Gate area is a good place for new development; the Wherry Quarter isn't. Development in Wherry will forever split the National Monument and diminish the attractiveness of Fort Monroe to visitors, whose spending could be an economic boon to Phoebus and Hampton. For more on the significance of Wherry, please see <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org">fortmonroecitizens.org</a>.   By Scott B</p>
<b>Comment 8</b>	<p>I thank this West Point graduate for his service and also for his participation here. Re the statement "So give up enough land to the commercial developer so that they can have a robust project that will draw a well-paying crowd and make them, and YOU, a good profit every year": Even if Virginia's irresponsible leaders finally relent and do the right thing by pressing to unify the two parts of the split, fake national monument, there will <u>still</u> be plenty of room for development. Please glance at the illustration at the top of the page at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> . Moreover, I don't get the idea that this commenter has much awareness that this historic landscape ranks with the country's most important ones. I hope he reads the very end of the June 2011 Chronicle of Higher Education profile of the nationally prominent Civil War historian Edward L. Ayers, at <a href="http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/">http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/</a> . Thanks. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 9</b>	<p>by Steve C6 I thank this West Point graduate for his service and also for his participation here. Re the statement "So give up enough land to the commercial developer so that they can have a robust project that will draw a well-paying crowd and make them, and YOU, a good profit every year": Even if Virginia's irresponsible leaders finally relent and do the right thing by pressing to unify the two parts of the split, fake national monument, there will <u>still</u> be plenty of room for development. Please glance at the illustration at the top of the page at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> . Moreover, I don't get the idea that this commenter has much awareness that this historic landscape ranks with the country's most important ones. I hope he reads the very end of the June 2011 Chronicle of Higher Education profile of the nationally prominent Civil War historian Edward L. Ayers, at <a href="http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/">http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/</a> . Thanks. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 10</b>	<p>I thank this West Point graduate for his service and also for his participation here. Re the statement "So give up enough land to the commercial developer so that they can have a robust project that will draw a well-paying crowd and make them, and YOU, a good profit every year": Even if Virginia's irresponsible leaders finally relent and do the right thing by pressing to unify the two parts of the split, fake national monument, there will <u>still</u> be plenty of room for development. Please glance at the illustration at the top of the page at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> . Moreover, I don't get the idea that this commenter has much awareness that this historic landscape ranks with the country's most important ones. I hope he reads the very end of the final sentence in the June 2011 Chronicle of Higher Education profile of the nationally prominent Civil War historian Edward L. Ayers, at <a href="http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/">http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/</a> . Thanks. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C</p>

<b>Comment 11</b>	Maybe you were not aware that you were a part of history; a four-century history with several great firsts of national and global importance. Are you not aware that this is the only site that can be claimed as the origination of USA? Sure, things change, but we need to ensure that it is change for the good. The last 3 years has shown us the most vile change this country has had to endure... it's really time for a change; and Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe, the birthplace of our nation, is the best place to begin. We do not need to accomodate developers, anymore!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 12</b>	So Luis, what happened to Jamestown and Philadelphia?   By Tom B
<b>Comment 13</b>	100% with you on this!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 14</b>	To Jean S3 & Luis; I question some of your facts promoting Ft. Monroe. Jamestowne was not chronologically second to Ft. Monroe in the founding of the U.S.A. Capt. Newport ID'd your spot for a future defensive location. It was not completed until 1609. The colonists probably stopped at the Point as they did earlier at C. Henry. Archeological evidence abounds re. Jamestownes significance. Where is the archeo. evidence of Algernon? These events are not related to the birth of the U.S.A. That occurred 169 yrs later at Philadelphia, 1776. Due to Spanish origin I do not mention St. Augustine, Fla. ,1565. U.S. took possession in 1821. You must face the facts. Very little history took place at Ft. Monroe before 1830 and the Civil War. After that its strategic value is questionable.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 15</b>	To Tom B7... I love your conveniently abridged version of US history!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 16</b>	Maybe you were not aware that you were a part of history; a four-century history of with several great firsts of national and global importance. Are you not aware that this is the only site that can be claimed as the origination of USA? Sure, things change, but we need to ensure that it is change for the good. The last 3 years has shown us the most vile change this country has had to endure... it's really time for a change; and Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe, the birthplace of our nation, is the best place to begin. We do not need to accomodate developers, anymore!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	National Park Service Regional Conference and Training Center
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The location and availability of housing and meeting sites at the Fort make this an ideal location for a new National Park Service Conference and Training Center. Abundant land and water locations lend themselves to Park Service Employees Training. Revenue could be generated by renting out housing and meeting centers, already on the Fort, for corporate and non-profit conferences.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Roberta J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe Is
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe is a good place to live, work and play. <p style="text-align: center;">FORT MONROE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Live      Work      Play</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Where freedom lives."</p> <p>Or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FORT MONROE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">History      Nature      Recreation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Where freedom lives."</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	The second one is a great slogan to describe Ft. Monroe IF we don't allow developers to "steal" it from the citizens!   By Diann C H
<b>Comment 2</b>	I like the second sentence better than the first one.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	I certainly agree... the second statement gives a broader, yet more intimately meaningful description of Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Yes -- the second sentence is the best.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Historical moat area combined with smart development.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The moat core should be a historical NP focus. The remaining area should be developed as an economic engine to include mixed use and recreational commuity assets. All waterfront should have public access, with adequate security and maintenance. The beach and all public areas can be made self sustaining with smart administration.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Joseph D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	9
<b>Comment 1</b>	Think what you'd like to see in 25, 100, or 200 years. Do you really want "mixed use" condo, snack shacks, and souvenir shops (like you have at any ordinary beach front)? You do realize the immense historical importance of what happened at Fort Monroe, which deserves to be celebrated and will (I believe) be celebrated more and more as time goes on. Luis is right. The "gem" is not just the moat core. And Steve is right. If we fail to preserve the appropriate sense of historical place, we also *lose* money.   By Catherine W
<b>Comment 2</b>	Good points, Catherine, Luis & Steve!! Joseph's entry was probably not intended to be omissive, but it is good to see things clearly in print.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Please consider: the Wherry emancipation encampment, the OPC Lighthouse, the post office & clock tower, the Batteries Parrott and Irwin, St. Mary's Church, The Chamberlin, Generals' Row, the YMCA Building, the site of Fort Algernon, CONARC/TRADOC Headquarters, etc... all occurred or exist without the walls of the current moated fortress. These, too, must be a focus of the NPS, FMA, and the American citizens.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Almost all of Fort Monroe -- that is, almost all of Old Point Comfort -- was designated a national historic landmark a half-century ago. It is simply absurd that after seven years of this struggle to save Fort Monroe, most of the power over this American treasure _still_ remains in the hands not of the nation, but of one city that happens to lie adjacent. Luckily, most Hamptonians do _not_ take the narrow, parochial view, as was learned during the Hampton citizens' Fort Monroe initiative undertaken under provisions of the city charter. Unluckily, though, the Daily Press continues to treat Fort Monroe as a Hampton possession. Yesterday's article about this very forum was not made available to the entire readership. Instead, the paper focused it narrowly toward Hamptonians, sequestering it in the Hampton section. We're going to need more responsible reporting. Maybe the Virginian-Pilot can step in. Maybe the national media will finally stop believing press-release happy-faced nonsense.   By Steve C

<b>Comment 5</b>	Please consider: the Wherry emancipation encampment, the OPC Lighthouse, the post office & clock tower, the Batteries Parrott and Irwin, St. Mary's Church, The Chamberlin, Generals' Row, the YMCA Building, the site of Fort Algernon, CONARC/TRADOC Headquarters, etc... all occurred or exist without the walls of the current moated fortress. These, too, must be a focus of the NPS, FMA, and the American citizens.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 6</b>	This gentleman's bio at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/user/12623">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/user/12623</a> shows that he's a civic-minded citizen. In that line I thank him for his contributions and for recognizing that in an important civic discussion, participants should stand up and identify themselves, as he has done. I mean him no personal disrespect, however, when I say that his comment represents the astonishing sense of entitlement that a few Hamptonians exhibit. That sense stems, it seems to me, from the horrendous historical accident, perpetrated by the BRAC law, whereby this national treasure was unwisely framed as an exploitable plum for one city, rather than as Virginia's national stewardship duty. He apparently believes that outside the moat, there's no history, no historic landscape, no viewshed, no integrity of the Chesapeake Bay sense of place. And he apparently doesn't know that, ironically, his narrow parochialism would actually be costly. (I say again: Adam Goodheart, where are you, man?)   By Steve C
<b>Comment 7</b>	Let us stop using the term "viewshed". It reminds me of the continental divides "watershed" as well as many other localized "watersheds". Views don't move or flow like water does. A view can either follow one's vision up or down regardless of the terrain's apparent position. Why can't we make it a little easier for everyone and simply call it, "a view", or "the view"? Welcome English majors.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 8</b>	I agree with Tom B7. Why confuse the issue with needless verbiage. "Viewshed" sounds like something you'd do out behind the farmhouse. "View" will suffice.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 9</b>	Jean: "Viewshed" is "needless verbiage"? I myself complain about "utilize" when "use" will do. So maybe you and Tom are right. But please consider: Even after seven years in this absurd struggle to save what should never have been threatened in the first place, I'm still only an amateur preservationist, but I can report to you that the word is part of the lexicon. The 262-page <i>Fort Monroe Historic Viewsheds</i> presents an analysis required by the Programmatic Agreement, which itself uses the word 20 times. Once when scolding me, you wrote, "We should not be condemning the great ideas of others, but we should be welcoming those ideas and taking them into careful consideration" (even though I was criticizing not an idea but a faulty, dangerous political practice within the struggle). So I wonder: Should you and I and Tom give more careful consideration to this preservationist term? I'm not sure. But I'm sure that people who try to control others' free speech scare me.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Consider Economic Benefits for Hampton and the Peninsula
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Approximately 60 acres of available land must be reserved for future development of a privately owned Resort/Casino on Fort Monroe. I can only imagine the fantastic draw that this would create for the City of Hampton and the Peninsula. I would market this idea on a national scale. Hundreds of new jobs, property taxes, and a great tourist draw would be some of the benefits that would result. Now might not be the time due to the economy, but keeping adequate space for this would be excellent planning for the future. Also, there is no competition for us within hundreds of miles in all directions. \$25,000,000 sounds like a reasonable price for this acreage in today's market.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	What horrible, short-sighted idea!   By Catherine W
<b>Comment 2</b>	I would like to correct my follow-on comment. The Virginia Lotteries contribution to the States Education Fund in 2011 was not \$440,000,000 but a mere \$220,000,000. Sorry for the error.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 3</b>	We do NOT need another Virginia Beach waterfront nor do we need another Atlantic City. Keep Ft Monroe for citizens interested in history and recreation without destroying the natural shore!   By Diann C H
<b>Comment 4</b>	Why would anyone believe that Fort Monroe needs to become as trashy as Las Vegas?   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	"When November 2012 comes around there will be a huge cut back of federal subsidies". Tom has now betrayed his interest -- he is apparently a political activist, supporting the "starve the beast" thinking. That is fine, but this discussion is supposed to be about Fort Monroe, not using Fort Monroe as a proxy to have a political debate.   By mark P
<b>Comment 6</b>	We already have a disproportionately large segment of our population on federal subsidy, spending their (our) last pennies on lottery tickets. Do we really need another outlet for them to squander our hard-earned tax dollars?   By Luis O
<b>Comment 7</b>	When November 2012 comes around there will be a huge cut back of federal subsidies. We should not be interested so much in losing local pennies, it is the dollars now moving to Dover, Atlantic City, and Vegas that we should hope to attract. This would greatly provide us the jobs that we need and benefit all the businesses that are now hurting in Virginia. Did you know that the VA Lottery provided the school system with \$440,000,000 of income in 2011.   By Tom B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Money Tree?
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Where is the Money Tree that is going to pay for all these grandiose ideas that people are touting? I live here and I have not found one yet. We can not even keep up with the cost of running the Ft. right now, we need some development ideas to bring in the "money trees", and more grass will not do it. Other cities have done well by mixing the past with the present. Why can't we?
<b>Idea Author</b>	Faye H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	17
<b>Comment 1</b>	Odd to see the Tower of London, Big Ben, and dozens of other significant historical/cultural attractions surrounded (up close) by diverse architecture from every period of time in England. It appears the tourists are not discouraged at all from enjoying the closeness of diversity. Why is it that we in the good ol USA require a vista to appreciate Ft. Monroe? Use the Wherry Quarter as a source of badly needed revenue and capital. If you truly want open spaces, The huge Grandview Nature Preserve is a short ride to the North. There you have beaches and sand unlimited. And, if you need more parking there, an acre will cost a lot less than the Ft Monroe land. Good luck with the Master Plan.   By Tom B

<b>Comment 2</b>	I wonder what this gentleman would say about "redevelopment" running right up a Monticello hillside to Jefferson's house. If you throw out the importance of sense of place, and if you also believe the plainly false notion that Tidewater offers adequate public access to the water, his thinking makes sense. But in fact sense of place does matter centrally, and in fact we sequester too much shoreline already. This precious sand spit's sense of place ties intrinsically to the bay, and did so for two centuries before Lt. Lee and others built the moated citadel two centuries ago. As a flat Gibraltar for the Chesapeake beside the channel, the land's strategic uniqueness makes it *intrinsically* historic. Consider Appomattox. Any farmhouse, even if nearer Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Richmond or Danville, would have served. But Fort Monroe and its antecedents could only be built on this sand spit, the indispensable setting for the Union's symbolic, and strategic, bastion in Confederate Virginia.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	I wouldn't spend a plug nickel to visit a housing development, but I sure will spend plenty--and often--at a Ft. Monroe National Park, with all the open lands, buildings, shores, waterways and history preserved!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	National parks are the gift that keeps on giving to the gateway communities. The NPS reports that in 2010 national parks generated "\$31 billion and supported more than 258,000 related jobs. " In D.C., Maryland and Virginia for that year, national parks "generated more than \$1.8 billion in revenue from 58 million visitors and supported more than 22,000 related jobs." And in Virginia alone, "the 23 million visitors to Virginia's National Park sites contributed \$493 million to local economies and supported 7,000 private-sector jobs." All the more reason to have a unified Fort Monroe National Monument that will strengthen the NPS brand, as well as make the fort more appealing to regional visitors, who will keep coming back if they like what they see.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 5</b>	Yes, thanks, a *unified* national monument/park--or as I said below, a _real_ one for economic and other enrichment. We need to get the split national monument unified before we worry too much about the flourishing but not counterproductively enlarged "development area" pictured at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/images/Please_unify_split_national_monument.gif">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/images/Please_unify_split_national_monument.gif</a> , where red marks the waterfront land omitted from the national monument. The Virginian-Pilot's editors have urged about this unification message: "[O]fficials have said they've heard [it] loud and clear. But let them know again. And keep letting them know until the waterfront is set aside and incorporated." A good way to register that adamant insistence is to "second" the idea "Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres" in this forum at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> . Thank you.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 6</b>	The reply beginning "Yes, thanks" just below was deleted this morning at some point after I posted it at around 5:30. Is there a technical problem, MindMixer staff? Is there some other problem? Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 7</b>	Good data, Scott B6! It is quite clear that a fully-integrated national park treatment will not only enhance the regional economy through tourism, but will also provide both recreational and further economic impetus from the locals. The lands, waters and edifices of Fort Monroe are real treasures that, handled properly, will become a draw of global magnitude. This could be the finest UNESCO World Heritage site in North America.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 8</b>	Well said, Luis. National parks are the gift that keeps on giving to the gateway communities. The NPS reports that in 2010 national parks generated "\$31 billion and supported more than 258,000 related jobs. " In D.C., Maryland and Virginia for that year, national parks "generated more than \$1.8 billion in revenue from 58 million visitors and supported more than 22,000 related jobs." And in Virginia alone, "the 23 million visitors to Virginia's National Park sites contributed \$493 million to local economies and supported 7,000 private-sector jobs." All the more reason to have a unified Fort Monroe National Monument that will strengthen the NPS brand, as well as make the fort more appealing to regional visitors, who will keep coming back if they like what they see.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 9</b>	Yes, thanks, a *unified* national monument/park--or as I said below, a _real_ one for economic and other enrichment. We need to get the split national monument unified before we worry too much about the flourishing but not counterproductively enlarged "development area" pictured at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/images/Please_unify_split_national_monument.gif">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/images/Please_unify_split_national_monument.gif</a> , where red marks the waterfront land omitted from the national monument. The Virginian-Pilot's editors have urged about this unification message: "[O]fficials have said they've heard [it] loud and clear. But let them know again. And keep letting them know until the waterfront is set aside and incorporated." A good way to register that adamant insistence is to "second" the idea "Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres" in this forum at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> . Thank you.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 10</b>	Scott, what did Luis say that was well said?   By Ron W
<b>Comment 11</b>	Well said, Luis. National parks are the gift that keeps on giving to the gateway communities. The NPS reports that in 2010 national parks generated "\$31 billion and supported more than 258,000 related jobs. " In D.C., Maryland and Virginia for that year, national parks "generated more than \$1.8 billion in revenue from 58 million visitors and supported more than 22,000 related jobs." And in Virginia alone, "the 23 million visitors to Virginia's National Park sites contributed \$493 million to local economies and supported 7,000 private-sector jobs."    By Scott B
<b>Comment 12</b>	The way to mix the past with present is to adaptively reuse the historic buildings. If the Fort Monroe Authority can't do this, it will have failed to get the historic post up and running--even if it adds some condos. A worst case scenario would be a Wherry Quarter full of new houses with the revenue from their sale and the sale of the land under them going to maintain a lot of mothballed buildings. Adaptive reuse plus tourism is the way to make Fort Monroe viable--and tourism depends on creating an attractive environment for visitors, which means open shorelines and plenty of green space.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 13</b>	The way to mix the past with present is to adaptively reuse the historic buildings. If the Fort Monroe Authority can't do this, it will have failed to get the historic post up and running--even it adds some condos. A worst case scenario would be a Wherry Quarter full of new houses with the revenue from their sale and the sale of the land under them going to maintain a lot of mothballed buildings. Adaptive reuse plus tourism is the way to make Fort Monroe viable--and tourism depends on creating an attractive environment for visitors, which means open shorelines and plenty of green space.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 14</b>	Again, I must iterate: Income from property sales is terminal; and real estate taxes fall far short of the earning potential of a fully-integrated national park. Economically, historically and environmentally, we must not settle for third-rate management and development of Fort Monroe.   By Luis O

<b>Comment 15</b>	I note that this lady's profile shows that she, like others who have commented in this way, lives at Fort Monroe. She has the economic picture either backwards or upside down. For seven years we've been discussing the best ways to mix the past with the present. Almost everybody except those with overdevelopment biases of one kind or another understands that if you actually want civic enrichment from Fort Monroe, you must first secure its bayfront sense of place in a <u>_real_</u> national monument/park. From that will follow historic, recreational, environmental, cultural and <u>_economic_</u> enrichment. Yes, the initial financial challenges are big. They're even bigger thanks to our leaders' failures for seven years to do what needs to be done. But American history is not over, and we must not sacrifice this national treasure to facile shortsightedness. There exist ways to do the right thing. We must find them.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 16</b>	I could not agree more with you, Steve.   By Catherine W
<b>Comment 17</b>	Spot on!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Year Long Use
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The entire park less a few rented building could be used to sponsor themed events year round. Some of the events could be military encampments from various time periods and possibly held separately. Even Renaissance fairs could be held there and last a couple weeks instead of just a weekend. The apartments scheduled to be demolished could be, if feasible renovated or rebuilt to house the visiting members of the program. Keeping the area open to the public is utmost importance. No company should have the right to restrict movements about the fort except for the few rented buildings. Educational programs could be developed and geared towards the school age children. (SOLs need not interfere with historical education). If original areas are made safe for occupancy, "lock-ins" could be used with the students dressed in period costume and performing duties as those who were there in a given era. The airfield could serve as a place for aerial demonstrations of R/C aircraft related to military encampment era specific (WWI would see aircraft of that same style) etc. Unfortunately parking may be an issue. Possibly a location outside the fort with shuttle service could remedy that. In fact the airfield could be a parking lot during events when it
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom V
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	Nice ideas. I see what you mean. Still, in my view it's a mistake to plan for permanently cluttering the bayfront area with financially unnecessary buildings, if that's what's meant by part of this. And it always scares me when people start talking about shuttle buses from outside Fort Monroe. This place belongs to America. Americans ought to be able to use it, including the beaches. Ever try to ride a shuttle from your car to a beach? Fort Monroe will need lots of environmentally friendly parking surfaces -- with lots of trees shading cars from the sun and the parking areas from view.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 2</b>	Nice ideas. I see what you mean. Still, in my view it's a mistake to plan for permanently cluttering the bayfront area with financially unnecessary buildings, if that's what's meant by part of this. And it always scares me when people start talking about shuttle buses from outside Fort Monroe. This place belongs to America. Americans ought to be able to use it, including the beaches. Ever try to ride a shuttle from your car to a beach? Fort Monroe will need lots of environmentally friendly parking surfaces with lots of trees shading cars from the sun and the parking areas from view.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	You have some good ideas, and I'd like to read more. Please do not become discouraged, though, by proponents of commerciality.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	You have some good ideas. Please do not become discouraged, though, by proponents of commerciality.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	The Master Plan goals refer to sustainability. Expenses cannot exceed revenues. You have some excellent thoughts, but like many other site contributors, I suggest that you work on a business plan. Converting some of Ft. Monroes valuable (but unused) assets could provide some of the revenue you will need, while producing jobs and taxes. I suggest looking at the Wherry Quarter. Do not be discouraged by other activists   By Tom B
<b>Comment 6</b>	Business plan? Virginia's leaders could have worked out a sensible business plan, built on the foundation of a serious, real national park, starting in 05. Or 06. Or 07. Or 08. Or 09. Or 10. Or 11, when they finally, six years late, decided to make a fake national monument. Now, after all these years, we're seeing Tom B7's call for leveling 75% of the moated citadel (no kidding, he wrote that) as part of his business plan -- he wants the maintenance savings. It's true that Virginia's leaders, thanks to their irresponsible tardiness, have probably now made it harder to finance the transition costs from Army years to post-Army years. It is not true that we must hysterically and fearfully -- and crazily -- sacrifice Fort Monroe's sense of place by donating the heart of the place to private concerns just because Tom B7, with his contempt for the national treasure in our charge, says it's necessary for the business plan. There is a way to save Fort Monroe for the ages. We must find it.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 7</b>	Tom B7, I suggest that the business plan follow a completed master plan for the Fort. If done properly the planning process should satisfy most of us on the development and on the conservation sides. Unfortunately, from what I have seen from the planners, I am not totally satisfied that the process will be done as well as it could. What is clear and what should be reflected in the plan is that the conservation side of the argument is being supported by a vast majority of the public who care enough to state their opinions.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	As Population Density Increases So Does Need for
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>"Boston is one of the most densely populated cities in the U.S., but its generous supply of park-land – 17.7 percent of the city's area, more than twice the percentage of Hampton Roads' five cities – helps keep it a desirable place to live and work. Moreover, the city's skillful development and marketing of its parks, historical sites and cultural landmarks continues to keep it at the forefront of the nation's tourism industry. (In 2006 the city of Boston received 18.8 million visitor-days.) Finally, Boston has been exceptionally successful – more than twice as successful as the Hampton Roads area – in preserving and providing parkland along its water shoreline, making available the great views, breezes, fishing, boating and swimming opportunities that waterfronts provide the citizenry of great urban areas."</p> <p>(Excerpt from the Trust for Public Land's study "Bracing for Change, Fort Monroe and the Need for Parkland in Hampton Roads." Link to full study: <a href="http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf">http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf</a> )</p> <p>As the population of Hampton Roads increases over the next few decades, so will its density, particularly near its central core. Fort</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Tourism will Work

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>This will be my last comment.</p> <p>I am tired of the same one issue keep the land vacant people comments.</p> <p>It is only a matter of time until the State, Federal and city governments quit funding Fort Monroe. Fort Monroe will only be self supporting with development and a grand hotel on the beach front should be part of the development.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	8
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Revenue will come from more out of town tourists and, especially, Hampton Roads visitors coming to Fort Monroe more frequently for outdoor activities, then spending their money at food, lodging and other revenue producing businesses in historic village and North Gate areas of Fort Monroe. Revenue from business and residential rentals (and any sales) will be greater too if natural areas are preserved and connected fully to fortress, because market will value property with immediate proximity to almost 300 acres of maritime trails and natural beaches significantly more. Also Phoebus and rest of Hampton businesses will receive greater revenue from proximity to a national treasure properly protected and interpreted, not to mention the greater draw Hampton is to business by virtue of having a grand Fort Monroe. Plus Fort Monroe will be more appealing as a conference and event location by virtue of its stunning Bayside environment.   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>I agree with Mark, Ron, and Steve. Development is short-sighted, destructive, and does not even make financial sense.   By Catherine W</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>What's vacant here isn't land but understanding of what constitutes economic good sense. Mark is right, below, when he says, "Another hotel-littered commercial waterfront would make Fort Monroe quite ordinary, and ultimately compromise its value." I note that this gentleman James N1 lives at Fort Monroe. Sir, do you have a conflict of interest? Is part of your irritation caused by a desire to have a neighborhood for yourself, with more controlled access, instead of a Grand Public Place that would require you to share more of the place with more of its actual owners, the American citizenry? Many of the rest of us are tired too, James N1, and not just from months or a year of this discussion, but seven years of it -- seven years during which an outrageous sense of personal entitlement to a national treasure has often shown itself. This is a thousand-year decision. Short-sighted parochialism will mean failure -- including economic suboptimization.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>James N1. Have you ever visited a National Park? Should those pieces of public land have been developed?   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>"It is only a matter of time until the State, Federal and city governments quit funding Fort Monroe."</p> <p>No city government is funding Fort Monroe. And the federal government is not going to abandon the National Park system -- even Mitt Romney says he loves our national parks. And the state best assures it will produce enough revenue to cover the costs of state managed lands at Fort Monroe by making Fort Monroe as appealing as possible, to visitors, residents and business tenants. That means not leaving Wherry "vacant" but restoring its natural landscape, bringing natural lands up to the walls of the fortress, creating great beauty and views and immediate and easy accessibility between the amenities of the historic area and a great maritime green space in heart of Hampton Roads. Another hotel-littered commercial waterfront would make Fort Monroe quite ordinary, and ultimately compromise its value.   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>Mark P3; I will make this question as simple as possible. During the "off season", where do you suppose the revenue which you expect, so matter-of-factly, will come from. Maybe you could contact the tourist folks at Williamsburg, Yorktown, VA Beach (beach front), Outer Banks, or Jamestowne, to assist. Keep in mind, Mark, we are talking a solid six months with little or no tourist revenue to cover tens of thousands of dollars in operating costs.   By Tom B</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>Thank God there were no Preservationists with the early Jamestowne and Massachusetts colonials. Think about it. If there were, Virginia and Massachusetts would consist of "vistas" and "viewsheds", with only sparse human progress during the previous 400 years. This clearly proves that mankind must continue to use economic principles in promoting human progress for the next one thousand years.   By Tom B</p>
<b>Comment 8</b>	<p>Economic principles, Tom B7, demand that sensible people not grossly suboptimize a once-in-a-millennium asset for short-term, narrowly defined gain. Below, reflecting your well-established contempt for another principle--that Fort Monroe is a national treasure--you said you would "make [your] question as simple as possible" for Mark. Let me make a question as simple as possible for you: To what extent should Tidewater and Virginia see ourselves as competing on a planetwide scale? If you agree that we should strive to excel there, then here's another simple-as-possible question for you: To what extent, if any, do communities at that level consign their most precious and treasurable waterfront spaces to biz-as-usual development, or to sense-of-place-canceling overdevelopment? To what extent do they instead seek to capitalize on such assets on a world scale? (Note to self: Why am I asking Tom B7? This is an existential question for Sasaki, with its imperiled international reputation.)   By Steve C</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Dog beach opened.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Why is the dog beach closed? What's the difference between residences past and present? Home dwellers are still going to have pets. It is a very small piece of the beach where no one goes to walk. And this is not a reason for owners to not pick up after their pets.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	charlotte B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>I am sorry, but "Dog" referred to GIs (soldiers), not to pets. Hence, Dog Beach was a GI beach.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Lois, I read in something, that the Army named the various beaches A, B, C, D. alpha, bravo, charlie and delta for operational purposes. Somehow delta beach must have become Dog? Not sure of the origin of the name.   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>I would upload the picture of the map if I knew how but the map shows the club the camp grounds and then the dog beach. Nothing about a GI beach.   By charlotte B</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>To Charlotte B: It wouldn't be called GI Beach on any map, it was called Dog Beach; but the reference is to the GIs. Just as GIs wore 'dog' tags.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>Ron, Luis, others: Here's a question I asked in another posting about Dog Beach: Doesn't the name Dog come from the Army's A,B,C, D labeling of beach segments from decades back, when the military used the phonetic alphabet that began Able Baker Charlie Dog? (Ron, that's from even long before the time when you were in-county in Vietnam being shot at, and I was safely out in the Gulf of Tonkin on a carrier with hot showers.)   By Steve C</p>

<b>Comment 6</b>	I think it is closed because the Army still has not cleaned up the potential hazards. Also, I do not think "dog beach" was named just to allow dogs to run. I suspect that when the NPS gets the land from the army, they will enforce typical NPS regulations requiring dogs to be on leash. Even though I have had dogs for most of my 67 years, and currently own two dogs I would encourage the NPS to restrict the times and season when dogs are allowed. I do not like to encounter dog exhaust or free running dogs when I walk on the beach.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 7</b>	It's a very small piece of beach where no one walks. But pets should have supervision at any location. The dog beach was typical of a dog park. They took away the bags and trash can. If it could be a dog beach when the army was there why not now.   By charlotte B
<b>Idea Title</b>	First a Nutshell Now an Oyster Shell
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Let us hope that we don't have an Eggshell on our hands! If we do, let us hope it ends up in one "Sunny Side Up".
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Do you have a worthwhile suggestion?   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Difference Between Savannah, Charleston, and Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	These examples illustrate two locations that include everything that a Colonial city had; shops, restaurants, homes, hotels, and parks. In contrast Fort Monroe has very little to offer the tourist. What difference does that make you say. It is a huge difference. The two locations mentioned are "self sustaining". They produce taxes (property and income) for their local and state governments. Who will contribute the taxes necessary to make Fort Monroe "self sustaining"? That is the reason that we must cut costs to an absolute minimum, and allow for the maximum intake of taxes. Also, selling State properties will produce immediate capital to pay for management and development costs. When all of this is realized you may hopefully add the name of Fort Monroe to that of Savannah and Charleston. Let it not take too long!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Historically, environmentally, aesthetically and in longevity, Savannah and Charleston have little in common with Fort Monroe. The largest disparity is in the historicity of each. Had you realized the vast, epoch-making episodes in which Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe was so vital, I don't think you would have tried to make this sketchy of an analogy. Of course, we all realize that once any property is sold, there are no further options; and the potential for greater revenue generation is precipitously diminished to a mere property tax assessment. That is no substitute for the enormous income (and global interest) that a full, un-partitioned Fort Monroe National Historic Park will generate. This is evidenced by the overwhelming success of hundreds of comparable sites around the world.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Well-said, Luis! And to Tom: Ft. Monroe could never be made into a Charleston or a Savannah anyway. Could Phoebus or some other part of Hampton?   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Yes Luis. Well-said.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Share Your Feelings About Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Attention Hampton City Council Members. As a local resident and Virginia taxpayer I feel that your decision of August 8 was an incorrect decision. The land involved in the Wherry Quarter is much too valuable to devote to creating a "vista" for visitors of Fort Monroe. Granted, it will remove future landscape maintenance costs for about 72 acres from the City budget and give it to the Federal Government, but at what cost? That land is probably worth a million dollars per acre. When the economy improves, lease or sell most of it to a private developer. Use this capital towards future maintenance and management costs of this and other city property to keep future taxes down. To draw future visitors, I personally would like to see some of the dollars now spent at Dover, Las Vegas, and Atlantic City diverted to Virginias first resort/casino. The government could surely use the extra revenue in light of the bad economic forecasts facing our nation in the coming years. We need the jobs and industry for income and property taxes. We need a stable source such as the resort/casino industry can provide. We do not need one which is adversely affected by the seasons. Check with our business friends in Va Beach, Williamsburg, and the Outer Banks. Kind of cold
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Tom B7 there are many more ways to value open space and public land than dollars. This is especially the case at Fort Monroe which is the last stand for Hampton Roads and significant open space. Open space can very much bring in dollars for the support of the Fort, for Hampton, and for the state if creatively used. Why destroy a public resource with over development when the surrounding communities are an alternative and probably a better choice for a casino. Lastly, I have worked in 5 National Park areas where the land and views were also worth millions but remain undeveloped for the public good. That says something about the wisdom of and vision of past governmental leaders.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	Scott B6; You are technically correct re. the Wherry land being owned by the State. I believe that this is a temporary condition. The non-federal property due to its location within the political boundary of Hampton will eventually be absorbed by that City. Hopefully, the Fort Monroe Authority will be disbanded when the dust settles. The sooner the better because it is costing the citizens of Virginia about \$750,000 per year.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 3</b>	There it is, folks, the threat that motivates many of us. Tom B7 predicts that precious public bayfront, stewarded by Virginia for the moment, but owned in a higher sense by all Americans, "will eventually be absorbed by" Hampton. Yep. That's the threat. And it'd be a catastrophe, which matters for the country, but also an economic catastrophe for Hampton and the region, by grossly suboptimizing the asset. If we held a REAL debate, moderated truly impartially, and not framed by authorities with a bias toward economically costly overdevelopment, and if we then held a regionwide referendum, the parochial blindness in Tom B7's views would lose overwhelmingly. Americans will not abdicate from national greatness. (Note: This is about bayfront. Let Hampton have the land on the west side.) (P.S.: Though Tom B7 ignored it, I answered his false analogy about London in the comments at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/money-tree">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/money-tree</a> .)   By Steve C
<b>Comment 4</b>	The city of Hampton doesn't own the Wherry land; the state does. The City Council, to its great credit, is not only following the wishes of the vast majority of Hamptonians as well as others in Hampton Roads; it's trying to influence the state to make Fort Monroe more visitor friendly, which will benefit Hampton economically as the gateway community.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 5</b>	This is promising!   By Luis O

<b>Idea Title</b>	Wherry Quarter Debate Solution
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I took a field trip to the Fort yesterday, map in hand, to refamiliarize myself with the controversial Wherry Quarter. I now feel that a solution to the opposing ideas, or at least a fair compromise, can be had without further debate. The prevailing question being, should the present "red area" be combined with the National Monument section, or should controlled development be allowed in the "red area"?</p> <p>I propose that the Wherry Qtr be divided approximately in half. Beginning at a spot 100 yds.to the North of the Forts Northern most "Starpoint feature", extend this line Eastward paralleling the Quarters North boundary, until it terminates at the Bay. Proceed Westward from the "spot", extending a line to the Development Area boundary thence NNW to the Sound. This will describe the new Wherry North.</p> <p>The "red colored" property to the South, bordering the Bay could be labeled "Wherry South". Except for the removal of Wherry Bldgs in this Southern half, there should be no development allowed here. To insure this, this South sector should be combined with the National Monument. If development were to be allowed here, it would clearly degrade the view and detract from the nearby historic architecture and beaches.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>In its first 16 days, this deplorable idea has received zero seconds -- that is, zero votes. Readers who want to state publicly a desire for unification of the national monument can do so at the posting in this forum under the heading "Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres" at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> . It has scores of votes already, and the more it gets, the harder it will be for Virginia's leaders to persist in their plain, longstanding intention to do the wrong thing.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>The wherry should be part of the National Park with no commercial development. There are numerous recreational possibilities if commercial/residential development are not permitted. This is a one time shot to get the usage of a national treasure right. Once the developers are in a last place for the whole nation is lost! There are no good compromises e Where public access is traded for money and developer agrAndizement   By Richard E</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>Richard E2. I very much thank you for the above comment, because you are directly on target. The issues are: what are the most appropriate recreational activities; how they will impact the "feel" of the Wherry Quarter; and what is appropriate in a National Park Service area, should the WQ be made part of the existing National Monument boundary. I for one favor the types of recreation that do not involve bright lights and bleachers. If you want that go to a city park or Virginia Beach. Proper planning will bring visitors by the hundreds to the area, all willing to spend money. The challenge is to give them something to appreciate when they get here.   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>Tom is talking about the red area on the National Park Service Fort Monroe map that Tom Gear, Dennis Lee, Manny Puma and I modified several months ago, and that the Daily Press unethically refused to show its readers during the city council campaign. You can see it in a glance at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> . Tom B7: No deal. The sense of place must be preserved. And by the way, the concept of "compromise" involves certain moral grounding that doesn't apply just because the burglar agrees to leave the silver even while still stealing the stereo and your wallet. Fort Monroe is a national treasure -- a phrase that you mocked with disdain quotes elsewhere in this forum. The fake, split national monument is self-evidently preposterous. Hampton's and Virginia's leaders must prepare a serious plan to get it fixed.</p> <p>  By Steve C</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	History and Waterfron
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe is a national asset that combines vital history with a beautiful natural setting for viewing and recreation.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Brian K
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	A Racing Community, where history and racing live together
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>there is alot to this, but ultimatly this is to help save the historic value by allowing things to stay the way they are , with added improvements in housing, and buisnesses. Stock cars wont be present every day, or every week, once a year, the loud cars ( pros) wont be there all the time, mostly its for the local public to have a place to go, and safely race in whatever kind of vehicle they want. Land sea, and air racing of every kind, bike racing, off road truck racing, stock cars, F1/indy cars, monster truck racing, dirt track oval racing, air plane racing, boat racing, All racing. This is a proposal where sports can be played by all, young and old. race tracks arent the only thing that has to go on, football, baseball, a regular park atmosphere, where you can come and race. or relax on an inclusive beach on a pond, or lake, what ever u call it, it will be closed off from the ocean, as to keep the waters clean, and fresh from the dirtyness that is the ocean. A whole shore line will be beaaches, for 3/4 of a mile, no rocks, no clumps of dirt, a nice place to play in the sand with out having to worry about sharks. Im talking about a resort for all to enjoy, simply , a place to race, and cure your need for speed.My proposal will include a movement towards electric racing, instead of gas, but we will need the</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jason P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	19
<b>Comment 1</b>	NONONONONO No racing community on Ft Monroe. Leave her as a National Park entirely   By Beverly P
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Just so you know Kady, rc racing is a part of the plan. as it is racing. And thank you for making a positive statement about all this. . the need of the many outweigh the need of the few. people like Jean dont understand how what i propose uses most of their ideas for the fort as well as making a place for people to come and have fun racing. and i agree, its singlemindedness that has these people putting me down for my ideas. there cannot possibly be any good reason to do what i want( sarcasm). its apparent to me from the begening that the folk who have commented only influence the thoughts of those who agree with them, all other ideas will be pushed away because they cannot see what a waste of land something becomes when you do nothing big with it. Selfishness. because you see, the ideas i have involve way more than just a racing facility, but those people here dont want to see that. so i will bide my time. just dont let me get my hands on any significant amount of money. good day.</p> <p>  By Jason P</p>

<b>Comment 3</b>	Jason, you know I've defended your passion and determination in the past, but now I think it's you who are unjustly bashing the view of some of the rest of us. You write of " what a waste of land something becomes when you do nothing big with it." Waste of land? Nothing big? Jason, this national treasure has a unique--in the old sense of the word, as in one-of-a-kind--place in the history of liberty itself. That's why it ought to become a World Heritage Site. (Please see <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/freedom-s-fortress-national-park-as-world-heritage-site</a> in this forum.) That's way bigger than any of the recreational uses that Fort Monroe should also support. Maybe we're wrong to be so disdainful of your idea. But what we are asking for is indeed big, and it will indeed draw people to Fort Monroe. You are as wrong about all of that as you say the rest of us are about your racing. Thanks. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 4</b>	steve, leaving the land to be historic, and i mean all of it as a whole is a waste of space. it already has buildings on it. what makes it so special that the whole thing should be historic. so it was a place where we protected our country, but the whole thing dosent need to be left for dead, and thats what those in power are trying to get you all to realize. So what, history happens. we need to stop making everything so historic, and make places for people to occupy their time more than staying home and dieing. i really get tired of hearing all this hubbub about historic whatever. do you know they call daytona racetrack historic? do you?. anything with some age on it becomes historic , Why steve why, why must the whole thing go to waste because you all think its best for the place to have it labeled as history. what makes something historic, a big impact in history. Fort monroe was a good place in the past, but since the invention of a submarine, and warships, we havent needed theFort   By Jason P
<b>Comment 5</b>	i really do understand the feeling of people about trying to preserve history, that is why my idea involves moving the history to the inside of the moat. most things outside of that moat are not that old, i have seen pics of the Fort from its original state thru historic drawings, and i can tell you that the bunkers, and the walls of the fort are the only things that can be called history. there is nothing historic about the bowling alley, or the gas station. How bout that water tower, thats not historic. just because its there dosent make it important to history. how do you propose to save the shore. ????? do you know the land under the bay next to the boardwalk is gone. Look at google earth photos i have in my pic. the water is eroding the land, and its gonna take approx 250 million dollars just to ensure the shore will stay. the money is of course a guess, but its gonna be a high number. how do u propose to save it. i have an idea, ont that will work for many years to come. i also have ideas for the fixing of the inside so that more land can be used. the entire area of Fort Monroe is gonna wash away if you all dont take a good hard look at some of what im saying. how about just making the airport a place to dragrace. maybe my idea is a bit much to take, but i will say this, racing
<b>Comment 6</b>	Also what you propose will bring everyone once or twice, but once its seen, what will there be to see over and over again. HUH? my idea proposes that people will return daily, as well as annualy to race. i have seen every inch of fort monroe, i have nothing motivating me to return. what will you propose that will attract people to this place so much that they wont do anything else but return to do/ see more?????/   By Jason P
<b>Comment 7</b>	the history of liberty really had nothing to do with this place. we used it until we made warships, and ever since its been on the chopping block for the military to withdrawl from it because its nothing to the military anymore. you propose that we make it historic, why, so people can come and see why the military abandoned it?????? they wont certainly see the reason the military occupied it in the first place, as the Fort has changed so much . its become a place for people to be. the casemate looks like its doing real well(sarcasm), so what else can you propose that will be a drawl of people like a racing resort will drawl?????????   By Jason P
<b>Comment 8</b>	Jason - While I personally am not keen on the idea of a race track, I applaud you for taking the time to express your opinion. By definition an opinion is a personal view or attitude and can be neither right or wrong. Your idea did elicit a vivid picture in my mind and cause me to imagine other similar possibilities like remote control race cars, planes or boats. I don't know of anywhere locally that RC enthusiasts can persue their pleasures. Don't be disheartened by the single mindedness of some people who believe if you do not agree with them then you are wrong. I'm sure Mallory, Baker and Townsend did not agree with the popular opinion and thats what caused them to seek refuge at Fort Monroe. Before we make unkind comments, we would do well to remember others throughout history who were unjustly persecuted for their ideas because they were different..   By Kady C
<b>Comment 9</b>	Heavens, what a singleminded person you are--maligining all the opinions of others! Remember that fact and reality can corroborate or negate the validity of any opinion--and bias always excludes the individual from the public good.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 10</b>	Also, the boardwalk will be open, that part of the whole thing is not a road, and the racing surface would be behind a wall, and fence, so you can enjoy the bay view. i do understand what you all are saying, i dont really have plans for every building on the property, i know you all do, and would, just as my wife would like to have a place to have a salon, which would do well in a place where men will inevitably drag their wives. eventually women will be dragging their hubbies to the Fort so they can do their thing. this works in so many ways, all the ideas you all have, with some exceptions will be able to happen at the Fort Monroe Racing Resort and Spa...of course it can still be lost to the developers, and my idea can still work, things have to be adjusted. i have back up plans too. im just going big with the idea because thats what the 7 cities area needs. a place to let all the lead footed people get their aggression out somewhere other than the roads. why not a place to race?????   By Jason P
<b>Comment 11</b>	Nascar has just renewed a contract. Im not sure if anyone here realizes what stock cars visiting the Fort once a year could do. here is the thing tho, the stock cars will only show up if they like the race course design. otherwise my other plan involved making a 1/2 mile highly banked track, one that would have to have specially made panels made for the turns. I actually created a small wooden version of the track that i would love to build, and i raced 28th scale cars on it. that was my original photo when i signed up. you all seem to think im trying to ruin Fort monroe, but the fact is i am just trying to get some money into the fort, while giving the Racing Community somewhere, near the 7 cities, to race. I know most of you cannot fathom this, but the whole place needs to be redone, and if its made into a racing resort, The inside of the Fort can be restored, and so can the buildings that need to be protected. people will invest in racing. a Place to race will attract weekly return   By Jason P
<b>Comment 12</b>	Ive been seeing dreams of this Fort since the day they let it be known that the Fort was closing down. its ok to not agree with my idea, but making me feel bad because of it is where you all are going wrong. way wrong. Steve i wish i knew why the oposition on this site was so against my idea, but i do actually get understand the points opposed. but as i have said, this plaec is gonna be doin something, why not have a place where u can take the kids, and let them drive go carts. while you drive a real size car at speeds you have never been able to acheive on your own.   By Jason P

<b>Comment 13</b>	i am embarrassed, im embarrassed that there are people so closed minded that they cannot see that what i have to propose is a way to certainly make money.And save the fort from over development.but its ok. as steve says i have no power. im not embarrassed or ashamed at all, because no matter how you see it, i see the Fort in my dreams, and i see people racing around the Fort . tom you should be ashamed thinking that your ideas or anyone elses is any better for the Fort. the fact remains that this Fort will dissapear from the radar unless something worth doing is done.this place is just land, altho its land where history happened, its not happening there any more, and we need to make this place a money maker, not a money pit. And Yes i do believe a racing resort will be a money maker. And that is my opinion, and im allowed my opinion.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 14</b>	This is the stupidest idea I have ever heard. Jason P1, you ought to be embarrassed and ashamed.   By Tom C
<b>Comment 15</b>	I don't like it either, as I've said at length here and elsewhere in this forum. But I also don't believe the earnest and thoughtful Jason P deserves that kind of personal attack. I admire his passion and tenacity, even though I wish he understood why his idea is so troubling to so many. Anyway, please consider this: Jason's idea can at least be construed to connote substantial preservation and also expansion of centrally located bayfront open space, the very thing lacking in the split, fake national park that Virginia's overdevelopment-obsessed leaders bamboozled the president into creating. And Jason has no power and no chance of prevailing, whereas it's obvious from lots of evidence -- including the Sasaki disingenuousness that Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park has charged -- that the people who <u>do</u> have the power plan to do the wrong thing. Shouldn't the shouting, if we're going to have it, be directed at the actual perps?   By Steve C
<b>Comment 16</b>	NOISE POLLUTION!!! Build a racetrack in your own backyard! This is a horrible idea.   By Diann C H
<b>Comment 17</b>	How is this idea being abusive, Haters Hating,   By Jason P
<b>Comment 18</b>	the infield of the circuit track will be accesible by tunnel , and one vehicle access point.the resort will be open everywhere for those who live , or pay to visit.   By Jason P
<b>Comment 19</b>	my proposal also brings new meaning to the moat, it can be cleaned, and hade into a fishing hole, or swimming hole. it needs to be drained, and cleaned. What i propose will not only bring money to the Fort, but will bring tourists from all over who want to watch racing, no matter the type. and people who will pay a premium price to live in a place where they can go to race.   By Jason P
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>Your Vision for Fort Monroe</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Lets make a REAL national monument/park!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	What would I like to see included in Fort Monroe National Monument? Like many thousands of other people, I'd like to see us include the land that's missing -- the land known as the "Wherry Quarter." At <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> , you can see a National Park Service map with red marking added to show the missing land. That waterfront land has prime historical significance -- and the Peninsula's best beaches! But it also has enormous attractions for developers. The way it stands now, it represents what could be the biggest land grab in Virginia history.The way it stands now, leaving it out just gives us a phony national monument. So I hope people will join me in insisting that the missing land must be locked up forever in a REAL national monument/park for you and your children and grandchildren -- and for all generations to come. It belongs to YOU. It belongs to ALL America. Take it back and lock it up! Thanks. Tom Gear
<b>Idea Author</b>	tom G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	59
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	16
<b>Comment 1</b>	Today at OpSail at Fort Monroe, I learned first hand just how many people do not realize the National Monument is split in two by a huge100-acre piece of bayfront property, i.e., the Wherry Quarter, and that the 100 acres are largely unprotected from developers and private ownership. The expressions of shock came after OpSail attendees read one of nearly 400 little cards I was handing out. The cards tell about the unprotected waterfront gap and ask the public to join many others who are insisting not just on special respect for that omitted land but that it be promptly incorporated into the Fort Monroe National Park Service holdings and thus unifying them into one complete bayfront Fort Monroe National Park Sadly, this is what the majority of the people today thought we already had. Tom Gear and the Virginian-Pilot are right to say we must all make it really really clear that the national monument must be unified by including the missing 100 acres. SaveFortMonroe@gmail.com   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 2</b>	This is distressing to consider. With landmark, park, monument, FMA, NPS and other terms used so freely and seemingly interchangeably, it is not difficult to understand that many people are confused about the real current state of things at Fort Monroe. Thank you for alerting so many to this concern.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	This is distressing to consider. With "landmark", "park", "monument", "FMA", "NPS" and other terms used so freely and seemingly interchangeably, it is not difficult to understand that many people are confused about the real current state of things at Fort Monroe. Thank you for alerting so many to this concern.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	All missing land should be added to Ft Monroe National Park. The document that was signed then is a joke and is just something to give everyone a false sense of security. Has any of the news media been given this piece of information? I'm from the Baltimore/ Annapolis area it it would be like someone slicing up Ft McHenry up or selling off pieces of the U.S. Naval Academy. As usual it seems the powers that be are only interested in making a profit and not saving Virginia History. It is a delicate balance when you have to preserve history and also use the land to bring in jobs for the area. It can be done but not at the hatchet job that the development obsessed government leaders want. First save the historical lands because once they are lost you can not recover them and then make sure the public can get to them easily with good parking and then let the developers have their share without have the current residents being shoved aside.   By Dawn W
<b>Comment 5</b>	Thanks for affirming the Virginian-Pilot's view: failure to unify the split national monument would leave Ft Monroe "degraded." ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land</a> ) Unskeptical, ill-informed national media regularly parrot the press-release-style Big Lie that the president designated Ft Monroe a national monument, when of course he only designated certain mainly unthreatened parts. The Big Lie diverts attention from unification, giving cover for overdevelopment. Local media know the truth, but sometimes promote the Big Lie anyway. (Astonishingly, the National Trust for Historic Preservation sullies its very name by proclaiming the Big Lie, as in the second sentence of a 4/30 Daily Press op-ed.) Also please note: developers have no rightful "share" -- and public profit requires not suboptimizing the asset, as the gaping bayfront split would do if left undefeated.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 6</b>	I can not believe that anyone would have the unmitigated gall to ask the president (however disinterested) to sign a document to purposely allow for private development on historically public lands... but then, I never would have believed that anyone would purposely fly aircraft into the Pentagon or NY World Trade Center, either.   By Luis O

<b>Comment 7</b>	Tom Gear is right: the national monument is a fake. It's uncorrectable even by that fine superintendent, and uncorrected by brochure/proclamation trivia. As Citizens for a Ft Monroe National Park publicly affirms, Gear is the <u>only</u> politician to spend seven years opposing our overdevelopment-obsessed leaders' dithering and dodging. They could've sought a REAL national park starting in 2005. Instead, after years of costly delay, they snookered the president into saving only the never-threatened parts, leaving a gaping hole on the sense-of-place defining bayfront. If Ft Monroe means what we say it means, that gap is as self-evidently preposterous as would be any marring of Monticello's hillsides. And if you brought in a jury from Topeka, Seattle and Austin for an honest discussion -- not a choreographed, smiley-faced Dover-Kohl-Sasaki-style PR exercise -- the jurors would stare at us in stark amazement. It's a fake. We must say so forthrightly. And we must fix it. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 8</b>	Here's the link to a brief YouTube clip of Tom Gear arguing for fixing the fake national monument: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1MabaxbcnA">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1MabaxbcnA</a>   By Steve C
<b>Comment 9</b>	I certainly support a larger national park, but I wish people would stop calling the Ft. Monroe National Monument a "fake" national park. It's NOT fake--it has a great park superintendent, a Presidential Proclamation, an official NPS brochure, and lots of land and historical buildings. I want the two present parts to be joined by the land in between (and it should be kept undeveloped and green), but even before that happens, Ft. Monroe National Park/ Monument is REAL, not fake.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 10</b>	Fort Monroe National Monument is real, but it consists ONLY of the moated Fortress and a small area of wetlands on the north tip. The National Monument designation is a good thing and does bring more publicity, but these two areas were already protected and did not need the designation to be protected. The National Monument does NOT have lots of land and historical buildings, These are not part of the Monument designation. The Chesapeake Bay shoreline, the beaches, the Wherry Quarter area, and much other land and buildings are NOT protected and are vulnerable to development. Thousands of citizens wrote, spoke, and signed petitions for a significant National Park. An already-protected moated Fortress only Park or Monument is NOT what we worked for. If development occurs, Fort Monroe National Monument will become a difficult to find, difficult to get to isolated fortress separated from its historical significance. This is why it is called a "fake" national park.   By Karen D
<b>Comment 11</b>	It is not a Historic National PARK!!!! Much of Fort Monroe has been National Landmark since the 1950s. Part of it is now called National Monument. What it is, is a treasure of worldwide importance that needs to be unified and protected forever!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 12</b>	Who pays for this? American taxpayers?   By Stephanie W
<b>Comment 13</b>	Who pays for failed development? Who pays to maintain or rescue development that is not profitable or is built in vulnerable areas? Planners and developers take their money and are gone. There are many examples in Hampton and I am sure in area cities. Development becomes "stale" in 10-20 years. Note recent items in the news: Kingsmill is declared "stale" and is being greatly expanded -- residents say it is only a matter of time before they lose public beach access; NN City Center already needs transformation to put it back on the map; Yorktown Riverwalk has not been financially successful; Waterside has been unsuccessful and many transformations tried; Sandler H2O developers left a large unpaid tax bill; Man-made Salt Ponds Inlet needs millions from Hampton for dredging; Hampton apartments built on wetlands will flood and need rescuing, as would development on Fort Monroe. This is no legacy for Fort Monroe. National Parks bring to the area \$3-\$4 for every \$1 of cost.   By Karen D
<b>Comment 14</b>	Who pays for multiple, colossal "mis"-development blunders?... the tax-payer!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 15</b>	7,000 people signed a petition supporting a Fort Monroe National Park, presented at the July 2011 public comment meetings at the Convention Center, and many more citizens spoke advocating for a significant National Park. These citizens, myself included, did not speak for only a Fortress Monroe National Park. It's great to have the National Monument designation, BUT the moated Fort and the wetlands in the north were already protected. In March 2011, I personally spoke with Destry Jarvis of the NPCA and showed him a picture taken from the moat wall looking out to the Chesapeake Bay. The Wherry Quarter roof tops were very obvious and distracting. He said he did not realize the possible development was so close to the moat and Fort itself, and he commented, "No there should not be development there." He also stated that this would be the only National Park on the Chesapeake Bay and the longest public beach on the Chesapeake Bay. Connect to make a real Park! 7,000 people speak up!   By Karen D
<b>Comment 16</b>	This is in response to Karen's response that "Fort Monroe National Monument is real, but it consists ONLY of the moated Fortress and a small area of wetlands on the north tip... these two areas were already protected and did not need the designation to be protected ..." Maybe it's just semantics, but "north tip" sounds like the very tip of Old Point Comfort. The "North Beach" area of the National Monument extends from the north tip down just below Walker Air Field, a 244-acre plot of land. The entire present Monument designation, excluding a corridor connecting the two parts, and including the easement area around the fortress, is around 325 acres, as President Obama's proclamation states. Also, the city of Hampton had plans to develop what the NPS is calling North Beach, and so did the FMA, along the shorelines paralleling the air field. So this area was never really safe from development until the National Monument designation.   By Scott B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Please Protect the Beautiful Beach from being developed & ruined
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Allow the beach to remain unobstructed-Please do not allow developers to take one of the last beaches Hampton has that is not either surrounded by houses or condominiums or inaccessible due to chains etc. Many of us enjoyed this beach as children and so have our children, please save it for the next generation!!!!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Julie E
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	34
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	10
<b>Comment 1</b>	Julie, all the beaches at Fort Monroe would remain open for public use and enjoyment IF the Wherry Quarter and its adjoining waterfront are incorporated into the NPS holdings. Granted a small part of the beachfront in front of the former O-Club is supposed to remain part of the business there now BUT that small part of the beach was always off limits to non-members. The NPS has to make operating money wherever possible and renting out the Club is one way...and none of us should oppose the NPS making money, within reason, to support America's wonderful NP's, the FMNP being no exception. Please support the move to have the Wherry Quarter and its adjoining beachfront added into the FMNP and you will get your wish for unobstructed easily accessed beaches at Fort Monroe.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 2</b>	All the beaches should be freely accessible to tourists and the local public. Residential enterprises should be restricted to the re-use of existing housing. Gated communities and waterfront condos are absolutely unacceptable.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I went to the beach at Fort Monroe many times last summer and except for the lifeguard - I was the only person there. Where are all these people who want to enjoy the beach? They are at Virginia Beach where they can use the restroom, buy lunch and shop for souvenirs.   By Kady C

<b>Comment 4</b>	But Kady, it was still an Army post last summer! You practically had to have a Letters of Transit from General de Gaulle himself just to get through the gate! We're now free to talk about all sorts of possibilities for the future. If you look at a Tidewater map, what you see is that very little of the shoreline includes public beach access. Virginia Beach in the summer, you say? Where do you park? Do you enjoy the bridge-tunnel delays both coming and going? Please just look at the aerial photo of Fort Monroe. Those beaches have obvious potential. Myself, I think think Julie E's comment is a great one, and I seconded it. Anyone who likes Julie E's idea might also want to see "Lets make a REAL national monument/park!" on this same "Vision for Fort Monroe" page. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 5</b>	But Kady, it was still an Army post last summer! You practically had to have a Letters of Transit from General de Gaulle himself just to get through the gate! We're now free to talk about all sorts of possibilities for the future. If you look at a Tidewater map, what you see is that very little of the shoreline includes public beach access. Virginia Beach in the summer, you say? Where do you park? Do you enjoy the bridge-tunnel delays both coming and going? Please just look at the aerial photo of Fort Monroe. Those beaches have obvious potential. Myself, I think Julie E's comment is a great one, and I seconded it. Anyone who likes Julie E's idea might also want to see "Lets make a REAL national monument/park!" on this same "Vision for Fort Monroe" page. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 6</b>	Steve, that's funny - all I needed was a driver's license and a car registration   By Kady C
<b>Comment 7</b>	We don't want to get too sidetracked on my hyperbole about those letters of transit, Kady, though it's also true that the Army took to turning people away if they didn't also have proof of insurance -- even if you didn't know to bring that proof. There was a gate hassle, and it's now gone. What about the rest of my earlier reply? Also: I notice that in various places in this overall discussion, you seem skeptical about a grand vision for a Fort Monroe with a real Chesapeake Bay sense of place (though I might actually like your Hygeia Hotel resurrection idea, if we can find the right site for it). If I'm right that you only want a limited vision for this national treasure, and that you seem to think America is too crippled to get it right, it all puzzles me. (Maybe my impression is wrong.) But in any case, what about the _rest_ of my beach reply to you? Why so negative about what I see as obvious potential?   By Steve C
<b>Comment 8</b>	I never saw you there, because each time I went, there were many persons and families on the beach.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 9</b>	I think a lot of people did not realize the work that had been done on the seawall & on the beaches along the sea wall.   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 10</b>	Amen! And if you like this idea, please see "Lets make a REAL national monument/park!" just above on this same idea page. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Maintain Uniqueness of Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>It would be a mistake to try to remake Fort Monroe into another Martha's Vineyard or another Savannah. Fort Monroe is an unique place in this country and in Hampton Roads. Its history cannot be separated from its landscape.</p> <p>Appropriate uses should be found for historic buildings. The North Gate area should be developed in such a way as to complement the historic village. The Wherry quarter should be freed of its non-historic 20th century buildings and the area should become the central component of a unified Fort Monroe National Monument.</p> <p>Keeping the development in the North Gate area instead of spreading some of it into the Wherry Quarter will make the community where people live and work more compact and hence more walkable. It will also provide a very logical transition area between the national monument area and the adjacent community, therefore maximizing the experience for visitors and minimizing complaints by residents of tourist traffic. The North Gate area could be designed as a transition area that would serve both residents in the historic village and tourists visiting the national monument.</p> <p>Please use the link below to go to the website of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park where you will find photos, links to</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	30
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Once land is lost to development you never get it back. The openness and views from Ft Monroe are a real resource in attracting people. Much of the population of east coast lives in densely populated areas. Do not under estimate the power of the open "feel" of the National Park.   By Jill D
<b>Comment 2</b>	Very good... well thought!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I fully agree with this comment!   By Ron W
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>I don't know about improving on the concepts laid out above, but I would just like to emphasize that Fort Monroe is a "one of a kind" and anything which would lead to a reduction in what makes it so unique should be firmly opposed by all. Overdevelopment is a major threat and anything along the development line which would threaten to just turn this major site into just another urban development should be the very last thing contemplated ... no matter how much profit might be lurking out there for someone.</p> <p>Once a site like the Fort and precinct is lost, it is lost forever. Let's hope that this won't be another one of those lost opportunities that people in the future look back on and wonder, "Why in the world did they do/allow/build/destroy/ruin that historic site?????"   By Steve F</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	Spot on!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Put all of the Fort in the National Monument
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Please unify Fort Monroe National Monument to include the missing hundred bayfront acres known as the Wherry Quarter. For God's sake, don't let that land be sold and developed by greedy realtors, politicians and real estate lawyers.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Hugh B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	30
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I would add: ... to the detriment of what could be a most spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Site, and as a loss for all but a privileged few.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	I would add: ... to the detriment of what could be a most spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Site, and as a loss for all but a privileged few.   By Luis O

<b>Idea Title</b>	Protect and Enhance Moat Walk
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The existing moat walk is incomplete but offers a wonderful place to view the fortress exterior walls and moat up close and without great effort. I urge the Master Plan provide this paved walk be widened a tad (making it usable for bicyclists and walkers) and completed around the fortress, including on North Gate side (which will require moving road back a bit to make room for a commodious walkway) and on Wherry Quarter side.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	28
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Speaking of the moat and the beautiful old fortress it encircles, these too should be incorporated within NP holdings. Currently only four buildings and the parade field within the Moat are NP properties.....everything else, i.e., all the other old homes, the stone fortress itself, the pet cemetery, etc, etc, only are protected by a NP easement....and easements, even protective ones, can be changed, altered, and/or removed. Once it was even suggested Bldg 5 within the fortress become low-income housing, and its future use has yet to be determined. For this reason, if the entire historic fortress and its moat are not permanently protected by the NPS, how many lawsuits will result when children living within the fortress climb and then fall off the ramparts into the surrounding moat? How long will it take before the beautiful stone walls of the fortress are covered with graffiti? These things will happen unless the fortress & moat are permanently protected as NPS properties   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 2</b>	My suggestion relates to Moat Walk around outside of moat. But I trust FMA and NPS intend to continue to allow walking around fortress on its ramparts, as we can do today. One thing they can do to enhance that experience is to remove rusting air conditioner compressors up there over time and replace them, to extent they need to be, with something much less visible from ramparts. And yes, protect the unique Army pet cemetery.   By mark P
<b>Comment 3</b>	This sounds like a great idea! I just have a question: what about the top of the moat? Could a walk be placed up there, too? The views of the bay and of the whole fortress (not to mention the Hampton Roads area) are wonderful from up there. I hope the pet cemetery will be preserved, too. Nobody has mentioned that unique feature of Ft. Monroe.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 4</b>	What a great idea. Not only would this be a nice addition, but it underlines the importance of treating Fort Monroe as public property, a Grand Public Place for all (built, we can hope, on a substantial, true national park formed by unifying the two parts of the present fake national monument/park).   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Unify the Entire Fort in a National Monument
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Please unify Fort Monroe National Monument to include the missing hundred bayfront acres known as the Wherry Quarter. For God's sake, don't let that land be sold and developed by greedy realtors, politicians and real estate lawyers.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Hugh B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	27
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes--the best way to have a great national park is to include the missing part between the moated fort and the northern beaches as open space, shoreline access, not housing or other development..   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Sounds good except that I would prefer it to be unified as a National Park.   By Kelly P
<b>Comment 3</b>	With you 100 percent!!!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I really like the word "missing" in "missing hundred bayfront acres." The Wherry Quarter is "missing" from the National Monument; it belongs there and thus far it hasn't been properly placed. For more on the best use of Wherry, see the website of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park: fortmonroecitizens.org. And if anyone has questions about CFMNP, please feel free to write me at the e-mail address provided with my profile.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 5</b>	I completely agree with Hugh B!  WAVN   By William V
<b>Idea Title</b>	All of Fort Monroe should be a National Park
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I think the entire fort should be a National Park. You don't need any developers in the fort. Leave the Batteries in place and create open green spaces. Let the public be able to enjoy the fantastic view of the Chesapeake Bay,
<b>Idea Author</b>	Beverly W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	25
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	It seems the overwhelming public opinion is in agreement with you!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Unify the Whole Thing in a National Monument
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Please unify Fort Monroe National Monument to include the missing hundred bayfront acres known as the Wherry Quarter. For God's sake, don't let that land be sold and developed by greedy realtors, politicians and real estate lawyers.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Hugh B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	25
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	More History at Ft Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe is the Beginning and end point for slavery in the new world. There are the makings of a "Slavery Museum" that are languishing in bankruptcy court near Richmond. Why not make a preemptive approach on the court to move the museum to Ft Monroe. Adding this historical museum defining what slavery was and was not to the Casemate museums history of the fort would be a great tourist draw to Fort Monroe. Possibly the Smithsonian could be brought in as advisors. We need dollars to support Ft Monroe - so bring activities that draw tourists and historians to the Grand Old Fort.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Alfred J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	24
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	11
<b>Comment 1</b>	Just to clarify -- I envision a privately operated lodge or inn ("parador"), not subsidized by any government. And I am not aware of any museum that would have been operational at Fort Monroe by now but for any group's opposition. It is still early -- the Army has not turned over any great amount of land to FMA and none to NPS, yet.   By mark P

<b>Comment 2</b>	Just to clarify -- I envision a privately operated lodge or inn ("parador"), not subsidized by any government. And I am not aware of any museum that would have been operational at Fort Monroe by now but for any group's opposition. It is still early -- the Army has not turned over any great amount of land to FMA and none to NPS, yet.   By mark P
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>Mark, since your group opposed the Museum Concept in Building 5, one of the participating museums has raised multi-millions of private dollars from contributors and recently opened up a beautiful satellite museum at another site. And, it did not require government tax dollars as you suggest with a "parador-style" facility. This museum could have already been at Fort Monroe if your group hadn't opposed it.</p> <p>To date, no slavery museum or Contraband museum attempts have been successful. Why, I don't know. But, for some reason those loud voices demanding one will not put their money where their mouth is. Apparently, they would rather have the taxpayers support it. So instead they, and you oppose any other group who is willing, at least to put up some of the necessary funding, even if it would mean the opportunity to have the slavery story told in conjunction with all of the other great stories from the vast history of Fort Monroe and Hampton Roads.</p> <p>You would rather have Building 5 turned into subsidized low-rent housing than share in a successful, well-rounded museum concept.   By Christine Jacques G</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	Where, pray tell, is this other site with the beautiful satellite museum? And what "group" had the authority to oppose it for Fort Monroe?   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	AS you say, : A successful Fort Monroe needs economic generators, not economic liabilities. I think the campus of museums idea was not progressed when it became clear the various museums either did not have, or were not prepared to raise, the funds needed to make it a reality. Since that time, Building 5 has been suggested for use as either a parador-style historic lodging or residential apartments, both of which could generate needed revenue for Fort Monroe Authority.   By mark P
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>Recent attempts to develop a slavery-oriented museum have shown that a slavery museum by itself is not economically viable. A recent example is the bankruptcy of Governor Douglas Wilder's planned slavery museum in Fredericksburg and the inability to garner funds for a similar endeavor in Richmond. A successful Fort Monroe needs economic generators, not economic liabilities.</p> <p>It is apparent that a museum depicting the trials and tribulations of slavery or the Contraband story must be part of a larger, more encompassing museum concept where the story can be told along with other interesting historical periods that would attract a much wider audience.</p> <p>A Fort Monroe Museum Campus, which was presented to the Historic Preservation Advisory Group and the FM FADA Board by a group of interested museums in 2009, is exactly what Fort Monroe needs to draw the many different interest groups, whom are known to spend money. Among the museums that were included in this Interpretive Plan are the Hampton History Museum, The Casemate Museum, the Virginia Museum of Natural History, the Museum of the Confederacy Satellite Museum, and the Virginia War Museum. A Slavery/Contraband Museum concept was included in this plan.</p> <p>This plan suggested using Building 5 as a Museum Complex, with a visitors reception area and classrooms on the first floor. The additional floors and rooms would be assigned to each of the museums to display their artifacts and tell their story.</p> <p>To grasp the vast interests of tourists and bring all of them to Fort Monroe, this all- encompassing concept is essential to economic viability. The Virginia Museum of Natural History would bring the naturalists/campers into the Historic Fort Area. The</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	The Contrabands event, and the disembarkation of the first captive Africans brought to English North America in 1619, are key stories that must be effectively told at Fort Monroe, primarily by the nation's historical interpreter, the National Park Service. The Commonwealth, for its part, best contributes by creating on its land the most beautiful and distinctive environment it possibly can. More than anything that means leaving Wherry Quarter and South waterfront green and protecting viewsheds between Bay and North Beach, on the one hand, and the moated fortress, on the other. I am not so sure the Slavery Museum is a great fit for Fort Monroe, and have concerns about the management of current operation.   By mark P
<b>Comment 8</b>	Fort Monroe is termed 'Freedom's Fortress' because of the Contraband Decision which paved the way for Emancipation. Therefore, the Freedom theme should ring true throughout the National Monument with a Contraband Museum of Living History; as outlined by Ms. Gerri Hollins, and the contraband Historical Society blue prints as submitted under the Consulting Party to the Brac re-use plans. The Contrabands were champions for Freedom and should be remembered for their courageous acts of supporting the Union while slaves as Laborers, spies, workers, and later on US colored Troops. Their Legacy of resurrecting Hampton from the ashes and building a thriving community for themselves amid great odds. One of the greatest American history not told to date.   By Philip A
<b>Comment 9</b>	What is well known about Fort Monroe is awesome. But what is less well known about Fort Monroe and Old Point Comfort is even more spectacular. The Freedom Story, from 1619 through 1861, deserves to be in the forefront. Perhaps the Provost Marshal's Building, near the entrance, might be a good location. That has been suggested by the Contraband Historical society and is close to the site where the first "contrabands" crossed the line to achieve their own freedom.   By Louis G
<b>Comment 10</b>	I agree. You have to bring more into Fort Monroe to make it attractive. I doubt a family in Tennessee will travel to Hampton to see a Fortress and spend thousands of money. You have to fill that empty space with attractive things like a museum and other attractions. Maybe a Ripley's Museum. But when that family gets to the museum, how about giving them a choose of restaurants to go to, Or perhaps a choice of waterfront hotels. Throw in a place to do parasailing or scuba diving. Make it so that a family can spend an entire week at Fort Monroe and has so much to choose from, they can't possibly do everything in a week.   By Stephanie W
<b>Comment 11</b>	Parasailing along with scuba diving and sailing on Mill Creek and numerous other low-impact family activities like baseball parks, tennis courts, soccer fields should be included. The hotels, restaurants and retail should be part of the City of Hampton's development projection on the other side of Mill Creek in Phoebus and Buckroe Beach. This will be a vital "gateway" to the National Park. The entire eastern end of Mercury Blvd. will need to be cleaned up all the way from the old Riverdale Shopping Center to the Fortress. There is ample space for hotels and quality restaurants along this corridor   By Marcia M
<b>Idea Title</b>	Most Important View

<b>Idea Detail</b>	The most important view at Fort Monroe is from the Fortress toward the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately development during the twentieth century blocked most of that view. With the demolition of the Wherry Housing, much of that view will be opened up and should remain open so that visitors in the future will be able to do what soldiers in the past did as part of their service here, direct their eyes toward the Chesapeake Bay to search for ships in these waters. Today US Naval vessels and cargo ships pass by the Fortress. They should be clearly visible to visitors who stand where those soldiers once stood.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	22
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	This is one of the most charming and attractive features that visitors enjoy on Fort Monroe -- the broad vista from the harbour to the bay. Watching vessels traverse the channels is most impressive. An un-obstructed bayfront in the Wherry Quarter will only enhance this experience. What a great locale for a family outing!    By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	This is one of the most charming and attractive features that visitors enjoy on Fort Monroe -- the broad vista from the harbour to the bay. Watching vessels traverse the channels is most impressive. An un-obstructed bayfront in the Wherry Quarter will only enhance this experience. What a great locale for a family outing!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Ecotourism in Wherry
<b>Idea Detail</b>	In an April 22 Daily Press editorial, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domenech says, "Tourism is a major driver in Virginia's economy, and ecotourism is one of the fastest growing sectors of that industry. It connects people to the environment and instills an appreciation of our natural resources. Providing public access and investing in the conservation of special coastal places go hand in hand." By turning Wherry--a special coastal place if there ever was one--into open, green space, creating a substantial NPS connector with Bay-facing shoreline and viewsheds to and from the north side of the fortress (and creating legislation for the eventual transfer of all or most of Wherry to the Monument), the Fort Monroe Authority would enhance the recreational tourism appeal of the state-managed portions of Fort Monroe as well as their historical ambience, and provide a seamless transition to National Monument parkland. Secretary Domenech also refers to a state program of ecotourism grants to which the FMA should apply for funds to turn Wherry into public green space: "The Virginia CZM Program has distributed more than 54 ecotourism grants in the last 25 years worth more than \$1 million — funding construction of public access amenities such as nature trails, canoe and kayak floating docks, wildlife observation decks, an Ecotour Guide Certification Program, the 20 year
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	21
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Good, solid information like this will only give support for the best plans.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Thanks for the information about ecotourism in Virginia--great idea to tie Ft. Monroe National Monument/Park and its green space/water views (enhanced by the inclusion of an open Wherry Quarter, of course) to this tourism effort and funding by the state.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Yes, it is good to see that there is bi-partisan understanding and support for ecotourism. Glad to see the quote from Sec. Domenech. People generally are looking for ways to enjoy the nature and the outdoors, participate in healthy activities, for themselves and their families. Ecotourism for Wherry is a great vision for Fort Monroe.   By Tyla M
<b>Comment 4</b>	1 million dollars over 25 years equates to \$40,000 a year - that wouldn't pay to cut the grass for the summer in Wherry Quarter   By Kady C
<b>Comment 5</b>	I had in mind grants that might go toward putting in hiking trails and picnic facilities, restoring batteries, and perhaps even razing some non-historic structures--activities that might attract matching funds from other sources. The money to cut the grass could come from the tourism revenue that a green Wherry would help to stimulate. There's also the issue of flooding.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 6</b>	I'd cut the grass for much less, and I'd do it well! What's your suggestion?   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Last stand
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe has the potential to become a famous regional and national waterfront destination if the Wherry Quarter is demolished and it is joined, as open space, with the designated National Monument. This would create a wonderful waterfront for many recreational activities. There is no other such opportunity in the Hampton Roads area. To lose this opportunity in favor of water front development and quick money for developers, would be a sin. There is great potential for proper utilization of existing facilities and appropriate new development to make Fort Monroe another of the destinations instantly recognized by all. Combine a properly planned Fort Monroe with appropriate development in Phoebus and other surrounding areas, the public can't lose!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	19
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	I am not saying that at all Kady C. The Monument will grow in time as the area becomes advertised and is fully managed. It will be a much more attractive Monument if the WQ is made open space and added to the existing National Monument. Where else in the Hampton Roads area do we have a opportunity to create a space with such open recreation area and beach access. To lose it, would be a tragedy. I fully second Steve C6 April 28th comment.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	So you are saying if Wherry Quarter is not demolished and joined as open space Fort Monroe will never become famous? I completely disagree!   By Kady C
<b>Comment 3</b>	I don't think Ron's saying that at all, Kady C. I know I'm not. Yes, sure, Ft Monroe's fame will still grow to some extent even if we allow narrow parochialism and moneyed special interests to steal the hundred bayfront acres that define the overall Chesapeake Bay sense of place. With your anonymous profile, it's impossible to tell if you have a conflict of interest with developers, but even if so, let me ask: If Virginia somehow came into possession of Monticello, would we donate it to Charlottesville for developing subdivisions on its hillsides? If we got Mount Vernon, would we want to see development on the prime, protected viewshed land just across the Potomac? Ft Monroe is the site of the greatest moment in American history. (See the ending at <a href="http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/">http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/</a> ) To rip out the heart of Ft Monroe's sense-of-place-defining bayfront, for private development of precious public land, would be to grossly suboptimize this national treasure.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 4</b>	Amen! And if you like this idea, please see "Lets make a REAL national monument/park!" in this same idea list. Thanks.   By Steve C

<b>Idea Title</b>	continuous walkway
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The walkway along the seawall should be continued the same width along the marina cross behind the entrance visitors center and continue along mill creek then cross to the beach area so walkers and riders can walk and ride along the water without dealing with much traffic. The walkway would only be crossed by traffic twice. A road into the natural part of the National Monument and at the main entrance/visitors center. This could then be connected to a second walkway of similar width around the moat.
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	19
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Prevention of mis-development, which is prevalent in Hampton
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Aside from previously existing entities (The Chamberlin, Saint Mary Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church, Old Point Comfort Marina), ownership of ALL the land and waters of Fort Monroe should remain in the hands of the federal government.</p> <p>While entirely within the legal bounds of Hampton, the city should have no legal hold on any portion of Fort Monroe, as its potential far exceeds the responsibility and capabilities of the city. Nor should any further private ownership be allowed – only leased stewardship.</p> <p>All the beaches should be freely accessible to tourists and the local public. Residential enterprises should be restricted to the re-use of existing housing. Gated communities and waterfront condos are absolutely unacceptable.</p> <p>The inclusion of commercial enterprises should be strictly regulated; should cause no congestion; and should never infringe on the historic, ecological nor aesthetic resources of the land and waters of Fort Monroe.</p> <p>A scattered and thoughtfully-placed selection of non-corporate, quality shops and eateries could enhance the Fort Monroe experience for residents, extended-stay visitors, tourists and locals.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	18
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Everything you've written is good, and should be followed by the Parks Service and the FMA.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Agree fully the beaches and open space must be available for all to enjoy. The inclusion of quality retail establishments and restaurants will make it a place for many to want to enjoy. However, having businesses operating on the fort adds value in that there are people working thus creating revenue to sustain the history for all to enjoy. Proportionally speaking, there are just as many companies concerned about protecting historical property as there are individuals. We cannot afford to allow this valuable asset to fall apart due to lack of financial support.   By mike C
<b>Comment 3</b>	I do not exclude the possibility of corporate vitality on Fort Monroe, but I must advocate leased stewardship, rather than property ownership. When a company decides to leave, what becomes of the land and structures they occupied, if they owned them? A serious concern for the National Park Service and the Fort Monroe Authority would ensue. Federal and state ownership of the land and buildings (however they may be re-fitted for tenants) would eliminate many potential problems.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I do not exclude the possibility of corporate vitality on Fort Monroe, but I must advocate leased stewardship, rather than property ownership. When a company decides to leave, what becomes of the land and structures they occupied, if they owned them? A serious concern for the National Park Service and the Fort Monroe Authority would ensue. Federal and state ownership of the land and buildings (however they may be re-fitted for various tenants) would eliminate many potential problems. This, particularly, factors in the re-use of the many existing structures which are registered as national landmarks.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	I do not exclude the possibility of corporate vitality on Fort Monroe, but I must advocate leased stewardship, rather than property ownership. When a company decides to leave, what becomes of the land and structures they occupied, if they owned them? A serious concern for the National Park Service and the Fort Monroe Authority would ensue. Federal and state ownership of the land and buildings (however they may be re-fitted for various tenants) would eliminate many potential problems. This, particularly, factors in the re-use of the many existing structures which are registered as national landmarks.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Historic Lodging
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I hope a key element of master plan is the use of one of our most distinctive historic buildings as a lodge or inn, similar to recently opened Inn at Presidio (operated by Waterford). Good sites for such an inn appear to be Building 5, Building 100 or Building 80 (Armistead Hall), depending on size of facility the operator thinks optimal. Maybe we could justify more than one, more possible if we create a larger, unified national monument and a ecological/historical treasure on the Bay.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	17
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Good idea--the Presidio model of reusing former military buildings for tourism is appropriate and interesting.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	A visualization of the optimal Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Well, not quite, since the picture doesn't convey how the Bay would look from the north battlements of the fortress (and vice versa), or the many uses of an open, green Wherry (Op Sail, Science, and Art festivals, for example), or the architecture of new, historically compatible structures in North Gate, including perhaps a single-story resort hotel on the southern, Mill-Creek side of the Wherry area. Nor is it able to make a case visually for most or all of Wherry being transferred to the National Monument--which is part of my optimal vision of Fort Monroe. Nor does it show hiking trails with interpretive signs, picnic areas, a kayak rental shop, museums, costumed guides, and other such enriching possibilities. But it does perhaps give some sense of the value of a green Wherry in juxtaposition to the fortress and the North Beach area of the National Monument, and of the appeal of public beaches to regional visitors and tourists. (Notice, by the way, that I've removed the old Walker Air Field in the Monument area and made that green too.)
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	16
<b>Number of Points</b>	0

<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Except for removal of Walker Airfield, I agree with your ideas. Re-use of existing assets is a good thing, and Walker Airfield could well serve a Fort Monroe National Historic Park.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Except for removal of Walker Airfield, I agree with your ideas. Re-use of existing assets is a good thing, and Walker Airfield could well serve a Fort Monroe National Historic Park.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Absolutely great stuff!   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Ft. Monroe: The East Coast Presidio of San Francisco
<b>Idea Detail</b>	We don't have to reinvent the wheel to design a National Park at Ft. Monroe, we already have a wonderful example at the Presidio of San Francisco National Park that blends living facilities, historical structures, beautiful vistas, and working institutions into one area that is attractive, generates revenue, employes locals, provides housing and is a great tourist attraction. The one aspect I absolutely don't want is for developers to take over this currently so called "Open Area" or Wherry area and comercialize it; that idea has no business in a national park at Ft. Monroe and in fact will ruin all the other good aspects currently being discussed. I don't mind the historic houses being sold, rented out or leased as long as restrictions are included that the buildings and grounds must be maintained at a certain attractive standard. Similarly, the renovation of the old Officer's Club Beach Club into a community club and beach with swimming pool and perhaps a golf club is an excellent use of that area of Ft. Monroe. Someone may even want to use the old casemates for small business establishments that are compatable with the rest of the area inside the moat.
<b>Idea Author</b>	George L
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	15
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	You pose a lot of good points! Although, I fear the thought of selling any portion of Fort Monroe. We can achieve the desirable, high quality and profitable occupancy level through leasing.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	You pose a lot of good points! Although, I fear the thought of selling any portion of Fort Monroe. We can achieve a the desirable high quality and profitable occupancy level through leasing.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	historic village and park welcoming to visitors
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I envision a vibrant community of residences, businesses, and university extensions in the historic buildings--and in compatible new structures in the industrial Northgate area--that is welcoming to visitors, contains attractive shops and bookstores that promote Fort Monroe's unique, multi-layered history, and serves as a kind of threshold to the old fortress and the open space in Continental Park and a cleared, green Wherry, where visitors can picnic, hike along the shorelines, have interesting views of the north side of the fortress, and never quite realize when they've crossed over from state property into areas of the National Monument.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	14
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	I think it is a mistake to emphasise residences at FT Montore. Existing, adequate residences do not need to be removed but I think it is a mistake to add new private residences. Private people living there will eventually and always have conflicts with visitor use. There is also a large fiscal liability for private residents out there. This area is getting worse for flooding   By Dennis L
<b>Comment 2</b>	Dennis, ideally I think you're right. If the state-owned part of Fort Monroe is to be successful, the historic buildings must be occupied to keep them from deteriorating, either through leasing or private ownership, and that goal should take priority over any new residential development. And you're certainly right about the flooding. However, from a practical perspective, I'm willing to concede new, attractive, and compatible structures in Northgate IF building them will negate any self-sustaining rationalization for developing Wherry. Whether Northgate remains the industrial-looking area it is now, people are going to live and work at Fort Monroe, and there will be the possibiity of tension between the private and the public. That's an unavoidable aspect of Fort Monroe's future. Even if Fort Monroe had become--as many of us wanted it to become--a self-sustaining hybrid federal trust/national park, there would still have been the challenge of harmoniously merging the public and th   By Scott B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Dennis, ideally I think you're right. If the state-owned part of Fort Monroe is to be successful, the historic buildings must be occupied to keep them from deteriorating, either through leasing or private ownership, and that goal should take priority over any new residential development. And you're certainly right about the flooding. However, from a practical standpoint, I'm willing to concede new, attractive, and compatible structures in Northgate IF building them will negate any self-sustaining rationalization for developing Wherry. Whether Northgate remains the industrial-looking area it is now, people are going to live and work at Fort Monroe, creating the possibility of tension between the private and the public. That's an unavoidable aspect of Fort Monroe's future. Even if Fort Monroe had become--as many of us wanted it to become--a self-sustaining hybrid federal trust/national park, there would still have been the challenge of harmoniously integrating visitors and residents.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Your observations are spot on, Dennis!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	I agree with you!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 6</b>	Fort Monroe could become a large version of Harper's Ferry in a way ... with a lot more variety in the activities as a result ...   By Steve F
<b>Idea Title</b>	Walkable/Bikable Neighborhoods
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would love to see a lot of activity in the neighborhoods at Fort Monroe. People biking, walking ... a friendly environment to live, work and have fun. A campus like environment, where people can connect with each other, meet on different spaces and look out from their porches and feel they are part of a the community ...
<b>Idea Author</b>	Hernan S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	circle tram tour starting and ending in Phoebus.   By Ed E
<b>Comment 2</b>	This sounds like a good idea--it would cut down on car traffic and pollution in Ft. monroe and add some business to Phoebus. I wonder if we could have something like Tangier island where ther are really no cars!   By Susan B

<b>Comment 3</b>	Such a setup as this would surely draw a variety of visitors to the area ... by more means of transport than just the car ... along the same train of thought, perhaps a light rail/trolley access from the mainland to the Fort area would also allow more access and less congestion.   By Steve F
<b>Comment 4</b>	Imagine being able to walk or ride your bicycle along the seawall, with a view on one side of ships passing by through the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, while on the other side there is a clear view across an expanse of green of freedom's fortress. By restoring and maintaining open space we can make Fort Monroe truly magnificent.   By Adrian W
<b>Comment 5</b>	These ideas are very apropos in built up areas of Historic Village and North Gate. The Wherry Quarter and connecting National Monument offer opportunity for a unique, open landscape of open water and live oaks and dunes in immediate proximity to built up campus-like neighborhood, that adds unique and exciting landscape and natural beauty to dense village areas. Where else on East Coast is such a duality possible?   By mark P
<b>Idea Title</b>	Museum Concept at Fort Monroe Brings Economic Stability
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Recent attempts to develop a slavery-oriented museum have shown that a slavery museum by itself is not economically viable. A recent example is the bankruptcy of Governor Douglas Wilder's planned slavery museum in Fredericksburg and the inability to garner funds for a similar endeavor in Richmond. A successful Fort Monroe needs economic generators, not economic liabilities.</p> <p>It is apparent that a museum depicting the trials and tribulations of slavery or the Contraband story must be part of a larger, more encompassing museum concept where the story can be told along with other interesting historical periods that would attract a much wider audience.</p> <p>A Fort Monroe Museum Campus, which was presented to the Historic Preservation Advisory Group and the FM FADA Board by a group of interested museums in 2009, is exactly what Fort Monroe needs to draw the many different interest groups, whom are known to spend money. Among the museums that were included in this Interpretive Plan are the Hampton History Museum, The Casemate Museum, the Virginia Museum of Natural History, the Museum of the Confederacy Satellite Museum, and the Virginia War Museum. A Slavery/Contraband Museum concept was included in this plan.</p> <p>This plan suggested using Building 5 as a Museum Complex, with a visitors reception area and classrooms on the first floor. The additional floors and rooms would be assigned to each of the museums to display their artifacts and tell their story.</p> <p>To grasp the vast interests of tourists and bring all of them to Fort Monroe, this all- encompassing concept is essential to</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Christine Jacques G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Interesting observation, and something I have also been advocating; to tell the full story of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe. I would include concentration in the following areas:</p> <p>The ideological and physical scope of the Casemate Museum should be expanded:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) to properly acknowledge the presence of the indigenous inhabitants of Cape Comfort - most prominently, the Kicotan Tribe; and to study and garner appreciation for the natural environment of the site</li> <li>2.) to properly acknowledge the 402+ years of manned defense on Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe; and properly acknowledge the maritime history of the Virginia Colony</li> <li>3.) to properly acknowledge the beginning of slavery, with the arrival of West Africans in continental North America; and the beginning of the end of slavery in USA, during the War between the States</li> <li>4.) to properly celebrate the foundation of international commerce involving North America, originating from Hampton Roads Harbour, as early as 1616   By Luis O</li> </ol>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Full realization, for all time, of the value of Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>ALL the land and waters of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe should be protected, in perpetuity, as a national historic park.</p> <p>For over five decades, much of Fort Monroe has (already) been federally recognized as National Historic Landmark.</p> <p>Fort Monroe should never be considered in physically separated entities – the Wherry Quarter and the Chesapeake Bay beach front are intrinsically essential to be included in a FORT MONROE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK; for full appreciation of its true value, and to ensure proper maintenance and proper development for continuous income generation.</p> <p>We should extol Cape Comfort/Fort Algernon/Fort Monroe as the HOME of our nation. Everything else that was established, prior to 1610, by the early settlers, either failed or exists only in re-constructed facsimile.</p> <p>Fort Monroe served from 1608, as a manned out-post, until 2011 as TRADOC Headquarters. We need to celebrate the 402+ years of continuous manned defense. Some type of military presence should be maintained to preserve this legacy, which is unique in the Western Hemisphere.</p> <p>Having the requisite (and glorious) history, existing infrastructure and environmental appeal, Fort Monroe has the potential to become one of the most spectacular of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	I agree with everything you wrote!! I never really realized that the Fort Monroe site had 4 centuries of US history. What an exciting fact! Everyone who loves Fort Monroe should keep all these thoughts in mind always!!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Family Friendly Destination for Recreation

<b>Idea Detail</b>	I mentioned in an earlier post about reusing the Bowling Alley & the YMCA if they are still operational. I also saw another post interested in sailing etc. With effective Marketing this is all possible for Fort Monroe. A beautiful beachfront to attract beach goers, perhaps refurbish the former officer's club, have dances/bands/events there as well. The housing could be refurbished to either bed & breakfast type facilities or other options. It is such a shame to waste the unique character this historical site has to offer. We could reuse some of the existing buildings. One suggestion was coffee shops. I am not opposed to having some small cafes or shops that could even sell Virginia grown products. Hold a farmers market a few times a month with produce grown locally. Capitalize on our waterman's ability to bring in terrific seafood. A good Marketing plan could be the key to not only bringing in out of town visitors but also keeping the interest of the local residents. Keep the green spaces and beach in tact and people will want to be there.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Julie E
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	OH... I like the Farmer's Market idea! We had one for a few years in downtown Hampton, but like all good things in Hampton, it didn't survive.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	All wonderful and feasible suggestions!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Save the trees!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Although Ft. Monroe's historic buildings, moat, Casemate, batteries, viewsheds, and open spaces are really important and need to be preserved and protected, we shouldn't forget to mention the historic trees such as the Algernon Oak that have been around for most of the history of Old Point Comfort. These need special care, attention, and preservation as part of the natural wonder of the place--I hope they'll be part of the National Park's protective care and special interpretation.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	The City of Hampton has proved over and over again that the majority of its elected officials are not able to make good and sound decisions. What Sandra said below is true. City leadership does not seem to understand that they are public servants who are to carry out the will of the people who elected them. There are many examples in which the Mayor and some Councilmembers have clearly shown they are not trustworthy. Read through these ideas and please vote, tell your family and friends. Let's not wake up of a morning and find Ft Monroe denuded.   By Jill D
<b>Comment 2</b>	Keep Hampton out of the planning process for Fort Monroe's reuse and then there is hope the trees will be saved. But let Hampton start dealing with developers and any trees in their way will be gone in the blink of an eye. Review the January 10, 2007, video of Hampton's City Council Meeting. Listen as the City's Planning Director assures concerned citizens the glorious old magnolia trees, which stood for generations along the Buckroe bayfront. will be protected and saved. Know that only a few weeks after his "speech" and when no one was looking, the trees were removed in preparation for the Parade of Homes. Believe nothing Hampton says they are going to do, and only then will you be prepared for what they end up doing.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 3</b>	You are absolutely correct! What hard lessons we've had to learn from our council and their developer benefactors.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Flooding and Financial Facts
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Considering the problems due to flooding and the fact that tourists spend money throughout the area without requiring such expensive services as schools for their children, residential development is not the way to maximize the use of this national treasure even on a strictly financial level. More than that, Fort Monroe is not just another piece of real estate. It's a very special place and should be treated as such.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes! No new residential development and more open space park land along the shore; you make a good point about where tourists spend money and what services they need vs. what residents would need and how those requirements would need government tax money, too.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Amen, Adrian, about flooding. Recently I e-mailed to Cathy Lewis and "HearSay" this question for Skip Stiles, who heads Wetlands Watch and was interviewed on that PBS broadcast about Norfolk's sea-level rise (that's happening, whatever the cause): "A recent Virginian-Pilot editorial declared that the 'roughly 100 acres of state-owned waterfront land dividing the two sections of the new Fort Monroe National Monument should be permanently set aside as open space and added to the park as soon as possible.' Please comment." Mr. Stiles answered, and then e-mailed me to be even clearer. He wrote, "The answer is don't put anything more permanent than picnic shelters -- or if you do, do it so that in 20 years you can take it off when it becomes unusable. I think the withdrawal of private insurance will make that piece of land very difficult to develop." Virginia's leaders, with their overdevelopment mindset, have been ignoring this Fort Monroe reality for seven years now. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	Amen, Adrian Whitcomb!   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Adam Goodheart's advice: "Aim High!"
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Thursday night at the Post Theater, author/professor Adam Goodheart gave a wonderful lecture/discussion about his book 1861 and emphasized the really significant historical importance of Ft. Monroe and the story of the "Contrabands." He ended his talk with his advice to "Aim High" and not give up on what may be a long-term effort to make Ft. Monroe the best historical site for all Americans to visit; he encouraged all of us to keep in mind the necessity of thinking ahead and not settling for second best or expediency in the planning for the future of Ft. Monroe. I hope we can heed his wise and timely advice.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	28

<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>This forum's mid-June resumption brings with it forthright calls for national monument unification from Louis Guy (in the Daily Press) and Adrian Whitcomb, both from Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park. Adrian's forthright demand appears at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-do-you-think-the-peninsula-is-a-great-region/how-great-it-would-be-if-the-people-are-listened-to">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-do-you-think-the-peninsula-is-a-great-region/how-great-it-would-be-if-the-people-are-listened-to</a> . Adam Goodheart is the planet's leading explainer of Fort Monroe's importance. He had it figured out way back in 2004, when most of us had never even heard of Gerri Hollins's quest to see the story recognized. In 2011 he wrote about it three times in the New York Times and also in his book <i>_1861_</i>. I hope he stands with Louis and Adrian and many others in calling forthrightly for unification of the bifurcated national monument. Nothing else about Fort Monroe matters until that gets achieved - and no one else on this planet has Professor Goodheart's special power for that cause. Thanks.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>CFMNP agrees with the Pilot and our key leader and colleague Scott that the Wherry and South Waterfront should be preserved and added to the National Monument at the first opportunity, as the highest priority of planning for the lands Sasaki is considering. That is what is important and debate about how effectively or strongly CFMNP has conveyed this priority (I think it has been pretty clear and strong, most recently by three spokespersons at the May 31 FMA meeting and currently at Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Conference in Lancaster, PA) is a sideshow, as opposed to the importance of Fort Monroe reaching its potential as a grand public place with a unified National Monument.   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>CFMNP wields serious power. That's why Mark, CFMNP's president, is wrong to assert that the conveyed strength of their public position doesn't matter. He's also simply wrong if he's claiming his committee never diverged importantly from the Pilot's purposefully blunt realpolitik. But I'm glad if CFMNP now agrees with the Pilot that Ft Monroe's peril requires simple, forthright, unambiguous, widespread public insistence on unification right now, and that the peril is a Ft Monroe that's "degraded." Strong word, "degraded" -- but apt. I'm glad if CFMNP now stands beside it. And I'm glad if CFMNP now finally agrees that it's not enough to dally about a "corridor" between the two parts, or to plead for protecting the omitted land until some future day when our leaders might finally deign to seek unification -- or to hope that they won't first seek permission to sell land from the gaping hole in the bayfront, canceling forever the potential that Mark cites as if others have forgotten it.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>CFMNP agrees with the Pilot and our leader and colleague Scott that the Wherry and South Waterfront should be preserved and added to the National Monument at the first opportunity, as the highest priority of planning for the lands Sasaki is considering. That is what is important and debate about how effectively or strongly CFMNP has conveyed this priority (I think it has been pretty clear and strong, most recently by three spokespersons at the May 31 FMA meeting and currently at Chesapeake Bay Water Conference in Lancaster, PA) is a sideshow, as opposed to the importance of Fort Monroe reaching its potential as a grand public place with a unified National Monument.   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>This is America. Everyone publicly, visibly active in Ft Monroe politics is accountable, <i>_especially_</i> in a democratic forum. It might be the "Absolutely great stuff!" I wrote for Scott's "Visualization" idea. Or it might be criticism for <i>_continued_</i> failure to affirm (or even acknowledge) the Pilot's prescription's core, which is that delay and mushiness magnify peril and that peril must be met with simple, forthright, unambiguous, widespread public insistence on unification right away. Scott and CFMNP plainly reject the Pilot's blunt realpolitik. I have not just a right but a duty to say so, especially when platitudes start supplanting concreteness. Because CFMNP and Professor Goodheart are enormously influential politically and in the media, they have no legitimate claim to immunity from criticism, and this forum would have no legitimate claim to being democratic without the potential for criticism. I'm criticizing political actions and ideas about Ft Monroe. Scott's criticizing me.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>Installment #2: As for Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, this statement appears near the top of the home page: "Unifying the two sections of the national monument by including the Wherry Quarter and the south waterfront area in Fort Monroe National Monument is very important. We especially encourage you to 'second' the ideas that advocate this unity and emphasize the importance of the views at Fort Monroe." My personal belief is that if Wherry is put off limits for development, with a very sizeable piece including Bay shoreline going immediately to the Monument as the agreed upon "right of way" in the president's declaration, a process can begin for transferring the rest to the NPS. And in the meantime, the FMA can make constructive use of any remaining Wherry green space for tourism-attractive, open-space activities like natural history fairs and arts festivals--ideas I've also suggested--as it proceeds to raze the non-historic buildings. It seems to me that participants in this forum should be able to disagree about strategies to achieve the same or very similar ends without resorting to criticism or misrepresentation. And more to the point, they should focus on their commonalities rather than their differences, for the sake of Fort Monroe.   By Scott</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>Your final statement is most important. While I greatly appreciate CFMNP, there are hundreds of others whom are working toward the same end. They are offering extremely valuable suggestions, many of which are being overlooked by CFMNP. In reading all the entries in this forum, I am garnering dozens of practical reasons to preserve and protect Wherry and the Bay beach front. The view is important, but there are plenty of other attributes that need to be integrated into the entire Fort Monroe experience. This forum is providing a multitude of plausible options that would work well in combination; enabling a self-sustaining Fort Monroe National Historic Park, without any new development, and without compromising its aesthetic, ecological, and historical integrity. Let's leave self-centeredness out of the process, and send the FMA, the Commonwealth, and the federal government the message that we have the solutions, in abundance... all they need to do is begin implementing them.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 8</b>	<p>Your final statement is most important. While I greatly appreciate CFMNP, there are hundreds of others whom are working toward the same end. They are offering extremely valuable suggestions, many of which are being overlooked by CFMNP. In reading all the entries in this forum, I am garnering dozens of practical reasons to preserve and protect Wherry and the Chesapeake Bay beach front. The view is important, but there are plenty of other attributes that need to be integrated into the entire Fort Monroe experience. This forum is providing a multitude of plausible options that would work well in combination; enabling a self-sustaining Fort Monroe National Historic Park, without any new development, and without compromising its aesthetic, ecological, and historical integrity. Let's leave self-centeredness out of the process, and send the FMA, the Commonwealth, and the federal government the message that we have the solutions, in abundance... all they need to do is begin implementing them.   By Luis O</p>

<b>Comment 9</b>	Thank you, Jean S3. I'm going to comment in two installments. Installment #1: To quote myself from the submission A Vision behind the Vision: "The FMA's duty is clear: it should fulfill the public's wishes by taking Wherry out of consideration for new development and requiring Sasaki, the prestigious consulting firm it has hired, to find other ways of creating revenue--like historically compatible new construction in the industrial North Gate area." I've also written in this forum in regard to my photo-shopped optimal "Visualization" of Fort Monroe: "Nor is [the picture] able to make a case visually for most or all of Wherry being transferred to the National Monument--which is part of my optimal vision of Fort Monroe."   By Scott B
<b>Comment 10</b>	Luis O, Steve C6 is criticizing frequent respondents to this forum, none of whom want the Wherry Quarter to be developed. For the position of Citizens for a Fort Monroe on the Wherry Quarter, please see its website: fortmonroecitizens.org. As for what historian Adam Goodheart did and didn't say, I agree with Mark P3. Nothing in Goodheart's remarks even remotely suggested approval of development.    By Scott B
<b>Comment 11</b>	I agree, Scott B6. We should not be narrowly supportive of great ideas--and there are lots of them on here. We should not be condemning the great ideas of others, but we should be welcoming those ideas and taking them into careful consideration.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 12</b>	Then why don't he and CFMNP -- Cathy Lewis's and the Daily Press's sole spokes-handful for all of us -- step up and affirm the Virginian-Pilot's popular, sensible, speak-truth-to-power prescription? The Pilot says, "The ... roughly 100 acres of state-owned waterfront land dividing two sections" of the national monument "should be permanently set aside as open space and added to the park as soon as possible. ... Protecting the waterfront from development -- any development -- is critical to securing the [monument's] integrity ... Its value as a historic site, a natural resource and tourist attraction will be degraded if the [omitted land] is not preserved. Various state and federal officials have said they've heard that message loud and clear. But let them know again. And keep letting them know until the waterfront is set aside and incorporated in the national monument." I ask sincerely: How can any friend of Fort Monroe not outright endorse that prescription? Steven T. Corneliusen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 13</b>	I agree with the commentators below that "Aim High" cannot and should not be taken as an admonition for developing the Wherry Quarter or the South Waterfront, the yet unprotected areas where Fort Monroe's character and integrity is most at risk. If the moderators are suggesting Aim High means promotion of development here, they are in error.   By mark P
<b>Comment 14</b>	In my view, the following comment doesn't comply with the community standards of this forum: "That same lack of forthrightness pervades the ideas and comments of many of the most avid participants in this forum"   By Scott B
<b>Comment 15</b>	A history of the Ft Monroe struggle would need a chapter on overdevelopers' standard dodge, a tactic unfortunately sometimes adopted also by some who sincerely want a Grand Public Place based on a substantial national park, but who believe lack of forthrightness on unification can somehow achieve it. That tactic: silence rather than rebut disagreement, often by calling it disagreeability. (Please ask me about an instance of official silencing of nationally prominent historians.) As to the present instance of the tactic: Participation stats show that this forum's most avid belong to the self-appointed, public-excluding Citizens for a Ft Monroe National Park, about a dozen people, about half of whom do the work. (I co-founded CFMNP; if you lack a life, see <a href="http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/site_evolution.htm">http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/site_evolution.htm</a> .) It is simply a fact that none of them exhibit the Pilot's prescribed forthrightness on unification. That low aiming would astonish Dr. Malone, but it's not too late for change.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 16</b>	I would imagine what Steve C6 meant is that "lack of forthrightness" from those who should speak otherwise, probably causes trepidation in those of us with openly good intentions. I know this uneasiness pervades my thoughts on Fort Monroe. Read the statement, below, by Jean S3... she says it best.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 17</b>	Because the moderators chose this idea for their June 4 e-mailing to participants, implying that it will get extra attention this week, I'd like to add something more to all that I've said below. There I questioned Professor Goodheart's unwillingness to declare in public what he knows in private: that the present disconnected, split national park is unfit for Fort Monroe's coming decades and centuries. That same lack of forthrightness pervades the ideas and comments of many of the most avid participants in this forum, all of whom also know full well that we need a _real_ national monument/park -- just as the late, never-daunted Dr. H. O. Malone would forthrightly affirm if he were here. This is all just a delay on following the Virginian-Pilot's worthy prescription: persistent, clear insistence by all on park unification. So if we're going to talk in airy platitudes instead of concrete realities, it must be said that this "aim high" business actually amounts to aiming low.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 18</b>	I only "seconded" this idea because I believe Mr. Goodheart meant "to properly reflect Fort Monroe's importance to American history, the entire 565 acres comprising Fort Monroe must be as beautiful and integrated as possible, with the preservation of the Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront, so they are suitable for ultimate addition to the National Monument, the current most critical issue to gaining a powerful and dignified landscape to the momentous events which occurred here.(MarkP3)" I never would have "seconded" Mr. Goodheart's idea if I thought "Aim High" meant more development, be it private, residential or commercial. To the contrary, I do believe he was requesting respect for American history and pointing out such development would be settling for second best, the easiest and the most expedient way, and not the right way, in planning for the future of Ft. Monroe.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 19</b>	I'm sure that Professor Goodheart indeed _was_ "requesting respect for American history and pointing out [that misguided] development would be settling for second best." No debate on that. But surely he knows why Ken Burns's "National Parks" series dwelled on the immensely powerful forces that seek to thwart national park advocates. In any case, the Pilot's editors certainly know. That's why they spurn talk of "ultimate addition" of the missing land and instead urge all to insist on park unification right now. Historians should be leading the way, not issuing platitudes.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 20</b>	Nicely worded, and clarifying. Thank you.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 21</b>	Wait -- the planet's leading explainer of Ft Monroe's unique importance takes no position on unification because he's not a preservationist or planner? Huh? If Adam Goodheart can't call for fixing what the Virginian-Pilot calls "degraded," who can? And who are this supposed "we" who seek merely "eventual" inclusion of the omitted, sense-of-place-defining bayfront acres shown in red at FortMonroeNationalPark.org? The Pilot recognizes the peril to which Virginia's leaders continue consigning this national treasure. The editors called for all to insist on inclusion as "as soon as possible," and urged that we "keep letting [leaders] know." When big-box stores and casinos threatened precious battlefields, no one -- no historian -- sat fecklessly counseling, "Aim high." Instead, they stood up like Baker, Mallory and Townsend and forthrightly demanded respect for American history. Adam Goodheart chose to put himself into his present position. It's not too late for him to choose also to lead.   By Steve C

<b>Comment 22</b>	Thus far Mr. Goodheart has declined to amplify on his "Aim High" admonition by citing specifics for what should be done, demurring by saying he is neither a preservationist or a planner. But I hope he will recognize "we must all be preservationists and planners now" if Fort Monroe is to reach its potential -- as war is too important to be left to the generals, aiming high at Fort Monroe is too important to be left to the FMA and its planners. And to properly reflect its importance to American history, the entire 565 acres comprising Fort Monroe must be as beautiful and integrated as possible, with the preservation of the Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront, so they are suitable for ultimate addition to the National Monument, the current most critical issues to gaining a powerful and dignified landscape fitting to the momentous events which occurred here.   By mark P
<b>Comment 23</b>	Thus far Mr. Goodheart has declined to amplify on his "Aim High" admonition by citing specifics for what should be done, demurring by saying he is neither a preservationist or a planner. But I hope he will recognize "we must all be preservationists and planners now" if Fort Monroe is to reach its potential -- as war is too important to be left to the generals, aiming high at Fort Monroe is too important to be left to the FMA and its planners. And to reflect its importance to American history, the entire 565 acres comprising Fort Monroe must be as beautiful and integrated as possible, with the preservation of the Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront, so they are suitable for ultimate addition to National Monument, the current most critical issues to gaining a landscape fitting to the momentous events which occurred here.    By mark P
<b>Comment 24</b>	Jean, "aim high" is a broad goal without specifics, but delivered by a historian whose book had an impact on the creation of Fort Monroe National Monument it can't be interpreted as more development. I attended his lecture, and his point was clearly to preserve Fort Monroe--he compared it to Gettysburg, Ellis Island and other national sites. And it should be obvious from the many comments on this website what the majority of respondents would mean by "aim high." It's what most of us are doing. We want to protect the historic buildings, add nothing that detracts from the historic ambience or a visitor's enjoyment, and save Wherry as green space for eventual inclusion in the National Monument. I repeat, aim high.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 25</b>	Professor Goodheart has shown concretely why, last year, he quoted Secretary Salazar saying "I can't think of a place that has more national historical significance than Fort Monroe." But has Goodheart ever spoken up with anything like the Virginian-Pilot's concrete warning ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land</a> ) that without unification of the split national monument/park by including the omitted hundred bayfront acres, Fort Monroe will remain "degraded"? In his talk, to what extent, if any, did he forthrightly advocate unification? "Aim high" is a nice but vague slogan. Unification is the concrete question. In the past, Goodheart has kindly e-corresponded with me briefly. Before his talk, I e-mailed him about the Pilot editorial and urged, "You have special power to influence things. I hope you use it now." Today I'll ask him to comment on unification right here.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 26</b>	Astute observation! What ultimate goal does "aim high" imply? For some it could be total development--for most, I believe, it would mean total preservation and protection. That would be the highest aim.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 27</b>	"Aim high" should be the mantra of everyone interested in the future of Fort Monroe, from citizens to legislators to planning consultants. If we don't aim high, we'll be stuck with low forever.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 28</b>	I'd also like to thank the FMS (and other contributors) for bringing Professor Goodheart to Ft. Monroe for his lively discussion. I hope this will be the first of a permanent series of many lecture/discussions/other historical or cultural programs to be held at Ft. Monroe! It was certainly a great beginning for such a series!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Public Access to the beach
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Please allow public access to the beach, and I do not mean by Hamptons definition like BUCKROE. I would like anyone to be able to windsurf, kite surf, stand up paddle board, skim board, kayak, canoe.... from the wonderful beaches of Fort Monroe. I would like to see the open spaces at Fort Monroe used to consolidate recreational activities. Like a skate park, a bike track, soccer, football, baseball, Frisbee... PLEASE do not allow Hampton to build condos and parade of homes .. they will sell off our rights for pennies on the dollar .. call it "public/private" ventures and justify it by predicting Tax revenues that never seem to materialize. SAVE this gem for my kids, please. H. Keith Knight
<b>Idea Author</b>	howard K
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I agree with this idea and had these same thoughts this weekend has I took one of many walks along the seawall from the Chamberlin to the Officers Club. I thought how nice it would be to see kayakers,etc(any NON-motorized mode) using the beaches and maybe using some of the current bldgs has a public restroom,place for equipment rental, and somewhere to purchase a beverage or icecream. But PLEASE do not allow Hampton to build condos and parade of home.....what he said!   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 2</b>	Mr. Knight, you certainly know your recent Hampton history; and it is quite dismal. They never seem to get anything right, when it comes to development. If Hampton's council and developer patrons stay away from Fort Monroe, we'll have the opportunity to get this one right!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Amen, beach access! As the aerial photo shows, the best beaches are the new ones at bottom right, formed with recent seawall work. Those beaches are in the part of Ft Monroe omitted from the national monument, as illustrated by the photo and the modified park service map shown at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> . So I hope that anyone who seconds this fine beach-access idea will consider seconding the ideas at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-let-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/lets-make-a-real-national-monument-park">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-let-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/lets-make-a-real-national-monument-park</a> and <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land</a> and <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-how-does-fort-contribute-to-city-of-hampton-as-a-great-city/great-city-real-national-monument-park-instead-of-a-fake-one">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-how-does-fort-contribute-to-city-of-hampton-as-a-great-city/great-city-real-national-monument-park-instead-of-a-fake-one</a> and many others that call for expanding and unifying the national monument to save Ft Monroe.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Avoid Non-Remunerative Uses in Historic Village/ North Gate
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There is pressure to put governmental or non-profit activities in North Gate or Historic Village that will not pay fair market value to FMA for their usage. This could conceivably put FMA under more pressure to say it must develop Wherry Quarter and/or South Waterfront, and destroy the opportunity for a grand public place and unifying national monument, in order to generate "needed" revenue. To avoid this risk, governmental and non-profit uses in North Gate or Historic Village should either (i) pay their way as any other use, (ii) meet a high threshold test for adding value to Fort Monroe as a whole without necessitating development of Wherry or South Waterfront while paying as much as they can towards FMA's costs (e.g., a non-profit theater company for post theater); or (iii) be declined.

<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>I may have missed this information being posted somewhere on this site, but where is the factual data based rationale for development on Ft Monroe? Surely other communities with historic military installations have dealt with this.</p> <p>Where is the data from the City of Hampton to show that its previous efforts at attracting higher income home owners has worked? The issue of flooding is already a huge negative issue for prospective homeowners and it is an equally huge issue when trying to sell or rent a home. We know flooding is going to get worse in our area due to the sinking of land. I live near Grandview and my neighbors and I am noticing that our own yards seem to be sinking. folks who are relocating here and must be a huge barrier to   By Jill D</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>As a side issue to Mark's point, and in response to Luis, there is a danger of lack of oversight of property at Fort Monroe, whether it is leased or sold. To minimize the danger in either case, the Fort Monroe Authority has created a very detailed guideline of standards for both restoration and new development that ultimately must be approved by the state's historic preservation officer and the National Park Service. After the standards are in place, any proposed change to a leased or sold property on FM must be approved by the FMA, and in some instances there will also be an opportunity for public comment. The loophole, to my way of thinking, is that new construction doesn't require public comment if it is under so many thousand square feet and on less than an acre of land. But there will be design standards for all manner of properties. After all, the state and the FMA have a stake in maintaining the attractive appearance of the historic village.   By Scott B</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>There should be no property sales of any portion of Fort Monroe. Leasing is the only option that can guarantee proper use of the land and structures, interminably. Leasing will provide rent income, yet allow the National Parks Service and the Fort Monroe Authority to oversee the quality of usage that will occur on Fort Monroe. Corporate and individual ownership will open the doors for unregulated, and possibly unwanted, usage, should the owners of any part of Fort Monroe desire to vacate or sell.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>This is an excellent set of standards for development at Fort Monroe. The FMA frequently says that Fort Monroe won't become a permanent line-item in the state budget (although I think it should, or at least a very long term one), and the latest FMA legislation requires that any property sales at Fort Monroe must go toward paying for infrastructure improvements. Given such budget constraints, the FMA should make every effort to have the historic village and the North Gate area contribute financially, rather than putting that burden on the Wherry Quarter and spoiling forever its positive impact--historic ambience, striking views, recreational opportunities, a seamless integration of the National Monument--on tourism.   By Scott B</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>This sounds reasonable, but it would be nice if the historic village and North Gate areas could contribute financially without having to be sold to developers. Definitely, the Wherry Quarter should be kept as green, open space and made part of the National Park! I also agree that the state should commit financial resources (and have support of Ft. Monroe as a line-item in the budget) since they retained possession of part of the Ft. Monroe when the governor ceded parts to the National Monument, so the Virginia citizens own that part and are responsible for its careful planning and use..   By Susan B</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Don't Make Sustainability An Excuse for Mediocrity
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>All concede the state managed lands at Fort Monroe must ultimately pay their way. But financial sustainability is not a goal attained in short term (it took 20 years at Presidio) or in just one way (not solely from revenue from land or building rents or, where permitted, sales). Sustainability must be accomplished methodically and in multiple ways, including public support (e.g. should not NPS ultimately take over responsibility for moated fortress, a national asset if there ever was one?) and local and tourist visitation, if Fort Monroe is to reach its potential. Beware of claims Wherry Quarter or South Waterfront must be developed, and a truly unified National Monument forever precluded, because of need for financial sustainability -- such claims may merely mask a desire for private development motivated for other reasons or reflecting a lack of imagination or patience.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Keep the so called "developers" away!!!   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 2</b>	It took 4 centuries for Fort Monroe to be as great as it is--one year of inappropriate decisions can undo that greatness.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	To this I would only add that we should aim high.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Spot on! Private development would only devalue any portion of Fort Monroe, seriously detract from tourism draw, and minimize the truly great significance of the site. This impressive site, with 402 years of critical US history, merits more than a few years of hasty, and possibly, irreversible decisions.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	In Support of Academia
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I support the concept of bringing higher education into the mix such as the proposed STEAM Academy, a school for the arts or some type of prep school. There are many structures already in place such as the old One Hundred Bldg. and the barracks inside the moat to house students and then fill those empty quarters with faculty and staff. The integrity would be preserved and what a glorious campus to be visited by all of those parents.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Marcia M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>I like this concept. I would also like to see an institute for the study of economics, international law, admiralty, military defense and diplomacy; which would be historically appropriate for Fort Monroe, and would draw scholars from around the globe. There, certainly, are enough existing structures in enough different parts of Fort Monroe to accommodate two campuses.</p> <p>  By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	Given what Fort Monroe has historically meant to our country, this makes very good sense! Talk about a brains trust right here at the starting point of our nation!   By Jean S

<b>Comment 3</b>	I like this concept. I would also like to see an institute for economics, international law, admiralty, military defense and diplomacy; which would be historically appropriate for Fort Monroe, and would draw scholars from around the globe. There, certainly, are enough existing structures in enough different parts of Fort Monroe to accomodate two campuses.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I would improve this idea by... I like this concept. I would also like to see an institute for economics, international law, admiralty, military defense and diplomacy; which would be historically fitting for Fort Monroe, and would draw scholars from around the globe. There, certainly, are enough existing structures in enough different parts of Fort Monroe to accomodate two campuses.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	I like this concept. I would also like to see an institute for economics, international law, admiralty, military defense and diplomacy; which would be historically fitting for Fort Monroe, and would draw scholars from around the globe. There, certainly, are enough existing structures in enough different parts of Fort Monroe to accomodate two campuses.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 6</b>	I'm FOR the concept outlined in this Idea. Methinks it all hinges on what Dr. Harvey is planning to do next -- if he's got his eye on the property for a concept like this, it's a shoo-in...if not, fugettaboutit.   By Albert S
<b>Comment 7</b>	William Harvey has no more to do with disposition of this property than you or I do.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Freedom's Fortress National Park as World Heritage Site
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Juneteenth movement's Sheri Bailey and I propose that among Fort Monroe's many important dimensions, the one that uniquely makes this national treasure into a prospective World Heritage Site is the Fort Monroe Freedom Story that began on May 23, 1861 (not May 24!). Those events started America toward belated completion of its very founding as the planet's first nation built on ideas -- which is surely why the historian Edward L. Ayers calls the events "the greatest moment in American history." We also propose that the split national monument should not only be unified through addition of missing bayfront land, but should be named Freedom's Fortress National Park, the better to explain to the world, and not just to our countrymen, what this place means -- not just for the past, but for the future as well. Thanks. Sheri Bailey and Steve Corneliussen Please see also "Peninsula's Historic Diamond: Full story of America's founding" and "Virginian-Pilot calls for including missing bayfront Wherry land" in this online forum. (The links appear below.)
<b>Idea Author</b>	Steve C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	No Development
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The entire fort needs to be designated as a National Park. The development group designated by the state needs to go away.
<b>Idea Author</b>	lynn W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	10
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Development doesn't necessarily mean the mis-handling of land and the mis-use of funds like the Hampton city hall gang perpetuates. Good development can involve renovation, restoration, environmental stabilization and beautification. I hope these efforts are foremost in the minds of Sasaki.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Re-use and redevelopment are vital to make Fort Monroe National Historic Park a success. Leased stewardship is advocated for non-federal entities. Existing structures can be adapted for such.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Love the idea, but the NPS does not have and probably will never have the budget to manage the entire FM.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Vision Behind the Vision
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe has been owned and maintained by the American people for almost two centuries, and will remain in public possession or control. Obviously, then, whatever happens to it should be an expression of the public will. This is already the case with the property transferring to the National Park Service. It is less clearly the case with the part that will go to the state. The FMA's master planning process involves public input, but does not make it determinative. If it were determinative, the fate of the Wherry Quarter would already have been decided. By any measure, including the comments on this website, the public wants as much open space and green space as possible at Fort Monroe.  The FMA's duty is clear: it should fulfill the public's wishes by taking Wherry out of consideration for new development and requiring Sasaki, the prestigious consulting firm it has hired, to find other ways of creating revenue--like historically compatible new construction in the industrial North Gate area. Such a requirement might be construed as placing a limitation on Sasaki. However, the FMA has already given Sasaki general guidelines as well as, apparently, specific goals to plan for the presence of STEAM Academy and a veteran's hospital. There are elements of a vision, in other words, operating behind and shaping Sasaki's planning process.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Once land is developed, it loses most of its intrinsic value, because all other options are then obliterated. Un-developed land is a priceless asset, in that potential is always there. We are becoming a society of densely cluttered cities, and the truly great assets of our natural environment are occluded by mis-guided aspirations for over-development. Where there is a dearth of openness, then the full potential of any land is realized, purely, in its openness. This must be kept foremost in the minds of any person treating with Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	This point need emphasizing again--the FMA and its hired planners need to follow the will and vision of the citizens for a grand public place, and not ignore the strongly-held desire of the public for more open space and access.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	This is a powerful statement that goes to the heart of the management of state managed lands and the National Monument at Fort Monroe. The FMA and its planners cannot ignore the clear public will for Fort Monroe and I trust they will not.   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	YES!!! Well said! The American public owns Ft. Monroe and anyone and every entity involvd in the planning for the future MUST follow the people's will, not their own hidden agenda   By Susan B
<b>Comment 5</b>	You've said this very well!!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	1619 Monument Plaza in Wherry Quarter

<b>Idea Detail</b>	To commemorate the first landing of Africans in America at Old Point have the 1619 foundation, develop a suitable monument and open space plaza near the beach in the Wherry Quarter serving as a natural bridge between the two sections of the National Monument.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Richard S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	The four main aspects of history on Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe (natural/indigenous, economic/maritime, slavery/contraband, and military defense) need to be recognized through the entire area; as major events compassed all parts of the site. Monuments and plaques should be placed throughout, to celebrate all the firsts in US history that occurred here. Tourism and the individual's quest for knowledge is big business, and this is a great means to further the experience.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	The four main aspects of history on Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe (natural/indigenous, economic/maritime, slavery/contraband, and military defense) need to be recognized through the entire area; as major occurrences compassed all parts of the site. Monuments and plaques should be placed throughout, to celebrate all the firsts in US history that occurred here. Tourism and the individual's quest for knowledge is big business, and this is a great means to further the experience.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	We need such a monument. I am not sure of the best location but it should have some historical context related to where we think the first landing actually or may have occurred -- if that is Wherry, a suitable scale monument there would work (maybe the South Waterfront [i.e, vicinity of Batteries Parrott and Irwin and land east of Fenwick Road connecting them to Wherry Quarter] would be better). Setting the groundwork for unifying National Monument is of course critical.   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	Yes, unify the National Park so that the monuments and plaques and costumed interpretations will flow naturally from the National Park setting.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Continue Historic Events
<b>Idea Detail</b>	This year, 2012, will be the first year without a major military presence at the Grand Olde Fort. Are we going to let such events as the Noon, 4th of July 50 gun Salute to the Nation just be a fading memory? Other events and traditions also need to be continued. PLEASE dont let the Grand Old Fort fade away.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Alfred J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Wonderfull Idea!   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 2</b>	I wholeheartedly agree! I have been advocating a continuing military presence of some sort. A 402+ year legacy of manned defense on this site is unique in the Western Hemisphere. That legacy was richly enhanced with the establishment of the U.S. Army, which gave our communities so many wonderful traditions over the past two centuries on Fort Monroe. How can we even think to let these expostulations of patriotic fervor die?!?   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	These patriotic events have meant so much to all of Hampton Roads for a long, long time. I think these are great ideas!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	Second this comment.   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 5</b>	I wholeheartedly agree! I have been advocating a continuing military presence of some sort. A 402+ year legacy of manned defense on this site is unique in the Western Hemisphere. That legacy was richly enhanced with the establishment of the U.S. Army, which gave our communities so many wonderful traditions over the past two centuries on Fort Monroe. How can we even think to let these expostulations of patriotic fervor die?!?   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	A No-vision Vision of Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	John and Meg and their three kids drive into Fort Monroe for the first time. John likes to visit Civil War sites, so this is the perfect place for him. Meg is fascinated with historic American architecture. And the kids just want to play on the beaches pictured in the brochures.  They drive slowly around the historic village, satisfying Meg's curiosity. Then they park and go inside the fortress. They see where Lt. Lee lived and President Lincoln stayed, and they tour the Casemate Museum--which interests the kids in spite of themselves, because of the guns and the uniformed figures. The whole family is surprised at the powerful story of the Contrabands and all the African American history associated with it. They plan to re-visit the gift shop before they leave so the kids can pick up a book telling the Contraband story from a child's point of view.  But now it's time to see the park and the beaches. They walk across a moat bridge, follow the trail along the bay shoreline and ... find themselves in somebody's yard. Well, not in it, but between it and the sparkling water. There's a man standing on his veranda looking at the sailboats. The kids wave at him, but he just gives them a blank stare. And that's pretty much the
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	10
<b>Comment 1</b>	I envisioned Wherry Quarters as a place for tourists/visitors Ft. Monroe to rent for a 2 night stay.   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 2</b>	So true. If Wherry Quarter is sold off or even leased out for private development, this is exactly what will happen when NP Monument visitors, tourists, and locals try to move between the two now disconnected pieces of NPS-owned property. Not incorporating Wherry Quarter within NPS holdings will make the transition between the two NP Monuments confusing, difficult, uncomfortable and/or embarrassing for everyone. Visitors will not want to repeat or recommend such an awkward transition. I am not saying it is wrong but private property owners being "protective" of their property can be a real pain when it comes to public access near or across their property as Hampton already has experienced....thus having a "private" versus a "public" Wherry Quarter, in time, only will drive away many, perhaps thousands, of potential visitors once they realize just how unsettling and uncomfortable it can be trying to walk across or near private property located between the two NP Monuments.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 3</b>	This fable may become reality if the planning process fails. Citizens cannot let this happen --   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	Great picture of what could happen if the vision for Fort Monroe isn't really a vision but an opportunistic, non-visionary land grab by developers. PLEASE make the vision truly forward-looking, not expedient or money-oriented, and remember to look toward the future visitors to the National Park.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 5</b>	We can't let this happen!   By Jean S

<b>Comment 6</b>	This was a very imaginative vision of what will likely transpire if the development community gets their way with Ft Monroe. Those who love Ft Monroe and want to preserve it are afraid of just such a scenario, or probably even worse. Those who only see the real estate as an opportunity for profitable development for them and their associates, really don't care if this scenario develops. They apparently don't care whether the public has access to the Chesapeake Bay shoreline or not. After cashing out their Ft Monroe development profits, they will likely just move on to their next money making vision.   By Kelly P
<b>Comment 7</b>	Well-said--and true!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 8</b>	You paint a grim, yet disturbingly realistic, picture of what could happen if Fort Monroe does not receive the full protection that it, and the world, deserves. Thank you.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 9</b>	This kind of situation is what would keep people from coming back. The public needs open space where their imaginations and their children can run free, where photos can be taken of spectacular views unobstructed by development. A grand public place along the waterfront will draw people back time after time.   By Adrian W
<b>Comment 10</b>	You paint a grim, yet disturbingly realistic, picture of what could happen if Fort Monroe does not receive the full protection that it, and the world, deserves.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Home to Thousands
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There is another side to Ft. Monroe's history. The thousands of families who have called her "home" for at least some portion of a military career, who embrace her past and have highest hopes for her future. This is a place like no other that should be preserved for generations to come to enjoy, to play on her beaches, walk on her parapets, go crabbing from her pier, watch tall ships from her seawall, listen to a summer eve's concert at Continental Park, or enjoy the history that abounds within her. Just imagine a tree like this in your front yard.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Marcia M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Not everybody can live here so NOBODY (except visitors) should live here. Don't build any houses, apartments or office parks at Fort Monroe, keep it as a historical place!   By Ken P
<b>Comment 2</b>	Sorry, Ken. You misinterpreted my thoughts. I am a staunch advocate of no new residences or commercial structures but maintaining the fort as a historical place. That is the only way the public can enjoy the features I described. They should be available to all.   By Marcia M
<b>Comment 3</b>	Agreed!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Wow! What beautiful sentiments! Persons like you give us hope for the best. Thank you, thank you!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Let the world know about Ft. Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There is so much history, beauty, and natural environment at Ft. Monroe that needs to be shared with the world and not just known by Hampton Road-ians and Virginians. The National Park Service and its related support organizations will be best able to "get the word out" to a wider audience. The larger the NP, the more there will be for all the world to see (and for the NPS to tell about); so, I, like most of the other commentators on this website, plead for most of the present Fort to be part of the national park (and at the very least, the so-called Wherry Quarter to connect the other two parts of the already-declared park).
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Biking
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There are really no safe places for bikers to ride in Hampton area. Ft Monroe offers an excellent area for folks to enjoy this hobby.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jill D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I think it would be great to have a safe bike route/path from Phoebus & Ft. Monroe connecting Buckroe Beach & continuing on to Grandview. This would enhance the quality of life for those living in & visiting Ft. Monroe/Hampton.   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree, if you're referring to bicycles and not to motorcycles.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Absolutely true! Fort Monroe has always been cycling-friendly.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Vision of Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Very disappointed in the faux National Monument that is being presented to the public. Why bother if the entire moat area is not included and the gap between the two areas is not also part of the park. I envision the moat and buildings inside to tell the story and history of Ft. Monroe. I will visit Ft. Monroe only if the history is preserved and proudly shown off, not to see new buildings full of condos even if the architecture is similar to what is there now. The homes on Fenwick should be preserved with the Commanding General's home open to the public furnished for tours. Other homes to be a restaurant and shops. Not "Private Residences" as the signs now say.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Pauline O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Economic Value of an Open-Space Wherry

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>These observations are from an article by land-use planner Edward T. McMahon. They apply as much to Fort Monroe and Wherry as they do to Phoebus, Fort Monroe's gateway community:</p> <p>"The more a community does to conserve its unique resources, whether natural or man-made, the more tourists it will attract. On the other hand, the more a community comes to resemble 'Anyplace, U.S.A.,' the less reason there will be to visit ... The community's leaders must recognize that the place itself — not the trappings around it — is the reason that most tourists come for a visit. Second, they must understand that sustaining tourism is a long-term strategy. As economic development expert Don Rypkema says, 'Nobody goes anywhere to go down a waterslide or buy a T-shirt. They may do both these things, but that isn't the reason they went there.' Any place can create a tourist attraction, but it is those places that are attractions in and of themselves that people most want to visit." ..... Protecting scenic views and vistas, planting trees, landscaping parking lots ... are all fundamentally important to the economic health of a community."</p> <p>Both the FMA and NPS need a green, open Wherry Quarter if they are to succeed not just in attracting first-time visitors, but in</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Amen!!!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Great quotes!!! Fort Monroe is the real thing, and the world will soon recognize and wish to experience it--if we don't sell-out to rash and irreversible ideas!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Information and Directions
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I live at The Chamberlin and there is not a day when I am outside that someone does not come up at say "We just arrived what is there to see/do here?"</p> <p>As soon as possible and close to the security station there should be a sign saying "INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS" and a person to hand them out.</p> <p>The handout would be first a map then a list of open attractions and programs. I think security may have this information but there is no sign telling a visitor to stop for it.</p> <p>Fort Monroe is OPEN and now we want visitors to have a good experience and tell their friends.</p> <p>If this can not be handled by the security then it could be done under the hut by volunteers.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	This, I am sure, will eventually become a reality; as is so done in other national historic parks.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	There should certainly be a visitor brochure available to all. I could be passed out by the gate guard, who, based on what I have seen has no duties but to sit in the hut.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Reasonable Height Restriction for Any New Construction
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I suggest that the pavement level of the Flagpole Bastion be the maximum height of any new construction anywhere in Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Richard S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	15
<b>Comment 1</b>	I would not allow any new construction on Fort MOnroe unless it tied back to any existing structure such as the Water Battery just outside the moat of which only the Powder Magazine remains.   By bob S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Re-construction, renovation, restoration are all acceptable! New construction is not!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Jean may be right but planners seeking to justify developing part or much of Wherry Quarter (out of a desire to please those paying them) may well claim those buildings will not generate enough money to pay FMA's costs. Thus they should be asked to put more height and density in North Gate/Historic Village to generate the additional needed funds, not develop Wherry and South Waterfront.   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	I believe Jean S3 is correct... done properly (and profitably), no new construction, nor sale of any part of Fort Monroe, will have to occur to create the finest national historic park in the country.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	I would suggest that hundreds of existing buildings could be rented for business usage, then we wouldn't have to worry about height restrictions. For every one business that can't work in accordance with the spirit of our beautiful Fort Monroe, there's fifty more that can and would do so, happily!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 6</b>	If low-rise, non-dense development on North Gate and Historic Village is sufficient to pay FMA's costs for operating state land, I am of course fine with that. But if it is not, I think everyone who wants a grand public place and unified National Monument should prefer denser, taller development on North Gate and Historic Village to building on Wherry and destroying Fort Monroe's potential for greatness.   By mark P
<b>Comment 7</b>	Why would anyone wish to build on Fort Monroe? Adaptive re-use of existing structures would be the most feasible option. And, if any building occurs, the National Park Service and Fort Monroe Authority are the only two entities that should be able to do it.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 8</b>	Sandra C's concern about quality of new construction is valid but she is forgetting that state managed lands must ultimately pay their way. If North Gate and Historic Village are only lightly developed, they may not generate enough revenue to cover FMA's costs fot state managed lands, thus leading to pressure to develop South Waterfront and Wherry Quarter. Since Sandra C is strong opponent of development on South Waterfront and Wherry Quarter, she might want to rethink her position on height and density.   By mark P

<b>Comment 9</b>	Mark, I have nothing but the highest respect for you and your ideas for Fort Monroe. However, right now NO ONE knows what revenue the North Gate and Historic Villages will bring in, whether lightly or heavily developed. Even you, in your 2d sentence, say IF they are lightly developed, they MAY NOT generate enough revenue.....meaning, on the other hand, they may. For that reason alone development in those areas needs to be taken in baby steps. If lightly developed is not working, along with the tourist trade, then perhaps the next step would be more development in those two areas but never in the Wherry Qtr or its adjoining waterfront for reasons pointed out numerous times over by other entries.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 10</b>	Height is less important than where development is and where it is not. I would rather have a bit taller development in North Gate than development of any kind in Wherry or South Waterfront. Just remember, you may get what you wish for: low-rise sprawl all over the state managed lands at Fort Monroe, no unified National Monument.. Height and density are not necessarily bad -- some of the best places to be in world, from Italian Hill towns, to Dutch fortress towns and Central Park in Manhattan, have open spaces appurtenant to dense and somewhat tall development.    By mark P
<b>Comment 11</b>	Mark, I'd agree somewhat if it were any other city but Hampton so heavily involved in planning Fort Mornoe's reuse....perhaps we need the Italian or Dutch planners here. Those countries know how to protect their history and their views, and that is not something Hampton has proven it does well. Height and density, with Hampton in control (regardless of what you might say to the contrary), would be bad at Fort Monroe, even if just kept in the North Gate area. Look at Buckroe's POH, drive through the densely packed high new apartments in the wetlands off Armistead Avenue, and see what I mean. Certainly none of Wherry Quarter/s. waterfront should be built upon. That property needs to be unified with NPS holdings on Fort Monroe but, believe me, Hampton is going to fight that unification down to its last breath. The only hope citizens have for unifying that property is if State and Federal agencies and politicians more powerful than those in Hampton weigh in, and now.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 12</b>	Nothing higher than the homes already in the North Gate area and absolutely nothing in the Wherry Quarter or South waterfront areas. They must be incorporated within the current NPS boundaries and used for recreation, reenactments and the creation of one of the original encampments set up in Wherry Quarter and other open areas on the Post to give refuge to the thousands of slaves seeking freedom at Fort Monroe in the 1800's.. Let the FMNP tell the true story in the right way, just as other NP's tell their stories. Let's not do anything in a half-baked manner because now, if Wherry and its waterfront become NP holdings, we have the property available to do it right.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 13</b>	Nothing higher than the homes already in the North Gate area and absolutely nothing in the Wherry Quarter or South waterfront areas. They must be incorporated within the current NPS boundaries and used for recreation, reenactments and the creation of one of the original encampments set up to give refuge to the thousands of slaves seeking freedom at Fort Monroe.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 14</b>	Height is important but I would prefer more density and a bit more height on new construction in North Gate over putting new construction in Wherry Quarter or South waterfront areas. But basically this is a good idea that deserves support if we can ultimately produce enough revenue, from various sources, to cover expected costs while so limiting height of North Gate and Historic Village in-fill.   By mark P
<b>Comment 15</b>	I agree that the problem with this otherwise important idea is that it implies that tall construction might be OK in the sense-of-place-defining bayfront land between the two parts of the fake national monument. At "What would you like to see included in Fort Monroe National Monument?" in Adrian Whitcomb's comment "Re-Create View to Honor Fortress and Those Who Have Served Here," you'll find Adrian's excellent brief video panorama showing how disastrously the crummy buildings in that hundred acres mar the historic landscape and ruin the view. So yes, restrict building heights on the bridge-tunnel side, where everyone agrees about sensible, compatible redevelopment. But on the bayfront side, raze the crummy buildings and unify the national monument. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe's YMCA & Bowling Alley & other recreational areas
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Are these still open? If not, wouldnt this be a revenue generating opportunity along with a nice recreational hot spot? The tennis courts and pools could be utilized as well. Perhaps there could be a place where people could rent tennis rackets or volleyballs etc. Summer camps could be held here for local kids or groups. There used to be a sailing club and the small RV park attracted visitors too.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Julie E
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Open the bowling alley, tennis courts, swimming pool and theater to the public and yes, use all the beautiful facilities for public enjoyment. Means jobs to the area and will certainly draw families to a great spot.   By Joyce W
<b>Idea Title</b>	recreation and tourism
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Not sure if anyone has suggested a tour boat linking Fort Monroe via the Engineer Pier and Fort Wool for an interesting experience. Docents at Fort Wool. Fort Monroe Casemate Museum is the draw at Fort MOnroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	bob S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I would be happy to pay for a boat tour between Ft. Monroe and Ft. Wool. I am sure thousands of others would too.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	I and others have advocated this, but it is always great to get further support for good ideas. I hope you will peruse all the entries and add your "second" and comments to those you find worthwhile.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Public Access to Ft. Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Virginia Coastal Access Now supports a future Ft. Monroe that welcomes all Virginians and the public. Public access to the Ft. Monroe and its waterfronts for all to enjoy is imperative to the Fort's future success and sustainability. The NPS needs to open as much NPS property to the public including Dog Beach for educational opportunities, outdoor activities, and recreational use. This all needs to happen ASAP and for the long term!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Mark F
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	If our access to any of Fort Monroe is blocked by private interests, we won't feel welcome and many people might never experience all the greatness that it has to offer.   By Jean S

<b>Comment 2</b>	We couldn't wish for much more. The coasts need to be accessible from every direction.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Visitors Center
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The entrance where Mellon and Mercury Street intersect should have a small parking lot and visitors center with public bathroom facilities.</p> <p>This can be manned by volunteers to answer question and give directions to public events,the National Monument, Casemate Museum and STEM Academy.</p> <p>To find the land for the visitors center and parking the entrance can be reduced to one way in and out.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	The old MP Building could serve as a visitor welcoming center, and rest-stop for travelers just arriving.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Second this comment!   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 3</b>	Perfect solution... adaptive re-use of existing facilities.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Small Parks with Statuary
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The cannon park outside the west sally port should be duplicated outside the east and north sally ports. One with a statue for the first landing and one with a statue for the contraband history.
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Monuments and markers all over the place--celebrate the whole fort and its whole history!!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe's Great Potential
<b>Idea Detail</b>	AT one time there was a great hotel on Fort Monroe. It was the premier vacation spot for the East Coast - the Hygea Hotel. Couldn't the Hygea Hotel be rebuilt?
<b>Idea Author</b>	Kady C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	The Hygeia Hotel was re-built, several times... it's called the Chamberlin, now.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Rather than building new hotel, let's reuse one of the suitable historic buildings, e.g. Building 100, Building 5, or the old BOQ on Ingalls Road as an Inn at Fort Monroe, as expected demand suggests, in the spirit of the recently opened Inn at Presidio.   By mark P
<b>Idea Title</b>	Resort Area of the Peninsula, Completing the Diamond
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I think Fort Monroe is a great location that we must take advantage of. I understand the purpose of keeping the historic factors of the base intact. I completely agree. But the story of Fort Monroe will never get out if we do not have a reason to draw people to Fort Monroe other than its National Park Status. This is a great area for Peninsula that must be looked at in the long term solution. This area must stay lucrative without depending on the government solely. I am a big fan of bringing a large upscale hotel like the Gaylord National in National Harbor MD. <a href="http://www.gaylordhotels.com/meet-gaylord/index.html?source=GN  PPC GenM   G-MeetingsBrand&amp;s_kwid=TC 23001 gaylord%20%2F%20national%20harbor  S b 9655415225">http://www.gaylordhotels.com/meet-gaylord/index.html?source=GN  PPC GenM   G-MeetingsBrand&amp;s_kwid=TC 23001 gaylord%20%2F%20national%20harbor  S b 9655415225</a>. This will bring large groups of people to the area and act as a resort for the property as well. We need more than just the History to keep family's entertained. As well there is a large amount of water front area at Fort Monroe. In recent visits to Ponce Puerto Rico they have an area named La Guancha. This is a great meeting place of the arts and the community. It is a very expansive Water Front walk with vendors for food and etc.. The area also offers a great place to display art work from local artists as well as street performers. They constantly have great bands of all tastes performing there as well. Over all keep the land as open as possible, but don't completely shut out the opportunity to bring people in by keeping everything the same.</p> <p>One last point, Commercial Property Management should be allowed to take over some of the commercial buildings and make apartments. Again this will be a way for the authority to pay for improvements and updates to the Fort.</p> <p>Below is a link to more pictures of La Guancha.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Douglas A
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	24
<b>Comment 1</b>	FM does not need a grand hotel complex. It needs open space, history, and a wonderful view of the Bay. Any development should be in the surrounding communities. National Park Status will bring in people without the destruction of the shoreline and open space.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree with Ron and Marcia--no grand hotel or other such development on Ft. Monroe.Ft. Monroe should be open space, beautiful shorelines, historical sites, in other words, a great National Park! Leave the hotels, etc. to Phoebus and other parts of Hampton!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	I agree that Phoebus and Hampton should be developed to help bring in the people and leave FM beautiful shoreline open ,unobstructed and for the PUBLIC to enjoy. FM has too much to offer & enough "grand" bldings full of history. I think the current buildings could be used as bed & breakfasts for tourist.   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 4</b>	Yes, develop Phoebus and not FM.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 5</b>	Phoebus is the area that needs hotels, development and re-development. The land at Ft Monroe should be preserved so there is an attraction to support the revenue generating development in Phoebus and elsewhere outside the National Park that we should be striving for. Not development to stifle the goal of the National Park.   By Kelly P
<b>Comment 6</b>	YES... Let's revitalize Phoebus to support the greatness of Fort Monroe--and create a full historic national park at Fort Monroe that will support economic vitality in Phoebus!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 7</b>	To be sure, Puerto Rico did not allow this type of mis-development on their two historic Forts, San Cristóbal and San Felipe del Morro, located in San Juan. We should follow their fine example, by disallowing this type of development on our most venerable Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 8</b>	Excellent point!!!   By Jean S

<b>Comment 9</b>	To be sure, Puerto Rico did not allow this type of mis-development on their two historic Forts, San Cristóbal and San Felipe del Morro, located in San Juan. We should follow their fine example, by disallowing this type of development on our most venerable Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 10</b>	<p>mark P3 Re Douglas' comment: Why do we need to preserve Wherry and the South Waterfront. What is that going to do for the area? There is plenty of land there to go around. Open space is great, but unless there is a plan for it's use it is useless.</p> <p>There is not plenty of public open space on the water in Hampton Roads -- that is documented by the Trust for Public Land study, see <a href="http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf">http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf</a></p> <p>More than its value as additional open space is Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront's strategic value if it is preserved to link natural lands directly to built up historic areas and fortress. This creates a highly unique environment of immense appeal where visitors and residents can move directly by foot or bicycle between natural lands along water and built up areas with amenities like food, lodging and cultural entertainment and thereby establish for Fort Monroe an immense appeal to locals and tourists alike (e.g., akin to a Mid-Atlantic Chatauqua).   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 11</b>	The #1 thing that truly devalues land is development. Once development occurs, all other options are impotent. Open land is attractive, and highly valued for its openness.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 12</b>	<p>Re Douglas' comment: Why do we need to preserve Wherry and the South Waterfront. What is that going to do for the area? There is plenty of land there to go around. Open space is great, but unless there is a plan for it's use it is useless.</p> <p>There is not plenty of public open space on the water in Hampton Roads -- that is documented by the Trust for Public Land study, see <a href="http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf">http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf</a>. S</p> <p>More than its value as additional open space is Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront's strategic value if it is preserved to link natural lands directly to built up historic areas and fortress. This creates a highly unique environment of immense appeal where visitors and residents can move directly by foot or bicycle between natural lands along water and built up areas with amenities like food, lodging and cultural entertainment and thereby establish for Fort Monroe an immense appeal to locals and tourists alike (e.g., akin to a Mid-Atlantic Chatauqua).   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 13</b>	Take a good look at the Gaylord complex in National Harbor - not the online pictures. Go drive over and walk the area. Yuk. I live in Alexandria and can tell you that you do not want to do that to Fort Monroe. Agree with Marcia, this idea would relegate Fort Monroe into obscurity.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 14</b>	<p>RE :Kady C I don't see any locals flocking to fort monroe now and there is plenty of space for walking and biking with minimal to no vehicular traffic.</p> <p>Of course the Wherry has not yet been cleared, there are no improved trails or signage yet, the National Monument is not up and running, no restoration of natural areas, no marketing of area for walking and biking, no restaurants in historic area, no inn established yet in one of the historic buildings. What Fort Monroe can become is not measured by its early transitional situation now.   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 15</b>	the National Monument is not up and running because the federal government doesn't have any money!   By Kady C
<b>Comment 16</b>	The best thing to improve this idea is to include preservation of Wherry and South Waterfront (i.e., Batteries Parrott and Irwin and land on waterside of Fenwick Road connecting it to Wherry Quarter) as mostly open space. Tourists and locals will flock to a landscape of nearly 300 acres of maritime open space for walking and biking, in immediate appurtenance to the built up Historic Village, fortress and North Gate areas, with amenities like lodging, restaurants and cultural activities there.I worry a little about La Guanacha as an example, as it looks very commercial and lacking open space.   By mark P
<b>Comment 17</b>	I don't see any locals flocking to fort monroe now and there is plenty of space for walking and biking with minimal to no vehicular traffic.   By Kady C
<b>Comment 18</b>	Why do we need to preserve Wherry and the South Waterfront. What is that going to do for the area? There is plenty of land there to go around. Open space is great, but unless there is a plan for it's use it is useless.   By Douglas A
<b>Comment 19</b>	There are great plans being offered for the Wherry Quarter and Chesapeake Bay beachfront on Fort Monroe,, without commercialist development. Open land is such a usefull necessity... unfortunately we have a great lack of such around here.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 20</b>	There are great plans being offered for the Wherry Quarter and Chesapeake Bay beachfront on Fort Monroe... without commercialist development. Open land is such a usefull necessity... unfortunately we have a great lack of such around here.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 21</b>	Major resort/hotel development does not have to be done on the grounds of Fort Monroe. The towns surrounding Point Comfort will offer many opportunities for such development. Creative use of existing structures will keep the historic "feel" of the Fort while providing attractions for the public. Fort Monroe needs to become a refuge for visitors wanting to experience the history of the fort and enjoy the outdoors.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 22</b>	I agree with Ron that the Phoebus and Buckroe Beach areas are better suited to hotels, restaurants, and most shopping venues. A Gaylord type hotel would literally consume the remaining space outside of the moated fortress. This type of resort would relegate the historic significance of the National Park into obscurity.   By Marcia M
<b>Comment 23</b>	THE best thing to improve this idea is to include preservation of Wherry and South Waterfront (i.e., Batteries Parrott and Irwin and land on waterside of Fenwick Road connecting it to Wherry Quarter) as mostly open space. Tourists and locals will flock to a landscape of nearly 300 cars of maritime open space for walking and biking, in immediate appurtenance to the built up Historic Village, fortress and North Gate areas, with amenities like lodging, restaurants and cultural activities there.I worry a little about La Guanacha as an example, as it looks very commercial and lacking open space.   By mark P
<b>Comment 24</b>	THE best thing to improve this idea is to include preservation of Wherry and South Waterfront (i.e., Batteries Parrott and Irwin and land on waterside of Fenwick Road connecting it to Wherry Quarter) as mostly open space. Tourists and locals will flock to a landscape of nearly 300 cars of maritime open space for walking and biking, in immediate appurtenance to the built up Historic Village, fortress and North Gate areas, with amenities like losing, restaurants and cultural activities there.II worry a little about La Guanacha as an example, as it looks very commercial and lacking open space.   By mark P
<b>Idea Title</b>	A living community
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe needs to have as many people as possible living there to generate the revenue needed to maintain the Fort.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Rick B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4

<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	11
<b>Comment 1</b>	Wholeheartedly disagree!! I would say, rather: "Fort Monroe needs to have as many persons as possible visiting there, to generate the revenue needed to maintain the Fort.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	You said it right!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Wholeheartedly disagree!! I would say, rather: "Fort Monroe needs to have as many persons as possible visiting there to generate the revenue needed to maintain the Fort.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Disagree!   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 5</b>	Rick, I strongly agree - AND that can be done by adaptively reusing the existing buildings. From everything I have heard, that is FMA's primary objective - to reuse and protect the historic assets.   By Kady C
<b>Comment 6</b>	Rick, who is going to insure new development in an area subject to frequent floods? Who is going to pay for flood damage to homes and business concerns? Creating as much open space as possible for recreational use seems to me to be a much better use of FM. A flourishing National Park or Monument Will not be impacted as much by floods. Such a park will certainly draw people to enjoy the area; people who will spend money in our towns.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 7</b>	Who pays for failed development? Who pays to maintain or rescue development that is not profitable or is built in vulnerable areas? Planners and developers take their money and are gone. There are many examples in Hampton and I am sure in area cities. Development becomes "stale" in 10-20 years. Note recent items in the news: Kingsmill is declared "stale" and is being greatly expanded -- residents say it is only a matter of time before they lose public beach access; NN City Center already needs transformation to put it back on the map; Yorktown Riverwalk has not been financially successful; Waterside has been unsuccessful and many transformations tried; Sandler H2O developers left a large unpaid tax bill; Man-made Salt Ponds Inlet needs millions from Hampton for dredging; Hampton apartments built on wetlands will flood and need rescuing, as would development on Fort Monroe. This is no legacy for Fort Monroe. National Parks bring to the area \$3-\$4 for every \$1 of cost.  NO second here!   By Karen D
<b>Comment 8</b>	You know who pays for developmnet failures... the innocent tax-generating, tax-payer!!! Just look at the lousy track-record in Hampton, alone. We do not want nor need these colossal developers' blunders on Fort Monroe!!!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 9</b>	You know who pays for developmnet failures... the innocent tax-generating, tax-payer!!! Just look at the lousy track-record in Hampton, alone. We do not want nor need these colossal developers' blunders on Fort Monroe!!! And you are absolutely correct, Fort Monroe will generate far more income than the preparation and operation will cost; if fully developed as a national historic park, rather than a segmented and partialy privatized monument.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 10</b>	You know who pays for development failures... the innocent, tax-generating tax-payer!!! Just look at the lousy track-record in Hampton, alone. We do not want nor need these colossal developers' blunders on Fort Monroe!!! And you are absolutely correct, Fort Monroe will generate far more income than the preparation and operation will cost; if fully developed as a national historic park, rather than a segmented and partialy privatized monument.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 11</b>	I agree with this if it means constructively filling the existing homes on the bridge-tunnel side and maybe building some compatible homes near the gate and just below the west side of Mill Creek's south shore. But if it means building houses in the red spot on Tom Gear's version of the park service map ( <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> ), I disagree strongly. Even if you only care about financial enrichment as opposed to historical and recreational enrichment, the way for Hampton and Virginia to make the best use of Ft Monroe is to fix the fake national park as Gear insists. Hampton taxpayers do not owe the nation any shouldering of special financial burdens brought on only as forced subsidizing of the ambitions of developers. Ft Monroe is a national treasure, even while also a local asset – even though Virginia's leaders have dithered, delayed and dodged for seven years now about that. As it stands now, I can't second this one until Rick B3 clears up the ambiguity. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Multifacted Vision
<b>Idea Detail</b>	In developing the vision and master plan for Fort Monroe a key focus must be to use the wide variety of assets to draw people...maximize the assets across an array of topics, just like a mall needs customer traffic from multiple demographics to be economically sustainable.  The advantage that Fort Monroe has is that there are many groups of development topics or strategies that obviously present themselves across the peninsula. The master plan must focus on all these multiple categories, and not just one or two, to ensure an economically viable and sustainable future. For example, there are obvious categories such as residential neighborhoods, recreation, education, history, music & arts, and restaurants...but tourist lodging, ecotourism, commercial office space, event planning, and several other topics also deserve substantial attention. As each of these can be thoroughly fleshed out, potentially using community focus groups for each topical category, then a well intergrated and complementary series of development strategies can be crafted encompassing an array of options across the various categories. Then executed together, as part of a comprehensive plan, they can provide a really vibrant area with an array of inducements to draw a variety of people to Fort
<b>Idea Author</b>	Glenn B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I defintiely don't advocate McDonalds and extensive new building. I am concerned that we focus too much on the one or two approaches, such as the National Park. The master plan must integrate innovative ideas across multiple development categories (recreation, music & arts, history ,etc) through building a series of integrated development strategies.   By Glenn B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Having more than 1 approach is good. It would be very difficult to stop the spread of residential and tourist building, though. And how long before there would be a controversy over including a McDonalds (even if it is "tastefully built")? It is too easy to let money guide decisions where preservation of history is concerned. It is easier to preserve history first than trying to bring it back after it has been built over/around. Please use Richmond VA. and the Confederate White House as an example of what not to do. The Confederate White House is encroached upon by a modern city. Thank you for your considerations and ideas.   By Al V

<b>Comment 3</b>	Yes! Preserve now so the uniqueness of Ft. Monroe is not lost to the future visitors who would love to experience what we have today and what Ft. Monroe has contributed to history. "Modern" development for financial expediency would take away this national historical and environmental treasure before it even has a chance to be known beyond the Hampton Roads area.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	A Site for Eternal Learning and Celebration
<b>Idea Detail</b>	My vision for Fort Monroe would have plenty of historical monuments and markers to celebrate all the major contributions to US history that were made possible by its four-century existence. There would be plenty of open and unspoiled land and waters. None of the property would be surrendered to private ownership--only leasing. All the major landmarks would be preserved as such. Other non-critical buildings would be adapted for suitable tenants, for income other than from tourism. Academics and creative arts would abound, in study and presentation. All the public would feel comfortable and welcome, knowing that all of Fort Monroe was theirs. Walking and cycling would be most enjoyable and preferred, and families would wish to spend much time there. A small inn would be there for guests, with a few non-corporate eateries and shops that would suit the park. The Army would maintain a foothold on the fort, and preserve and continue all their enriching traditions. The National Park Service would be the steward of the whole site, forever.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jean S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Jean S3, you've been doing a bit of research and a lot of thinking on this. I can't find anything to add or change.... a most concise and agreeable entry! You've hit on all the important issues. Thank you.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Renovate Existing Historical Structures
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Restore the Arsnal Building inside and out to the Civil War period where they manufactured gun carriages.
<b>Idea Author</b>	bob S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Cluster Resort Hotel
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Repurpose a group of adjacent buildings to form a cluster style resort hotel.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Richard S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	As long as the intrinsic appeal of the the Fort is not compromised. Charm, comfort and amenities can be well-marketed, without a commercialistic presence on the Fort.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Exactly!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Not sure what this idea means -- it could mean an Ocean City, MD or Va. Beach type group of hotels, which would be entirely inappropriate and a big mistake.   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	What I had in mind was to repurpose existing buildings with little or no change in appearance, keeping the same harmony of place.   By Richard S
<b>Comment 5</b>	I would have to have a lot more details regarding a "cluster style resort hotel" on this site before I could comment or "second" it ...   By Steve F
<b>Idea Title</b>	Restore Existing Historical Structures
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Restore one of the many bunkers along the seawall to include the disappearing guns of pre-WW II vintage.
<b>Idea Author</b>	bob S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Waterfront's Greatest Potential
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe has the potential of becoming the best waterfront property on the East Coast. It can become the "Martha's Vineyard" of the "first" Hampton through its architecture and mixed use. The best modern example of this would be Beachtown in Galveston, Texas. Architecture defines this waterfront community, along with its Towncenter which is aimed to have all the amenities for the beach including dining and entertainment. Go to <a href="http://www.beachtowngalveston.com/home.htm">http://www.beachtowngalveston.com/home.htm</a> for more details about Beachtown. Picture a Hilton Hotel on the waterfront then image a place in Hampton where people traveled hundreds of miles to vacation, shop, and enjoy unique festivals. Then one day somebody asks "Whatever happened to Virginia Beach?"
<b>Idea Author</b>	Stephanie W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	20
<b>Comment 1</b>	Ft. Monroe has history like no other place & doesn't need a Hilton Hotel!!Put the Hilton Hotel in Phoebus or Buckroe Beach since it has already been sold out.   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 2</b>	This idea would destroy Fort Monroe as we know it. Another reason to make it all a National Park.   By bob S
<b>Comment 3</b>	No thanks! That sounds like Pandora's Box.   By Kelly P
<b>Comment 4</b>	We do not need to replicate Martha's Vineyard, Galveston, nor any other place. Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe is unique and intrinsically important to US history, for a multitude of reasons. To turn this sacred site into a commercial resort would be a travesty. We would be wondering, "Whatever happened to Fort Monroe?"   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	What a mistake this would be!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 6</b>	i would improve this idea by ignoring in. what a hideous idea...picture a hilton hotel? how about picture a pristine beach that everyone can access, not just hotel guests. put the hotels some other place but don't contaminate open spaces with buildings in an attempt to attract people to open spaces.  i just drove around Ft Monroe the other day. the entire place is remarkably small. just one hilton hotel and the parking lot required for guests would wipe out a huge chunk of the place.  why rush to pave over a place that has so far been spared the asphalt assault?   By R M

<b>Comment 7</b>	Others have touched on this, but my thought is that attempting to create a mini-version of the Virginia Beach oceanfront would rob the area of an opportunity (and perhaps the last opportunity) to preserve a large public space on the waterfront. If you look around the waterfront in Hampton Roads, you see lots of Condos, resort hotels, etc. What you don't see (other than in very small, limited doses) is space set aside for the public simply to "be." Sure, there's Ocean View Park in Norfolk and Huntington in Newport News, but each is small and does not offer near the potential that such a space at Fort Monroe has.   By Brian K
<b>Comment 8</b>	If Stephanie W3's vision was brought into dominate, one day people would be asking "Whatever happened to Fort Monroe???"   By Steve F
<b>Comment 9</b>	Stephanie W3 says "I absolutely agree with a National Park for the Moat only, to include the historic homes." Well, Stephanie may not know we already will have a national park that not only includes the moat but also 244 acres of open space to northeast, so we have already moved beyond the purely private development model for Fort Monroe outside the moat, thankfully. Hampton does not need to pay for the National Monument's operation or maintenance, the nation does that.  All the state (not the City of Hampton) needs to cover are the costs of the area not owned and operated by NPS and there is no reason to believe that the North Gate, Historic Village and state buildings within moat cannot cover their costs without permanently bifurcating the National Monument or destroying the potential for a grand public place with natural lands directly appurtenant to the moated fortress, or developing the South Waterfront. By suggesting that Hampton revenues are less than Newport News, Stephanie may be suggesting using Fort Monroe as a "cash cow" for City of Hampton's needs. Fort Monroe is not to be used in that way, and FMA Chair Terrie Suit is on record that it should not be so used. Rather the FMA must locate revenues to cover "its" costs, including a fee in lieu of property taxes to City where residents' and businesses' taxes on Fort Monroe state
<b>Comment 10</b>	Mark, I agree with you partially. Actually, I was referring to the State taxes and Federal. But yes, FM should add to Hampton in the form of revenue, I doubt if it will ever be a "cash cow". But I can say FM does need attractions to bring people to Hampton. If not future residents, the current residents should have amenities like a coffee shop to walk to, or a place to hear live music. (By the way, I'm not suggesting these things be solely for FM residents. Give a reason for a Richmond resident to want to come to Hampton.   By Stephanie W
<b>Comment 11</b>	Stephanie W3 says "I absolutely agree with a National Park for the Moat only, to include the historic homes." Well, Stephanie may not know we already will have a national park that not only includes the moat but also 244 acres of open space to northeast, so we have already moved beyond the purely private development model for Fort Monroe, thankfully. Hampton does not need to pay for the National Monument's operation or maintenance, the nation does that.  All the state (not the City of Hampton) needs to cover are the costs of the area not owned and operated by NPS and there is no reason to believe that the North Gate, Historic Village and state buildings within moat cannot cover their costs without permanently bifurcating the National Monument or destroying the potential for a grand public place with natural lands directly appurtenant to the moated fortress, and the South Waterfront preserved. By suggesting that Hampton revenues are less than Newport News, Stephanie may be suggesting using Fort Monroe as a "cash cow" for City of Hampton's needs. Fort Monroe is not to be used in that way, and FMA Chair Terrie Suit is on record that it should not be so used. Rather the FMA must locate revenues
<b>Comment 12</b>	StephanieW# says "I absolutely agree with a National Park for the Moat only, to include the historic homes." Well, I hope Stephanie knows we already will have a national park that not only includes the moat but also 244 acres of open space to northeast, so we have already moved beyond the private development model, thankfully. Hampton does not need to pay for the National Monument's operation or maintenance, the nation does that. All the state (not City of Hampton) needs to cover is the costs of the area not owned and operated by NPS and there is no reason to believe that the North Gate, Historic Village and state buildings within moat can cover their costs without permanently bifurcating the National Monument or destroying potential for a grand public place with natural lands directly appurtenant to moated fortress.   By mark P
<b>Comment 13</b>	I agree with reply commenters Scott Butler, Mark Perreault and Steve F1, except that -- meaning no disrespect to the anonymous Stephanie W3, whose profile is locked, and who could have a developer interest -- I'd like to add bluntly that they are too gentle about this idea. It plainly represents almost all of the worst in what we have been fighting for seven years. Fort Monroe's Chesapeake Bay sense of place will matter for centuries. This idea is precisely the wrong way to go with that. Please see Tom Gear's idea about making a REAL national park. There will still be plenty of room for development on the bridge-tunnel side. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 14</b>	I absolutely agree with a National Park for the Moat only, to include the historic homes. It's the right thing to do. And no I am not a developer. But I lived in many places and know what makes money for a city. If all of Fort Monroe was a National Park, then I ask "Who pays to maintain it?". The only answers I received is Taxpayers and Admission Tickets. Aren't you paying too much taxes now? I hear politicians say its only a few pennies more per taxpayer. But if everything was just a few pennies more in taxes, then those pennies turn to dollars. Next thing you know, taxpayers are having to decide which bill to pay. The City of Hampton does not generate nearly as much revenue as the city of Newport News, but we can. Tell me how a National Park expanding outside of the moat will generate revenue without increasing taxes. I would love to hear it and support it.   By Stephanie W
<b>Comment 15</b>	Our plan makes more money, not less. Edward Ayers calls FM the site of the greatest moment in American history -- events set in motion by self-emancipators, transforming the Civil War and America itself. I'll post an idea about World Heritage Site status for FM, almost all of which was a nat'l historic landmark for a half-century before part became a fake nat'l monument with a gaping hole for developers on the sense-of-place-defining bayfront. No one is asking for all of FM to become a nat'l park. Persistent, bizarre framing has FM as a possession and burden for Hampton taxpayers. Do D.C. taxpayers maintain the national mall? It's not too late for leaders assertively to get this _national_ duty right. Fix the fake national park, and Hampton becomes a destination instead of a pass-through, the Historic Triangle can become a Historic Diamond, and we'll steward this national treasure properly -- and profitably -- despite our leaders' seven years of overdevelopment-fixated parochialism.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 16</b>	Actually some of my friends want the entire Fort Monroe a national park, and some of their friends. As Mark P3 mentioned, we need something to attract people to FM. I suggested, something more than just a place to take a tour. Give people a variety of reasons to come to FM. Sure you can already live at FM, but let's give them amenities such as restaurants, entertainment, or how about a place to scuba dive or parasail without having to increase taxes, in this case State and Federal taxes (didn't mention city taxes, but who knows what the future holds).   By Stephanie W
<b>Comment 17</b>	I agree with Scott below -- we best attract visitors by providing something special, not trying to be another more or less typical commercialized beach or resort community. With the Army's stewardship since 1824, we have been bequeathed a historical and natural treasure which can be enhanced and will have an appeal unique on East Coast of US.   By mark P

<b>Comment 18</b>	Sounds like moving in this direction would lead to an exclusivity about the area that, yes, some would be able to afford to enjoy but which most would not ....   By Steve F
<b>Comment 19</b>	Adaptively reused historic buildings, like the old barracks on the Parade Ground, could become resort facilities with the proper ambience for Fort Monroe, and the shorelines and viewshed areas leading to them could be left open with beautiful water views for visitors to enjoy.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 20</b>	Just look at the arial views of this gorgeous treasure. There are hundreds of resorts with the fancy hotels, restaurants, shopping et al. But, where else can you find anything like Fort Monroe? Once the commercialism begins, the grandeur of her special contribution to our history is lost forever. Please build the hotels and other amenities on the other side of Mill Creek. Phoebus is full of vacant lots just begging for development. Certainly, in order to attract visitors to the National Park, we need places for them to stay, dine and shop. This is the greatest opportunity for Hampton to really step forward and finish what was begun with the downtown renaissance of the 60s. The best Master Plan for Ft.. Monroe will include Hampton's commitment to creating an inviting and exciting "gateway" to this unique among all parks in our nation. There are desolate strip malls along Mercury Blvd. approaching Ft. Monroe including Riverdale that are suited for family hotels, etc.   By Marcia M
<b>Idea Title</b>	Residential Community
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe should be a residential community with the STEM Academy inside the community. All vacant land not a part of the National Monument should be filled with new brick housing matching the current architecture no more than 2 stories above the historic flood level. Most commercial activities should be in Phoebus easily accessible by walking or bike. A community of 3,000 residents will be needed to economically sustain the community.
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Given the fact that FM frequently floods, new development is not a very wise idea. Add to flooding from storms, sea level rise, and area subsidence, makes new residential homes and businesses a poor choice. Insurance is another issue to consider. In many waterside areas in Hampton Roads, insurance companies have stopped issueing policies.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	I think it's best to avoid any new development entirely--fix up some of the old historical buildings and get rid of the moldy, run-down more recent stuff. Ft. Monroe doesn't need tightly packed condo-type housing--that wouldn't make a very nice neighborhood and it wouldn't enhance the National park experience for visitors.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	I agree with Susan! There should NOT be any houses, apartments or condo...or office buildings addedto Fort Monroe. Keep the developers out!   By Ken P
<b>Comment 4</b>	Assuring green space in the areas to be developed. Yes, there is the NM, but all communities should not be solid houses and paved streets.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 5</b>	There is a lot good about this idea (especially pedestrian/bike connection to commercial activities in Phoebus) but we need to keep Wherry Quarter predominately green, as well as South Waterfront, to allow adding these two areas to National Monument in future, which will assure the national distinctiveness and appeal of Fort Monroe in perpetuity.   By mark P
<b>Comment 6</b>	Sounds promising ... so long as not "all" non-developed or non-monument land was built upon ...   By Steve F
<b>Idea Title</b>	Think tank
<b>Idea Detail</b>	A think tank, like the Rand Corporation. Like the military it would have a large payroll and would be environmentally friendly.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Al G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great suggestion! An adaptive re-use rental of an existing facility would be ideal, and this would have relatively little impact on transportation, too!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	I expect you are right on the traffic.   By mark P
<b>Comment 3</b>	A think tank might be a suitable tenant of existing historic buildings or maybe in North Gate -- but parking would be an issue, and that would have to be thought out. Large parking facilities and rush hour traffic could have an adverse impact on achieving a grand public place on Fort Monroe.   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	The buildings near the North Gate would, indeed, be an ideal place to locate it. Also some of the office buildings between the Chamberlin Hotel and where the Commissary used to be.  I don't see how a think tank would create any more traffic problems that existed when the Army had a garrison there. The projected think tank would have a much smaller staff than the Army's garrison. A think tank would not be a tourist attraction so their traffic would not create a problem.   By Al G
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Best Model For Our Fort Monroe Is Itself
<b>Idea Detail</b>	To stand in an ancient, vaulted cathedral, or in the workshop of a bygone master of creative thought, or on a battlefield where pivotal events in history occurred, can fire the imagination of the observer; not with fantastical imaginings, but with a sense of understanding of how we got to where we are, and with a sense of experiencing greatness of past events. This is ever so true when experiencing Fort Monroe.  While this piece of land and its waters existed since time immemorial, the history of our country is but a mere 405 years. As a nation, culture or society we cannot compare in duration to those of many millennia, yet in our four centuries, we have produced a wealth of the greatest political and social thought, advancements in sciences and medicine, and creations in literature and arts. We are no mean people... and our beginnings, as a nation can be traced to Cape Comfort/Fort Algernon/Fort Monroe. No other site in this country has written an enduring history as intrinsically germinal to USA, as has this one. This IS the heart of America.  When, by our decisions and actions, we write history; we must ensure that it is the best that can be written. On this sacred land, we have a wealth of living history - no facsimiles, no replicas - we have real, concrete evidence of actual stories that made our nation what it is; and it is our duty, as Americans, to ensure the best in its continuing history. This can only be done if we eschew the temporal desires of the few, and choose to forever celebrate - without compromising any part of the land and waters - all the
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1

<b>Comment 1</b>	Bravo!!! Exceptional!!! This really says it all!!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	High tech jobs
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Use the TRADOC facility for a community of technology companies designed to create interactions among them to foster innovation
<b>Idea Author</b>	Robert R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I would rather see a more unifying and historically suitable entity in the TRADOC Headquarters Building. There are many other sites on Fort Monroe that could accomodate your suggestion   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Perhaps a combination of a look to the past and one to the future...a museum on the first floor and Google on the second?   By Robert R
<b>Comment 3</b>	I would rather see a more unifying and historically fitting entity in the TRADOC Headquarters Building. There are many other sites on Fort Monroe that could accomodate your suggestion.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Preserving open space
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>TO: Those who will be the decision makers</p> <p>RE: Some thoughts about the future of Fort Monroe</p> <p>On an environmental level, the 40 acres of wetlands should at all costs be preserved. I live in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (our Antietam Creek flows into the Potomac River) and after 20 years of lukewarm efforts to improve the Bay, it appears to be dying. One major cause is development that has been allowed along the shorelines. Allowing even more impervious surfaces on Fort Monroe will increase the inevitable flooding. Renovate and sell the housing, but do not build more. Officers' quarters at Fort Sheridan Ill. (another BRAC casualty) are selling for close to a million.</p> <p>I have been reading about the flooding problems in Norfolk and the Hampton Roads area. It makes no sense to build when in 20 years or so millions will have to be spent to build levees to protect property that shouldn't have been built on in the first place.</p> <p>I also implore you on a emotional level. My father was, before he married, quartered in the casemates. He died in 2000 or he would be joined in this battle with me. I was born at Fort Monroe in 1943 and lived there until 1949, lastly on Tidball Road. My brother was also born there in 1948. I have visited several times, most recently in 2009.</p> <p>Where is Frederick Law Olmstead when we need him? Unfortunately, he died in 1903, but not before he had left behind an incredible legacy promoting open space as a positive force in an increasingly crowded nation. His crown jewel is New York City's</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Pat H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Pat, you've been a stalwart from the start, more than six years ago. In my view there's a lot to love about your new writeup above. But I hope you pull it back and modify it so that it says <b>**unambiguously**</b> that the missing bayfront land <b>**must**</b> be incorporated into the national monument or national park. The authorities are grimly persistent about Fort Monroe being mainly a village and only secondarily a national treasure. They can take your writeup and say that it justifies what they want to do, since they claim to be planning "compatible" development. Worse, they have on their side even a National Trust for Historic Preservation that as recently as a few weeks ago, in a Daily Press op-ed, falsely proclaimed that President Obama had already made Fort Monroe a national monument. In my view we must all be crystal clear: Unify the national monument/park by including that bizarrely omitted land! Thanks. (The omitted land can be seen in a glance: <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> )   By Steve C
<b>Comment 2</b>	Anything I can do to refine my thoughts to better serve the cause of protecting and preserving this national shrine.   By Pat H
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>What would you like to see included in Fort Monroe National Monument?</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Virginian-Pilot calls for including missing bayfront Wherry land
<b>Idea Detail</b>	An editorial ( <a href="http://hamptonroads.com/2012/04/next-step-fort-monroe">http://hamptonroads.com/2012/04/next-step-fort-monroe</a> ) in the Virginian-Pilot, Tidewater's leading daily, begins, "The Wherry Quarter, roughly 100 acres of state-owned waterfront land dividing two sections of the new Fort Monroe National Monument, should be permanently set aside as open space and added to the park as soon as possible." (On the modified National Park Service map at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> , red marks Wherry land.) The editors declare, "Protecting the waterfront from development -- any development -- is critical to securing the integrity of the new national monument. Its value as a historic site, a natural resource and tourist attraction will be degraded if the Wherry Quarter is not preserved." The editors end by advocating adamant insistence: "Various state and federal officials have said they've heard that message loud and clear. But let them know again. And keep letting them know until the waterfront is set aside and incorporated in the national monument." In other words, it's not enough to ask meekly for a feeble "corridor" between the two parts. Or to plead for protection of the omitted land until some future day when maybe, if we owners of Fort Monroe are lucky, our leaders will finally take steps for
<b>Idea Author</b>	Steve C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	37
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Re-Create View to Honor Fortress and Those Who Have Served Here

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>We should honor the Fortress and those who have served here by re-creating the viewscape.</p> <p>Why was Fort Monroe built? It was built to help defend this country from foreign ships that attempted to sail up the Chesapeake Bay, as they had during the War of 1812. During the 1800's and into the 1900's there were soldiers on top of the walls of the Fortress, with their eyes directed toward the Chesapeake Bay. Today, because of development during the 20th Century, the opportunity to see what they would have seen has been lost. Photos and videos have been posted at <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/</a> , <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/open-space/viewsheds/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/open-space/viewsheds/</a> , and <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/open-space/796-2/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/open-space/796-2/</a> that illustrate this situation.</p> <p>With the decision to demolish the Wherry housing in the next year or two and the possibility of removing other non-historic structures at some future time, this viewscape can be re-created. Because all of this land is in public ownership we have a great opportunity to accomplish this goal. Any new development can be carefully situated on the Mill Creek side of the fortress, in the North Gate area. Not only would the view from the fortress toward the northeast be restored, visitors could actually see the fortress from a distance as they approached it, walking on an expanse of green. Those who enjoyed the views of the Chesapeake Bay, as they walked or rode their bicycles along the seawall, could also have a clear view of the fortress, instead of several rows of apartments and other buildings.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	27
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	9
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Unless the Wherry Quarter and its waterfront are added to the NP holdings and saved from private ownership and development, the real Freedom's Fort story will never be told or be able to be visually expressed. Jamestown interprets its history with a recreated Indian Village just as a FMNP should have in the Wherry Quarter. When swarms of black people sought refuge at Fort Monroe, they originally camped out in Wherry Quarter and other open areas of Fort Monroe. It was only later when their numbers became so great that it became necessary to divert the flow into "contraband camps" in Phoebus and Hampton. Slaves camped in open areas on Fort Monroe and were given rations in exchange for service...that story can only be told correctly if Wherry Quarter is included in the national park holdings and used in part for such slave camp reenactments.   By Sandra C</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	Beautiful... this is a great, most fitting and practical idea to foster the living history aspect of Fort Monroe!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Beautiful... this is a great, most fitting and practical idea to foster the living history aspect of Fort Monroe!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Beautiful... this is a great, most appropriate and practical idea to foster the living history aspect of Fort Monroe!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>Unless the Wherry Quarter and its waterfront are added to the NP holdings and saved from private ownership and development, the real Freedom's Fort story will never be told or be able to be visually expressed. Jamestown interprets its history with recreated Indian Villages just as the FMNP should do in the Wherry Quarter with slave camps. When swarms of black people sought refuge at Fort Monroe, they originally camped out in Wherry Quarter and other open areas of Fort Monroe. It was only later when their numbers became so great that it became necessary to divert the flow into "contraband camps" in Hampton and Fort Monroe. Slaves camped on Fort Monroe and were given rations in exchange for service...that story will only be told correctly if Wherry Quarter is included in the national park holdings.   By Sandra C</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>Unless the Wherry Quarter and its waterfront are added to the NP holdings and saved from private ownership and development, Fort Monroe's real Freedom's Fort story will never be able to be visually expressed correctly.</p> <p>When the swarms of black people sought refuge at Fort Monroe, they originally camped out in open areas of Fort Monroe that included the Wherry Quarter area, also known as Old Point Comfort. Later   By Sandra C</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	Great entry! You have vision!!!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 8</b>	This is a great demonstration of why the old Wherry apartments and other junky stuff should be removed and the land left open (and, of course, added to the national park holdings)! Thanks for the visual evidence of the presently spoiled view from the fortress's ramparts.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 9</b>	Amen, Adrian Whitcomb! I love that panorama video that you posted here showing that the view is ruined from the ramparts looking north and northeast up the bayfront. For more on what needs to be done to make the fake national monument into a real national monument or park, I hope people will invest just a few seconds in the two illustrations and their brief single caption at the top of the page at <a href="http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> . Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Vision for Nature at Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Visitors often seek places to visit which are in harmony with nature. Ways this can be done at Fort Monroe include trails for walkers only, designed with permeable materials.</p> <p>We can also have other trails for bicyclists. Fort Monroe is a bird watchers paradise. We can add to the one viewing platform, plus build walkways into Mill Creek, with help from volunteers, including students and scouts. In order to prepare for the second-fastest sea level rise in the country, we can research and establish native trees and plants to protect the beaches and wetlands. In some areas we can grow a small coastal forest. The area from the Wherry Quarter northward is excellent land to prudently turn back to nature, which we can enjoy.</p> <p>Nature's marine life can also be found in Mill Creek, and we can provide the opportunity for visitors to explore in canoes, kayaks, and rowboats.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tyla M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	25
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Certainly a great spot for birds. Open spaces should include constructed nesting areas to bring in more birds (do not disturb!) and utilize Mill Creek side.   By David D
<b>Comment 2</b>	My family, friends and I have always particularly enjoyed the presence of the giant ravens on the Batteries, and the pelicans and egrets on the shoals between the two bridges. Cycling and walking has always been an enjoyable pastime on Fort Monroe. Natural protection will only increase the experience of the visitor, and will complement the historical and artistic aspects of the post. We can only wonder what natural treasures the Kikotan enjoyed on this site.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I agree it would be great to have the green space for birding, walking, biking, etc. all the way from the moated fortress to the top of the north beach area (include Wherry as natural space).   By Susan B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Improve it by including the Wherry Quarter IN this vision statement. Not just "from" the Wherry Quarter.   By Ron W

<b>Comment 5</b>	Yes, I agree, the area in and from Wherry Quarter northward is excellent land to prudently turn back to nature. Thanks for your comment. --Tyla   By Tyla M
<b>Comment 6</b>	I concur!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Scenic and Historic Viewsheds
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Scenic views are popular with visitors to national parks. Much is done to protect those views. Historic landscapes are also very important and help to re-create a sense of time and place. Fort Monroe has great potential to re-create scenic and historic viewsheds. The ongoing value of these viewsheds is much greater than anything that could be gained from new development in the Wherry Quarter.</p> <p>These photos don't line up perfectly, but together they show how the view from the fortress wall at Fort Monroe toward the Chesapeake Bay is affected by the Wherry Housing. This housing is to be demolished in the near future. The best use for this and the rest of the Wherry Quarter would be as open land so as to enhance the views from and of the fortress.</p> <p>Please use the link below to go to the website of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, where you will find photos, links to videos, and more information about Fort Monroe.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	23
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	What a great opportunity for the visitor on the moat to view the Chesapeake as the colonial defenders did centuries ago! The Wherry housing is of little historic significance, but the land is sacred, in that slave refugees sailed to those shores and freed themselves during the War between the States. As has been stated elsewhere, historical re-enactments and facsimile encampments in Wherry Quarter would be most appropriate, neither of which would occlude the spectacular vista, nor permanently mar the great open environment; both of which are preciously scarce in our region. Nature and history in harmony... we could ask for nothing more. Development in Wherry and on the Chesapeake beachfront would only devalue the land and waters, and erradicate any opportunity for positive valuation and activity that may celebrate great moments in world history on Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Amen! to that.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	This sounds like a good idea!   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 4</b>	What a great opportunity for the visitor on the moat to view the Chesapeake as the colonial defenders did centuries ago! The Wherry housing is of little historic significance, but the land is sacred, in that slave refugees sailed to those shores and freed themselves during the War between the States. As has been stated elsewhere, historical re-enactments and facsimile encampments in Wherry Quarter would be most appropriate, neither of which would occlude the spectacular vista, nor permanently mar the great open environment; both of which are preciously scarce in our region. Nature and history in harmony... we could ask for nothing more. Development in Wherry and on the Chesapeake beachfront would only devalue the land and waters, and erradicate any opportunity for positive valuation and activity that may celebrate great moments in world history on Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	I agree. What an experience for the visitor to view the Chesapeake as the colonial defenders did centuries ago. The Wherry housing has little historic significance, but that land is sacred in the fact that slave refugees sailed to those shores and freed themselves during the War between the States. As has been stated elsewhere, historical re-enactments and facsimile of encampments in Wherry would be a tremendous draw to Fort Monroe; which would neither occlude the beautiful vista, nor mar the natural environment; both of which are so preciously scarce in our region. History and environment in harmony... what more could one desire here. Development in Wherry Quarter and on the Chesapeake beachfront would obliterate anything positive! that we could appreciate here.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 6</b>	I agree. What an experience for the visitor to view the Chesapeake as the colonial defenders did centuries ago. The Wherry housing has little historic significance, but that open land is sacred in the fact that slave refugees landed on those shores and freed themselves during the War between the States. As has been stated elsewhere, historical re-enactments and facsimile of encampments in Wherry would be a tremendous draw to Fort Monroe; which would neither occlude the beautiful vista, nor mar the natural environment, which is so preciously scarce in our region.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Wool, the twin partner of Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Wool, formerly Fort Calhoun, is a vital part of the Fort Monroe story. It must be part of that story and provide access for Fort Monroe visitors. Who knows that it was the "Camp David" for President Andrew Jackson - his refuge from Washington, D.C.? Who knows that it was an engineering failure totally frustrating Lt. Robert E. Lee, its onetime project engineer, and all his colleagues from West Point? The National Park Service, and the Fort Monroe Authority should cooperate with its owner (Virginia) and its manager (Hampton) to develop programs and a ferry to tell the fascinating story of the "Rip-Raps". Eventually it should be incorporated into the Fort Monroe National Monument.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Louis G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	22
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	The Hampton History Museum, with Fort Wool in the harbour, should have a close working relationship with Fort Monroe, (and the Casemate Museum, in particular). At the very least, this should occur. Future incorporation into the Fort Monroe National Historic Park would be most desirable. Ferried visits to Fort Wool, from Old Point Comfort, would be capital-generating, and further enhance the tourists' experience. There exist several charter vessels in Hampton that may be contracted to fulfill this need.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Good idea! I've visited Ft. Wool and it's an interesting and little-known place! It would be great to have ferries bringing Ft. Monroe/Ft. Wool visitors to and from other places in Hampton Roads (and perhaps cut down on vehicular traffic at Ft. Monroe).   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Louis Guy, who has long worked hard to save Fort Monroe, has also long advocated this great (in my view, anyway) idea of including Fort Wool in the national monument or national park. I hope that Kelly Place of Williamsburg will chime in, for he has a directly complementary idea. Kelly is a waterman with a vision about the maritime dimensions of future Fort Monroe. I hope he joins this discussion and tells his thoughts about incorporating a waterborne tourism dimension in the "Historic Diamond" of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Jamestown and now Fort Monroe. I think he has in mind that so far, we're scanting opportunities to plan to use the York River, the James River, Hampton Roads and the Chesapeake Bay in what is coming for the commonwealth with Fort Monroe (and, as Mr. Guy suggests, for Fort Wool). Thanks. Steve Corneliusen   By Steve C

<b>Comment 4</b>	FWIW, in the comment “Peninsula's Historic Diamond: full story of America's founding” under the category “Do you think the Peninsula is a great region?” I’ve explained what I mean by “Historic Diamond.” Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe - Walker's Paradise in Core Hampton Roads
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Hampton Roads is poor in great places to walk (compare hundreds of acres along Potomac in DC, or along Charles in Boston, or even along Hudson and East River in Manhattan). If National Monument is expanded to include Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront (i.e., Batteries Parrott and Irwin and land on Bay side of Fenwick Road connecting them to Wherry Quarter), Old Point Comfort will be the most popular place to walk in Hampton Roads for Hampton Roads' 1.7 million residents. This will support restaurants, small lodging in North Gate, Historic Village and do much to economically sustain Fort Monroe, while improving health and fitness of local residents. It will also attract large number of out of town visitors.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	21
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Hampton already has Sandy Bottom Nature Park with over 456 acres of walking trails   By Kady C
<b>Comment 2</b>	Sandy Bottom is great, but it's no Fort Monroe. The Bay views, views of shipping and nearby fortress, other historic sites and amenities to come in historic village and North Gate have powerful appeal that Sandy Bottom will never have. And having more (and different) rather than fewer trails is great -- should we develop Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge or False Cape State Park because there is First Landing on other side of town? There is no oversupply of natural areas in core Hampton Roads, especially on water.   By mark P
<b>Comment 3</b>	Sandy Bottom is nice, but it can not compare, nor begin to offer what Fort Monroe has.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Grand Public Place with International Significance
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Only if we think big will we be able to accomplish the full potential of Fort Monroe. Short-term gains for development will mean a great loss of what this place could have been for all of us and for many generations to come. Fort Monroe has great national and international significance and we should carefully proceed in creating a master plan with this in mind.  Please use the link below to go to the website of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, where you will find photos, links to videos, and more information about Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	21
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Absolutely correct!! Long-term vision will produce the finest results. We must exchew any plans, that might become irreversible, which would produce temporal and limited results. The ultimate goal of a unified Fort Monroe National Historic Park will offer the world the most economically sound, historically and aesthetically satisfying, and environmentally beautiful treasure, for all time!    By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Absolutely correct!! Long-term vision will produce the finest results. We must exchew any plans, that might become irreversible, which would produce temporal and limited results. The ultimate goal of a unified Fort Monroe National Historic Park will offer the world the most economically sound, historically and aesthetically satisfying, and environmentally beautiful treasure, for all time!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Absolutely correct!! Long-term vision will produce the finest results. We must exchew any plans, that might become irreversible, which would produce temporal and limited results. The ultimate goal of a unified Fort Monroe National Historic Park will offer the world the most economically sound, historically/ and aesthetically satisfying, and environmentally beautiful treasure, for all time!    By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Absolutely correct!! Long-term vision will produce the finest results. We must exchew any plans, that might become irreversible, which would produce temporal and limited results. The ultimate goal of a unified Fort Monroe National Historic Park will offer the world the most economically sound, historically/aesthetically satisfying, and environmentally beautiful treasure, for all time!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	A unified Fort Monroe National Monument
<b>Idea Detail</b>	This would include the Wherry Quarter and the south waterfront area( the batteries Parrott and Irwin, and the land on the water side of Fenwick Road between them and the Wherry Quarter. And strict standards to preserve all of the historic buildings on Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Barbara S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	21
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Native vegetation
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Monument would be an outstanding area for the restoration of native coastal vegetation. The restoration would benefit birds in the Atlantic Flyway and would certainly be of interest to tourists. It would provide an interesting interpretation theme.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	20
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Of course, the natural environment of the lands and waters of Fort Monroe would provide many excellent opportunities for ecological study and observation of indigenous flora and fauna. This could tie-in quite well with celebrating the presence of the Kikotan, who may have been here for several millennia, prior to 1608.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Absolutely, yes! It would be a great project to undertake, to restore the native coastal plants and trees. This will have the additional benefit of stabilizing the beach areas and the Mill Creek marsh areas. As we prepare for future storms, flooding, and rising sea levels, we should look to nature as often the best help.   By Tyla M
<b>Comment 3</b>	Of course, the natural environment of the lands and waters of Fort Monroe would provide many excellent opportunities for ecological study and observation of indigenous flora and fauna. This could tie-in quite well with celebrating the presence of the Kikotan, who may have been here for several millenia, prior to 1608.   By Luis O

<b>Idea Title</b>	Let's Not Create an Inholding Problem at Fort Monroe!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>It doesn't take much searching to locate the information below. Let's not create another problem in the middle of Fort Monroe National Monument!</p> <p>"Inholdings are privately held parcels within the boundaries of government owned and managed land, such as national parks, national forest, state parks or other protected areas. Inholdings are the result of private ownership prior to the designation of the land as a national or state park or forest.</p> <p>Over the past several decades conservation groups have worked to acquire and protect lands within these areas, either by direct acquisition or trades of land, in order to maintain and/or defragment large natural areas and protect existing ecosystems."</p> <p><a href="http://www.mojavedesertlandtrust.org/inholdings.html">http://www.mojavedesertlandtrust.org/inholdings.html</a></p> <p>Please see: "Private rights vs. public lands: Thousands of inholdings create conflicts inside federal lands"</p> <p><a href="http://www.hcn.org/issues/124/3946">http://www.hcn.org/issues/124/3946</a></p> <p>Also: "In-Holdings: The Undiscovered Crisis ...</p> <p>In the national park system, in-holdings are encumbered not only by the cost of the land but also by the power of individuals and their influence on elected officials who see the national park budget as a blank checkbook."</p> <p><a href="http://www.parktrust.org/parktrust_old/legacy/crisis.html">http://www.parktrust.org/parktrust_old/legacy/crisis.html</a></p> <p>Obviously there would be a great difference between a park with the Wherry Quarter included as open land and one with most of</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	20
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>On Fort Monroe, there are only three entities, of which I am aware, which should maintain their self-ownership existence: Saint Mary Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church (and rectory), The Chamberlin Hotel, and the Old Point Comfort Marina. These have shared in the history of the post. All other property (structures, land, and waters) of Fort Monroe should be protected as a National Historic Park. No to further privatization!</p> <p>  By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	That says it all very nicely!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>There are only three entities, of which I am aware, which should maintain their self-ownership existence: Saint Mary Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church (and rectory), The Chamberlin Hotel, and the Old Point Comfort Marina. All other property (structures, land, and waters) of Fort Monroe should be protected as a National Historic Park. No to further privatization!</p> <p>  By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>There are only three entities of which I am aware, which should maintain their self-ownership existence: Saint Mary Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church (and rectory), The Chamberlin Hotel, and the Old Point Comfort Marina. All other property (structures, land, and waters) of Fort Monroe should be protected as a National Historic Park. No further privatization!   By Luis O</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Recreation and History
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The fortress, which is under National Park Service easement, is the perfect place to tell the 19th and 20th century history of the fort--especially the 1819-1866 period (from the construction of the fortress through the Contraband story to the end of Jefferson Davis's incarceration). Visitors could walk from one historic site to another within the fortress walls--the casemates, Old Quarters 1, the Lee Quarters, and so on--and then hike on trails through a green Wherry or along its shorelines into the National Monument parkland, where there is a wonderful opportunity to tell the earlier history of Old Point Comfort as a Native American hunting ground and as one of the stops on John Smith's exploratory voyages around the Bay (a connection also to the national John Smith Water Trail). The Monument parkland offers, too, an opportunity for educating visitors about the natural history of the Bay (and the current challenges involving it) as they enjoy its beauty.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	19
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>While inside the fortress visitors will walk to the top of the walls and look out beyond the moat. With the demolishing of the Wherry Housing there will be a welcome view toward the Chesapeake Bay and once again we will be able to see what soldiers saw for many decades. Once we regain that view we can't afford to lose it.   By Adrian W</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	Excellent addendum to this entry!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Costumed Interpreters
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>They could be used at the Casemate Museum as docents, Building 1, drilling on the parade ground, and even possibly at one of the restored Endicott Batteries. Restored slave quarters with appropriate costumed interpreters can help the story of slavery at Fort Monroe as well, both its beginning and end.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Paul P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	18
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	8
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Fort Monroe has plenty of fine and beautiful buildings to serve as income generating venues. None need to be built on the Wherry Quarter which should be open for historic portrayal. The stories of Fort Monroe will be more fully related and appreciated in the proper settings--that is, WITHOUT UNNEEDED CONSTRUCTION!!! I like this man's idea. I would gladly pay for my grandchildren, and visiting family to see these sort of re-enactments.   By Jean S</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Lead the way with green technology incubator &amp; use the area as a prototype for green buildings, communities, &amp; energy uses. Perhaps it would bring grants &amp; can have exhibits or learning centers (to collaborate with STEAM Acadmy) that can be accessed by public on a fee-basis. Need to generate some funds.   By Sandra H</p>

<b>Comment 3</b>	Paul "Appropriate buildings can generate just as much tourist revenue as green space - in fact the area north of the fort already has a lot of green space, certainly room for recreational opportunities and festival activities." The FMA is more likely to organize, and to benefit from, festival activities than the National Monument is. I think we do agree, however, that residential development shouldn't occur in Wherry. As my photo-shopped Visualization of the Optimal Fort Monroe shows, I wouldn't object to a smallish lodge on the southern-most Mill Creek-side of Wherry, especially if it meant that the rest of Wherry wouldn't be developed.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Paul: "Green space is nice, but as a money generator that area could see some limited development, IMO, provided both the letter and spirit of the Fort Monroe PA and the FMA's Design Guidelines are followed." Compatible buildings in Wherry are no substitute for green space, which will help to generate tourism revenue by providing beautiful views and historic ambience, and by making possible recreational opportunities and festival activities. It is imperative, I believe, that the FMA expand its vision to include the National Monument it so energetically sought. This means that although it must produce revenue, it shouldn't do so at the expense of Fort Monroe's natural beauty and urban park character. It should find creative ways of marketing the historic buildings and developing North Gate that will produce adequate revenue without developing Wherry. It also needs to define its mission and revenue needs, with public input. The Master Plan process doesn't seem to be doing this.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 5</b>	Appropriate buildings can generate just as much tourist revenue as green space - in fact the area north of the fort already has a lot of green space, certainly room for recreational opportunities and festival activities; the Army used those areas all the time prior to leaving. The question is whether or not additional green space created by the removal of Wherry generates more money than new homes, rehabbing the current buildings, the restoration of a previous landmark hotel, or some mix in between. I personally see the 'no infill under any circumstances' view as narrow and infeasible and ultimately counter-productive to the welfare of the park, which is being established during very hard financial times. But that doesn't mean we should develop the area anything like the original re-use plan; careful, prudent, creative planning is needed, IMO, along with input from everyone at every point so all voices are heard. What the Master Plan needs is a variety of alternatives for the area.   By Paul P
<b>Comment 6</b>	I agree but before costumed interpreters can tell the whole story, the true story, the Wherry Quarter and its adjoining waterfront must be saved from private ownership and development of any kind. Eventually it must be included in the FM National Monument/Park to enable interpreters to be historically correct in explaining and pointing out the very spot, i.e., Wherry Quarter, where swarms of slaves who fled to Fort Monroe seeking freedom camped outside the old fortress until their numbers became so great it became necessary to divert the flow into "contraband camps" in Phoebus and in Hampton. Trying to honor and save Fort Mornoe's Freedom Fortress story with slave encampments for now and future generations will be impossible without the Wherry Quarter and its adjacent waterfront included within in Fort Monroe's National Monument/Park. Many seeking freedom arrived by water and landed at Old Point Comfort, i.e., the Wherry Quarter area of Fort Monroe..   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 7</b>	The Wherry area over its history has been developed and built before; there used to be all kinds of temporary housing and administrative offices there when the WWI and WWII camps were established there. Green space is nice, but as a money generator that area could see some limited development, IMO, provided both the letter and spirit of the Fort Monroe PA and the FMA's Design Guidelines are followed. As to private ownership, I would like to see a partnership between the state and private owners to split 50-50 ownership of anything built in that area, or rehab projects on the buildings already there. What no one wants, and what I don't see happening, is some kind of private, gated community for the rich that will deny the public access to the area or use of the beach, or huge, ugly hotel monstrosities. A full-scale, functional replica of the second Hygeia Hotel in that area might be an interesting thing, though, if someone could come up with the backing for such an ambitious plan.   By Paul P
<b>Comment 8</b>	In full agreement!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Good Planning Would Never Allow Inholdings to be Created
<b>Idea Detail</b>	From: "Private lands threaten sanctity of national parks"  "...Once lost to incompatible development, private inholdings can disrupt or destroy park views, undermine the experience of visitors, and often diminish the air and water quality while simultaneously increasing light and noise pollution,' according to the report.  National parks have an ultimate responsibility to acquire private property within their boundaries, said Ron Tipton, a senior vice president with the National Park Conservation Association, and most move gradually toward that goal."
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	17
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	How true! Once it's gone you never get a second chance.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 2</b>	My sentiments, as well!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Freedom's Fortress, the Contraband Story
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The amazing story of Baker, Mallory and Townsend, is a vital part of Freedom in America. How they stood up and reached for liberty in spite of all the odds as Virginia was seceding from the United States. It deserves a prominent place in the presentation of history at Fort Monroe, partly because it has been so little recognized. The National park Service will now do it justice.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Louis G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	17
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	insuring a boat landing is built along with historical markers and housing of the period.   By Karen F

<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Fyi, here's who they are:  Feb 05 2006   By Jim Hodges   Daily Press  On the night of May 23, 1861, Frank Baker, Sheppard Mallory and James Townsend slipped into a skiff and rowed across Hampton Roads from Sewell's Point in Norfolk to Old Point Comfort. Being out at night without permission was dangerous for slaves. That they didn't know what was ahead made their trip even more frightening.  But they knew what they were leaving: fortifications for a Confederate artillery battery that they helped build under the command of their master, Col. Charles K. Mallory. And they knew that he was going to take them south for more war work, forcing them to leave their families in Hampton behind.  For the rest of the story, go to <a href="http://articles.dailypress.com/2006-02-05/news/dp-news-ftmonclosefreedomfort_1_charles-k-mallory-gen-benjamin-butler-fort-monroe">http://articles.dailypress.com/2006-02-05/news/dp-news-ftmonclosefreedomfort_1_charles-k-mallory-gen-benjamin-butler-fort-monroe</a>    What a great story of history that could be told at the future Fort Monroe National Park!    By Susan W</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Interpretive Walking Trails
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Walking paths with interpretive signage that engages the viewer in the story. EX: following the path of the escaped slaves who were later called contraband; how did they get to the "island"; what did they see when they arrived; how did they go about locating Gen. Butler's men; how did they stay safe while traversing the area; what do we think they may have been feeling.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Kathy H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	16
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	I just think a walking trail is a phenomenal idea. Plus, develop a great museum with a great gift/bookstore.   By Sandra H
<b>Comment 2</b>	I think the NPS will be able to do a great job with interpreting this particular history and the walking trail is a good idea.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	I agree but the contraband story needs more than signage. Please read the idea entitled "Slave Camp"....similar recreated encampments, villages, settlements are beautifully done by the NPS in other NP's and if the Wherry Quarter and its waterfront are saved, the NPS will do a great job here too telling the story of the slave encampments set up in Wherry and other open areas on Fort Monroe.. The signage would be a plus when re-enactors are not available on off hours and days.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 4</b>	The NPS can do a great do with this particular historical interpretation.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Batteries renovated
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would like to see all existing battery remnants renovated and made safe for visitors to explore or for possible commercial use. Those that are beyond renovation should be interpreted as ruins with appropriate exhibits and signing. The batteries are an important component of America's coastal defense history.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	16
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great... any re-use will further the living history aspect of the post. I enjoyed exploring the batteries in my youth, I would enjoy doing so, again.    By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Great... any re-use will further the living history aspect of the post.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	FMA and NPS Should Have A Unified Vision for Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe (Old Point Comfort) should be viewed by everyone as a single place with an array of historic, natural, scenic, recreational, and community resources. The primary management entities--Fort Monroe Authority and National Park Service--should have a single vision for this special place and common goals. Preservation of the special resources of Fort Monroe and appropriate use of those resources should be in the minds of administrators, residents, visitors, business owners, and non-profit managers all the time. Defining what constitutes "appropriate" use will go on forever as it should, but FMA and NPS must determine from the start that a conservation ethic must manifest itself in every planning document, every activity, every development, and every meeting held by everyone involved with Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	alec G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	16
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	How true!! Unification is absolutely essential to make Fort Monroe's full potential manifest!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Yes! FMA and NPS with a single vision for a unified entity--PLEASE make this happen!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	I can't improve it! Well said Alec.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 4</b>	This is so well expressed that I want to enthusiastically endorse it. To fulfill its historic, recreational, and economic potential, Fort Monroe must become--and therefore must be jointly conceived and planned as--a unified entity. I especially like the conclusion: "FMA and NPS must determine from the start that a conservation ethic must manifest itself in every planning document, every activity, every development, and every meeting held by everyone involved with Fort Monroe."    By Scott B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe National Park sign
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would love to see a National Park sign at the gate(s) to Ft. Monroe rather than those big Divaris Real Estate signs--they're tacky and they send the message that the whole place is up for sale rather than welcoming people to visit one of America's newest national parks! By the way, I agree with all the other commentators that the park should be expanded to include the section (the Wherry Quarter) between the moated fort area and the northern green area. That could be a wonderful open, green area to connect the two parts and to give the visitors great views of the Bay and the fortress.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	16
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	One Chance To Get It Right

<b>Idea Detail</b>	We must stand together now to support a unified Fort Monroe National Monument which includes the entire site. If we get it right, the visitors will come and the revenues will support operations. This has been documented in other National Parks and was discussed at the meeting with NPS. Allowing commercial, residential or other non-Park related development on this site will dilute the significant as well as the feel of the Park. Our goal should be to have people step back in time and become a part of the history that is Fort Monroe. Once the site is compromised, it will be gone forever. There are so many opportunities available if we just have the courage and vision to support a unified Fort Monroe with strict standard to preserve and restore the history.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Betty B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	16
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	You are correct! We can not allow for anything to compromise the integrity of a Fort Monroe National Historic Park.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	I am certainly in sympathy with the idea of all of Fort Monroe being a national park, but given the economy, Congress's attitude toward spending, NPS budget constraints, and the recent House bill to limit the president's powers to declare a national park under the Antiquities Act, I am willing to settle for an occupied historic village held to high restoration and design standards, no matter who owns the buildings, and an open, green Wherry that is wholly or mostly incorporated into the National Monument. While not ideal, this arrangement would still create a grand and beautiful public place redolent of Fort Monroe's unique, multi-layered history.   By Scott B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Stargazing and astronomy
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe is unique in this area, in that a person standing on the Fort has an unobstructed view of the entire sky and horizon. This is an ideal place for astronomy groups to gather. Lectures and featured presentations about the heavens would be a great addition to the educational materials.  In addition, an appreciation of all aspects of the atmosphere, including those important to aviation, could be presented here. Hampton University has an atmospheric science program and, of course, we have NASA expertise nearby. These would be excellent resources.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ann M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	15
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Amateur astronomy was easily facilitated from the top of the moat, on the south side (furthest from city lights). We also utilized the top of the Chamberlin Hotel for telescopic observation. (During the day, the panoramic vista of Hampton Roads, from there, is breathtaking.) Maybe, with assistance from our neighbors at NASA, an astronomical observatory could be erected atop an existing, unused structure. At the very least, this type of activity should be encouraged and fostered.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Amateur astronomy was easily facilitated from the top of the moat, on the south side (furthest from city lights). We also utilized the top of the Chamberlin Hotel for telescopic observation. (During the day, the panoramic vista of Hampton Roads, from there, is breathtaking.) Maybe an astronomical observatory could be erected atop an existing, unused structure. At the very least, this type of activity should be encouraged and fostered.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Capitalize on NPS's own stated aversion to inholdings.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The National Park Service has stated its own aversion to inholdings [spaces between NPS Park areas, disconnecting parts of a Park] and tries to acquire or avoid these spaces. So why don't we avoid the mistake from the start? We have a chance to do it right. The Park Service states that inholdings decrease visitor enjoyment and make Park management more difficult. We should capitalize on the NPS's own position when advocating for a real, significant contiguous National Park. Having the only National Park on the Chesapeake Bay, a gateway to the John Smith Chesapeake Bay National Historic Water Trail [which became a National Park in 2007 and passes near the Fort Monroe beach], and space to participate in the President's Great Outdoor Initiative would be "feathers in our cap"! All the citizens who signed a petition, attended, and/or spoke up at the public comment meetings -- speak up again! Speak up now!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Karen D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	15
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Well said! But doesn't this comment omit the inevitable final line? "Unify the two parts of the present preposterously split national monument to make a TRUE national monument/park." Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 2</b>	You are so correct! We will forever lose the opportunity for something truly great, beautiful, inspiring and treasurable, if ALL the lands and waters of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe are not protected as a single National Historic Park.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Multifaceted Grand Public Place
<b>Idea Detail</b>	In my view, the diversity of the ideas presented in other responses to this topic reinforce a critical point--that Fort Monroe is valuable in different ways to different people, and that planning must acknowledge this reality in order for the monument to be a success. To history buffs, the contraband story, imprisonment of Jefferson Davis and Lee's quarters may be the biggest draw. To others, the history may be secondary to a serene, natural, beautiful landscape on the water. Still others might find it a top notch place to fish, or a great venue for festivals. Fort Monroe ought to be inviting to each group, the success of the Monument depends upon recognition of this diversity of public interests.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Brian K
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	14
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I agree with the emphasis on the diversity of public use, and would add that these uses overlap. Beautiful open space, for example, enhances the historic ambience and allows room for festivals that may focus on history (natural or human), in addition to creating recreational opportunities. Also, people may be drawn to Fort Monroe for more than one reason; the diversity itself may be an attraction.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Very good addendum!   By Luis O

<b>Comment 3</b>	Yes! Once again, I remind those in charge of planning for the future of Ft. Monroe that they must listen to and follow the needs of THE (diverse) AMERICAN PUBLIC for the historical, recreational, and aesthetic uses of Ft. Monroe, not vice versa. The citizens own Ft. Monroe, not Hampton or the FMA or the Virginia state government--and the citizens should be confident that Ft. Monroe will be a great public park (in my view, preferably a whole National Park) in perpetuity!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Facilities
<b>Idea Detail</b>	First, I would very much like to see the Wherry Quarter area included as green space in the Monument land base. The National Monument should have a Visitor Center with exhibit space covering the natural history of the area and the Bay as well as providing information about recreational opportunities. This would complement the historic information provided at the Casemate Museum. I think there should be a network of foot trails. I would like to see restoration of native habitat throughout the Monument. There should be both life guarded and open beach for public use. The old officers club could be concession operated with pool and food service and a wonderful location for supervised beach use. It could also be a wonderful location for a Visitor Center if no other location is feasible. I would favor a shuttle bus for access to the northern end of the fort as there is not enough land for vehicular parking. Interpretive programs should be frequent. The waterfront defensive ruins should be open to the public and have appropriate signage. RV and tent camping should be permitted. A National Monument is no place for organized sports, bright lights, and bleachers for baseball, tennis, basketball. Activities should be passive and closely tied to the
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	This idea is right on track. Let's make this a true national park; not a "private community"!!!   By Karen F
<b>Comment 2</b>	You bring many fine points in your entry!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Building 87 near the front gate would be the most feasible visitor's center, IMO. The Endicott Batteries will need some restoration before visitors can access them, some of them are neither safe nor stabilized yet. I personally feel that there can be infill in the Wherry Quarter, provided the massing, scaling, and traffic patterns are retained, and provided the developer follows the Program Comment and documents the deconstruction - and I would like to see some of the usable interior elements, such as wood flooring, be retained from the Wherry deconstruction. There will be plenty of warehouse space available in the WWII spaces now that the Army is largely gone. Lastly, it would be nice to see the Park Service add staff to the park, but appropriations could be tricky. Volunteers and a volunteer coordinator might be the way things have to go for a while.   By Paul P
<b>Comment 4</b>	With the great love and appreciation the locals have for Fort Monroe, I do not believe finding volunteers will be any problem.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Slave Camp
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Unless the Wherry Quarter and its waterfront are added to the NP holdings and saved from private ownership and development, the true story of Freedom's Fort will never be able to be visually expressed within the current Fort Monroe National Monument. Jamestown and other National Parks interpret their history with recreated Indian Villages or early American settlements. The FMNP needs to be able to do the same thing. When swarms of black people sought refuge at Fort Monroe, they originally camped out in Wherry Quarter and other open areas of Fort Monroe. It was only later when their numbers became so great that it became necessary to divert the flow into "contraband camps" in Phoebus and Hampton. Many arrived by boat and landed on Wherry Quarter's waterfront. Their story, their arrival by water, and their encampments in the Wherry Quarter area of Fort Monroe will only be told correctly if Wherry Quarter and its waterfront are saved for recreating their stories, even recreating one of their encampments, within national park holdings.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Sandra C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	This is important historical information, and another reason to protect the Wherry Quarter and beach area from private ownership and development. Adding this to the National Park holdings is vital.   By Tyla M
<b>Comment 2</b>	What a wonderful and insightful entry! This would certainly be a great way to engender commemoration of a most significant part of US history, and would foster the living history aspect of Fort Monroe for visitors.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Historic trees and other flora
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I mentioned this in another category, but I think it would be great if all the old trees and significant plants could be included in the National Park. I think the NPS could do a great job of protecting and explaining the significance of such ancient trees as the Algernon Oak (and there are others at Ft. Monroe mentioned in "The Remarkable Trees of Virginia"). I was really sad that many of the trees along the seawall near the gazebo/bandstand were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Isabel--they are missed during walks along the seawall. I know the NPS can't stop hurricanes, but it would be nice to think they could watch out for other threats to nature (humans, insects, disease, construction, etc.).
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes, the wonderful old live oaks should be protected. It would be exciting to plant more of them, a true legacy for us, as they live hundreds of years. I was also sad when some trees were pruned a few years ago, located near the sea wall and the gazebo near the Chamberlin. They were twisted and strange looking, with great character, as they formed over the years, leaning into the wind.   By Tyla M
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe - Included in National Monument
<b>Idea Detail</b>	All of Fort Monroe should be included. Every building there now. I know this won't happen but it should!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Pauline O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes, it should happen... and it just may happen.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	402+ years of service merits continued federal/military presence

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The site of Fort Monroe served from 1608, as a manned out-post, until 2011 as TRADOC Headquarters. Some type of military presence (if only ceremonial) should be maintained to preserve this legacy of 402+ years, which is unique in the Western Hemisphere.</p> <p>There are great number of entities of foremost national and global importance on or around Hampton Roads Harbour:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) the largest US Air Force base (home of TAC), Langley</li> <li>2.) the largest US land transportation Army post (and now, home of TRADOC), Eustis</li> <li>3.) the world's largest shipbuilder, Newport News Shipbuilding &amp; Dry Dock Co.</li> <li>4.) the greatest density of US Naval presence in Yorktown, Virginia Beach, Portsmouth and Norfolk</li> <li>5.) the home of US space exploration, NASA/Langley</li> <li>6.) a World Trade Center in Norfolk</li> <li>7.) NATO headquarters in Norfolk</li> <li>8.) international piers in Newport News, Portsmouth and Norfolk</li> <li>9.) countless government contracting/research firms in Hampton and other cities.</li> </ol> <p>I can think of no more appropriate site for Homeland Security than on Fort Monroe; historically, the defender of the world's greatest harbour. The former TRADOC Headquarters Building could serve as the base of operations.</p> <p>Situated in the midst of our nation's greatest concentration of military might, Fort Monroe would well serve as an excellent site</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	10
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	9
<b>Comment 1</b>	Re Albert S's Question:-- is this something that the FMA is going to try to sell to the local military commands? I doubt it very much, although FMA is seeking to lease out commercial office space and no doubt would entertain a proposal from the military to lease some space. But the Army garrison is gone and I do not see much likelihood it or other services would want to return to Fort Monroe in any significant way.   By mark P
<b>Comment 2</b>	I'm for this suggestion because it stands on its own merits. That said, I find it unlikely that any US military service would like to move a component/contingent back onto the fort. Question -- is this something that the FMA is going to try to sell to the local military commands?   By Albert S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Wow! What a great concept, and how appropriate a use, from both a historical and a contemporary practical view!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	This could be the most realistic idea I have seen so far. It protects Ft. Monroe from commercial and residential building and overgrowth, and makes it easier to maintain as a National Park. It will be an integral part of military meetings and discussions of national interest. It seems to be a smooth transition from past to present military use. Thanks for the idea.   By Al V
<b>Comment 5</b>	I certainly appreciate your feedback. I hope the Departments of Interior and Army think well on this topic.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 6</b>	I certainly appreciate your feedback. I hope the Departments of Interior and Army think well on this topic.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 7</b>	Wow! What a great concept, and how fitting, from many points of view!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 8</b>	Need to keep the scale of any such presences relatively modest, or Fort Monroe will be overwhelmed by parking facilities and sprawl. St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, DC has seen its historical character threatened by large scale and insensitive plans by Department of Homeland Security.   By mark P
<b>Comment 9</b>	The parking is already in-place. No additional paving would be required, since this is advocating a re-use of existing facilities.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Walk thru History Trails
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Create a winding loop walking running biking trail with carefully placed historical marker displays, similar to Jamestown Island. If you want to walk a 1 mile or more or less...directional routes would guide the visitors. Bring in the forestry with shade trees and carefully planned landscape for natural beauty. Set up trails along the waterfront.</p> <p>Start planning a crossover bridge from HRBT directly to Fort Monroe bridge for easier traffic flow.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Paul D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	This would be far better than Jamestown... that's only replicated facsimile... Fort Monroe is real!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree with Susan....talk about a traffic nightmare.....a bridge from the HRBT directly to the Fort Monroe bridge would top all traffic nightmares we now have on the Peninsula. Plus, such a bridge would cut off traffic flow through Phoebus....a terrible thought for a community that needs to become the gateway to a FMNP, a NP that must include the Wherry area and its adjacent waterfront.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 3</b>	I second everything but the bridge from HRBT.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 4</b>	I concur!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fishing
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Open up fishing on the entire base, like the Army did.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Willie A
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	The future of Fort Monroe needs to include as much outdoor activities like saltwater fishing as possible to enhance the Fort's value as a destination for recreational use and provide for real appreciation of the Fort, its history, and its natural resources. This, in turn, will provide the NPS to educate the public on the history of Ft. Monroe and natural resources. Moreover allowing public access to the Fort's waterfront beauty provides for a direct personal connection to the Fort and its waters, instilling environmental stewardship to Fort patrons.   By Mark F
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree that fishing should be widely allowed around FM.   By Ron W

<b>Comment 3</b>	We are a water community indeed, and fishing is a big part of it. I feel designating some additional specific areas for fishing, including one of the beach coves would work. We must also consider keeping some beach sections "no fishing" and large sections of the boardwalk. Maybe an expanded/ lengthened fishing pier? (have to watch out for those large ships though, they do come close!)   By David D
<b>Comment 4</b>	Good observations.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	I would like to point out that fishing is already permitted.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 6</b>	As of DEC 2012 fishing is limited to the engineer pier only. I would like to see other locations open up to the public.. such as the moat , Mills Creek the finger pier etc.   By Willie A
<b>Idea Title</b>	Military Tradition
<b>Idea Detail</b>	For years Ft Monroe has been the traditional location for such things as the 50 gun salute to the nation on July 4th followed by the picnic concert and fireworks, the traditinal exchange of cannon fire greeting foreign warships on their arrival in America and the list goes on. Hopefully there is a way to continue these traditions and events and maybe expand them to help appease the tradition hunger many of us has. Maybe a major concert event shown live on TV accross the land?
<b>Idea Author</b>	Alfred J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I'm pleased to see that the FMA has plans to continue the Thursday night band concerts--cultural and traditional events such as these will keep Ft. Monroe important to the locals who have been used to going there as well as to new visitors.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	I attended the "Music under the Stars" series from 1962 until 2011... some of the greatest experiences of my life!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	National Monument and Family Areas
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Ideally Fort Monroe if kept as national park in its entirety, would be a great drawing attraction for people from across the US. Close to historical areas, amusement attractions, and military areas. Keep the campground, perhaps make a hotel of building 5 and open up the pool, bowling alley, theatre and other areas.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Joyce W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	If done well, this site would draw persons from around the entire globe... this is one of the oldest, and most beautiful, of extant historic sites in North America... certainly, the oldest that was founded as part of what would become USA.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Bird Watchers Paradise
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe attracts many shore birds and ducks, migrating birds, and inland birds. The Hampton Roads Bird Club conducts bird counts and has listed some 40 birds at Fort Monroe to include: yellow-crowned night heron, great blue heron, common egret, sanderling, cormorant, goldeneye, scoter, common tern, least tern, purple martin, kestrel, osprey, coot, wigeon, red-breasted merganser, loon, scaup, brown pelican, boat-tailed grackle, bufflehead, canvasback, dunlin, sandpiper, laughing gull, herring gull, iceland gull, great black-backed gull, killdeer, mallard, and many common inland birds. The future Fort Monroe should enhance this bird mecca with proper native plantings and utmost protection of shoreline and marsh areas. Birders, amateur and more experienced, will delight in viewing these birds, either on their own or in guided groups, along nature trails and beachfronts. This offers opportunities for photographers and artists to capture the colors and shapes of these magnificent creatures.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tyla M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	I am no expert on Cape Hatteras National Seashore but I think NPS is doing what it must do to protect wildlife there and folks who want to drive cars on beach should be more concerned about wildlife than their personal convenience. Hopefully wildlife will be treasured at Fort Monroe National Monument at same time people enjoy its natural and recreational opportunities.   By mark P
<b>Comment 2</b>	I second as long as bird watching does not turn the Fort and NPS property into another National Wildlife Refuge that sacrifices public access to and outdoor activities on the Fort and it's waterfront (like at Cape hatteras National Seashore & RECREATIONAL AREA)!   By Mark F
<b>Comment 3</b>	Keeping Wherry Quarter green, and with South Waterfront, unifying National Monument, would do a lot to enhance Fort Monroe for bird watching, I would expect, among all the other benefits those steps would bring.   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	The natural history of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe is as important as the human history. Excellent concepts!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Public Opinion Consistently for Park
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Over the past six years public opinion has consistently supported a Fort Monroe National Park while opposing development at Fort Monroe. The result of this online town hall has shown that public opinion has not changed. The people want a Fort Monroe National Monument that includes the Wherry Quarter and the south waterfront area.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Most definitely! A FULLY-protected Fort Monroe National Historic Park is the only way to go!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Most definitely! A FULLY-protected Fort Monroe Natiobal Historic Park is the only way to go!!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Monument to honor the arrival of the First Africans

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>One goal of the master plan is to preserve and tell the history of the fort. The arrival of the first Africans in the New World at Point Comfort in August of 1619 was described by Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell as "Slavery was an evil and inhumane practice that reduced people to property. It left a stain on the soul of this nation".</p> <p>We cannot erase that stain but we can erect a Monument at Fort Monroe to honor those first Africans, most of who became slaves for life, for their contibutions to help sustain the early colonists, and for their unpaid labor to help build this great conuntry. The fort's history has been built on the heritage of the Africans from their arrival, through their quest for freedom at Freedoms Fortress, and through emancipation. It all happened at Fort Monroe.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Calvin P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>The Wherry Quarter and Chesapeake Bay beachfront will be the most historically appropriate locations on Fort Monroe to execute any commemoration of the arrival of West Africans in 1619, and the beginning of self-emancipation during the War between the States.</p> <p>  By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>The Wherry Quarter and Chesapeake Bay beachfront will be the most historically appropriate locations on Fort Monroe to execute any commemoration of the Arrival of West Africans in 1619, and the beginning of self-emancipation during the War between the States.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Needed: A Comprehensive Schedule of Historical Themes and Events
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>some ideas keyed by events, months, not prioritized starting with:</p> <p>APRIL: Founding Celebrations (28 April 1607) &amp; Easter Sunrise service</p> <p>JUNE: The Turning Point - 8 June 1610 and proposed SUMMER OUTDOOR PLAY - "The Rescue" - Jamestown abandoners turned back - HCS students...etc</p> <p>"Sacking of Hampton" - June 25-26 1813 -re-enactments - leading into</p> <p>4 JULY: The Fourth at the Fort! and the Spirit of 76 - Revolutionary War -</p> <p>22 July 1781, at the small port of Mill Creek (Phoebus) three hundred British soldiers landed and plundered the village.</p> <p>26 October 1775, a squadron of British naval vessels attacked the town of Hampton, Virginia.</p> <p>AUGUST-SEPTEMBER: Labor Day Multi-Cultural Heritage Celebration: August 1619 - first African-Americans - Hispanic Heritage Month (15 September to 15 October) - Segura Mission established by Spanish Jesuit missionaries in September 1570 on the York River</p> <p>OCTOBER: Homecoming Reunion for Old Soldiers and families - "Military thru the Centuries" Reenactment extravaganza - stress Battles in Hampton, Hampton Roads etc., during the Revolution- War of 1812 - the Civil War - FM (Coastal Artillery- various Command HQs) heritage</p> <p>NOVEMBER: Native American Heritage Month (November) - the local Pamunkey and Mattaponi tribes would be hosted and featured as representatives of the original Kecoughtan Tribe -</p> <p>DECEMBER: Christmas at the Point 1608 - first recorded Christmas celebration of the English in the New World</p> <p>FEBRUARY - African-American History/Black History Month - Freedom's Fortress Indeed!</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Russell G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Some interesting ideas here--I hope the schedule would include more blending of the arts (music, theater, art shows) with the history celebrations. I like the idea of having yearly scheduled events focussed on specific celebrarions.   By Susan B</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Thank you. I don't see why "music, theater, art shows," or for that matter any creative idea, would not find it's way onto a schedule. A wind-surfing championship on Mill Creek...fishing tournaments....the mind can run riot!   By Russell G</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Live Interpreters
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Jamestowne, Yorktown, and Williamsburg all have living interpreters for the specific period which they represent. Fort Monroe has many that can be used: Post war of 1812, Civil War (big tourism base), the world wars, and times in-between when the country continued to evolve. Don't just know history, show history. Keep it accurate and in living color! Some buildings would be best preserved for tours (i.e. Quarters 1) with tour guides.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	David D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Don't forget the early maritime history and the beginning of US commerce. And don't forget the long Native American history here. And don't forget the slavery history either. They all can be related with interpreters--that's living history!!!   By Jean S</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>And don't forget the important African American Contraband history!   By Susan B</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>The true and accurate contraband story, one of Fort Monroe's most important contributions to America's history, only can be told in living color IF the open area of Wherry Quarter and its waterfront are incorporated into the already held NPS holdings. For an explanation of this comment, please review the Slave Camp idea submitted under the Topic "What would you like to see included in the Fort Monroe National Monument.   By Sandra C</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>The true and accurate contraband story, one of Fort Monroe's most important contributions to America's history, only can be told in living color IF the open area of Wherry Quarter and its waterfront are incorporated into the already held NPS holdings. For an explanation of what I mean by this comment, please review the idea submitted to this online forum under the title Slave Camp.   By Sandra C</p>

<b>Idea Title</b>	One Complete and Truly Great National Historic Park (continued)
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>12) All leisure facilities (bowling lanes, Officers' and NCO Clubs, YMCA, Post Theatre, etc.) in leased operation for the benefit of all</p> <p>13) Consideration of Phoebus, so that planning and implementation on the post will not make any aspect Phoebus obsolete; and so that Phoebus may grow to complement Fort Monroe</p> <p>14) Accessibility to external organizations and corporate entities for workshops, retreats, seminars, etc.</p> <p>15) Accessibility to private entities for reunions, weddings, family celebrations, etc.</p> <p>16) Facilitation of seminars, symposia and festivals for science, technology, medicine, history, performing arts (music, dance, theatre), visual arts, literary arts, etc.</p> <p>17) Accommodations established, with an inn-type character, to satisfy the needs of extended-stay and group visitors</p> <p>18) Scattered and well-placed selection of non-corporate, quality shops and eateries will complement the Fort Monroe experience for extended-stay visitors, tourists and locals</p> <p>19) Public concerts on Continental Park and Parade Field</p> <p>20) US Army continuation of all traditional celebratory practices</p> <p>21) All the lands and waters (including Wherry Quarter and Chesapeake Bay beach front) of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe protected as national historic park</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	This about says it all!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Dreamspot
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>A special place for my family was Forest Park in St. Louis. This was the site of the 1904 Worlds' Fair. Some of the structures for the fair were maintained including the St. Louis Art Museum. Many assets that were later included in the park were the Muny Opera. . Ft. Monroe would be perfect for this type of amphitheater for summer productions, bring on Broadway and large concerts like the VA Symphony and others.</p> <p>Gardens, a tram to take visitors from venue to venue. Ball parks, a sculpture garden depicting all of the monumental points in history that took place there. Golf cart and bicycle rentals for transversing the various areas of interest along the seawall and into all of the areas of interest including a passenger ferry to Ft. Wool. Boat rentals on Mill Creek. Picnic pavilions, lots of benches and landscaping, beach volleyball. Salute the US Army and the Coast Artillery School, CONARC and TRADOC history. Yes, the 1619 monument, our nation's commerce in its infancy. Wow, shouldn't we be getting excited now? Could we ever run out of ideas? No big commercial development or private property. Most of all, inclusion of the Wherry Quarter into the National Monument.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Marcia M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>I couldn't agree more! What a great location to foster cultural growth in the arts! All your suggestions are spectacular... and plausible.</p> <p>Thank you for citing "our nation's commerce in its infancy". I believe this is the single most important aspect of our political history where Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe was directly instrumental; and one of the most positive points in the founding of USA.</p> <p>  By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>There are some really great ideas here. I especially like the arts and culture possibilities--they could be just as attracting to visitors (and even more to locals)as the many historical points of interest at Ft. Monroe. Outdoor and indoor arts and recreational venues in the beautiful (not overdeveloped!) Ft. Monroe setting would be really exciting, and I like the suggestion of carts and bicycles for transportation between (and to) venues.   By Susan B</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	A special museum for all of the information on the Contraband
<b>Idea Detail</b>	This is such an important part of the history of Fort Monroe and needs to be properly show cased and documented in a museum or added to the Casemate.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Barbara S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Agreed... the first presence of West Africans in the Virginia Colony, through the beginning of the end of slavery needs to be fully defined and commemorated on Fort Monroe. And there are other histories that need to be commemorated -- the millenia-old presence of the Kikotan, and the initiation of international trade involving the Western Hemisphere. Combining these most important factors in the story of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe with the existing military factor, I would see the Casemate Museum burgeoning into an historical establishment of global recognition.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Youth Hostel at Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Because of their low daily rates, youth hostels enable young people from around the world to visit America and learn our history. Ft. Monroe would be an excellent location for a hostel. The youth hostel on the old Ft. Mason site in San Francisco is a perfect model for one at Ft. Monroe. Ft. Mason is now a park, and the hostel is housed in the former infirmary. Now called the Fisherman's Wharf Hostel, it is run by Hosteling International USA. For more info visit: <a href="http://hiusa.org/sanfranciscowharf">http://hiusa.org/sanfranciscowharf</a></p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Lynn G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>A youth hostel for Fort Monroe is a great idea, one especially attractive for bringing international tourists to Fort Monroe. This is not a pie-in-the-sky dream, as Fort Monroe is less than 200 miles from Washington, DC, but its success depends on maximizing Fort Monroe's appeal by preserving Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront, and adding them to National Monument. Fort Monroe can then be the place the world comes to see and enjoy the Chesapeake Bay. Improvements in Amtrak service to Newport News, and adding light rail between Newport News and Hampton (Phoebus), will aid in this vision as well.</p> <p>  By mark P</p>

<b>Comment 2</b>	You make some great points, especially about the hostel --and a complete Ft. Monroe National Park--attracting international tourists.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	All valid, true and practical points! Thank you!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	NPS Comments See Development Threat
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The April 30th NPS planning sessions resulted in 13 poster board sheets of comments by citizens listing the greatest threats to Fort Monroe National Monument. The most listed threat was that of development, particularly in the Wherry Quarter.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	OLD AIRPORT
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I think re opening the airport on FT.Monroe would be a great idea. The runway I believe is 2600' long, and it's a North South direction. It would be Day Takeoff and landing, and clear weather only. you would fly in from bay side, at 500-1000' as to not interfere with the community.</p> <p>You would take off, and immediately turn over the bay for your departure. you would advise Langley tower of your intentions on frequency 125.0 and tell them your landing or taking off. The airport sits just out side of the 5 mile ring of both Langley AFB, and Norfolk NAS. Technically you don't even have to call them.</p> <p>The visitors could view the Fort itself, walk inside the moat see the museum. you could walk to the beach, maybe have breakfast, or lunch at the Chamberlin.</p> <p>There would be no fuel for sale. This would not have the frequency of heavy traffic like a regular airport. I believe the National park service would run the airport. There is a airport in Kitty Hawk, NC thats run by the park service, and is self sufficient, and runs smooth. It's a great idea for FT. Monroe</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	William C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Having been involved in aviation for over 45 years I believe this is an excellent idea for increasing visitation to Ft Monroe. I saw what happened to College Park airport (the oldest continually operating airport in the world) in Maryland when the NPS took over and think it would be beneficial without changing the flavor of the park.   By alan P
<b>Comment 2</b>	Again this property is in National Monument and its use as an airfield is not consistent with Proclamation. Wright Brothers Nat' Monument obviously involved aviation.   By mark P
<b>Comment 3</b>	Walker Airfield was a part of Fort Monroe, it was used by the Department of the Army during critical times of defense in the Twentieth Century. It is a part of the history of Fort Monroe. The airport at Kitty Hawk was created, after-the-fact... Walker Airfield existed, not as a tourist draw, but as a real contributing entity. Perservation and re-use would only add to the aspect of living history at Fort Monroe National Historic Park.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I agree! Walker airfield and hangar could be re-furbished for light aircraft and helicopters, for both private (capital-generating) and official (Defense, Interior and Authority...) aviators. This would be a great way to re-use existing assets!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	Walker Field is in National Monument. Airport is not consistent with Presidential proclamation and Walker Field use probably outside scope of Sasaki planning process too.   By mark P
<b>Comment 6</b>	It seems to me that the need for safety equipment and highly trained staff would make this a hard sell to the NPS. It is a neat idea, but perhaps not achievable.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	5 Minute Walk from Fortress Moat to the Chesapeake Bay
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Today a walk from the moat northeast toward the Chesapeake Bay involves traversing several rows of buildings, as shown by the video. Any development that replaced the Wherry Quarter would likewise detract from the value of such a walk. Only an open view can maximize the public value of this space. The Wherry Quarter and south waterfront area should be part of Fort Monroe National Monument.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	One Complete and Truly Great National Historic Park
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) All historical structures intact and maintained; some adapted for leased re-use</li> <li>2) Preservation of architectural integrity throughout the entire site</li> <li>3) Removal, or re-design of non-historic structures for re-use</li> <li>4) Development limited to æsthetic enhancement, revitalization, refurbishment and/or restoration of existing historic structures, and environmental stabilization</li> <li>5) Continued federal presence, preferably some military entity (if only ceremonial) and Homeland Security</li> <li>6) Tenancy, rather than ownership, for entities other than federal government and FMA</li> <li>7) Limited and non-commercialistic corporate presence, with open-door policy</li> <li>8) Inclusion of academic/research institutions, with open-door policy</li> <li>9) Re-activation of Walker Airfield for official and light commercial use</li> <li>10) Free accessibility for everyone, by foot, to the entire property</li> <li>11) Expansion of Casemate Museum to include representation of: a) natural history of Cape Comfort and the presence of the indigenous Kikotan; b) origination of colonial economics and international trade through Hampton Roads Harbour; c) full military history (expanding on years prior to Revolutionary War) and maritime history of Virginia Colony; d) first appearance of West Africans in continental North America, and beginning of the end of slavery.</li> </ol> <p>Appropriate monuments and tours throughout the post can enhance museum offerings</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	I like it all!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Walker Field Repurposed

<b>Idea Detail</b>	What about helicopter rides over the Bay, up Hampton Roads to the Shipyard in Newport News over to Jamestown, Yorktown and onto the Naval Base in Norfolk? This would define the "diamond" concept of connecting Ft. Monroe to the Historic Triangle.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Marcia M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I, also, have been advocating re-activation of Walker Airfield. It would be a great draw for tourism, and would be able to serve in official capacity, as well.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Interesting idea--and also ferries and/or tour boats would be nice.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	A cherished location for weddings
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Even if my wife and sister-in-law had not grown up attending the Chapel of the Centurion, and even if my wife and I had not been married there in 1977, and even if my sister and brother-in-law had not been married there in 1984, I would be recommending yet again that Fort Monroe become a cherished location for weddings. Two nice churches are available, and so are other locations like Continental Park. The Bay Breeze Center can serve for receptions, and maybe the Chamberlin can too -- and maybe other facilities as well. At Fort Monroe, it's always a beautiful day. I hope families -- and brand new families -- celebrate with weddings there. (Note to green-eyeshade guys: I'll bet you could make some real money on this for Fort Monroe's self-sustenance.)
<b>Idea Author</b>	Steve C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Nice memories, guys. This is a great way to include Fort Monroe in the lives of more people, and help make the park self-sustaining.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	I courted my wife on Fort Monroe. We dined and danced in the Chamberlin, picnicked on the Moat, held hands and dreamed as we toured the post, listened to every "Music under the Stars" concert, attended church services at Saint Mary's, were wed in the Chapel of the Centurion, and had our reception at the Officers' Club. What a wonderful place! And, throughout, we were ever conscious of the majesty, natural beauty and rich history of that sacred land. Those features made Fort Monroe most inviting and made our life experiences most memorable. There's no finer place for a wedding, reunion, family celebration... Millions of dollars in revenue could easily be realized, annually, by hosting these cherished events.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I courted my wife on Fort Monroe, we dined and danced in the Chamberlin, picnicked on the moat, held hands and dreamed as we toured the post, listened to every "Music under the Stars" concert, attended church services at Saint Mary's, were wed in the Chapel of the Centurion, and had our reception at the Officers' Club. What a wonderful place! And, throughout, we were ever conscious of the majesty, natural beauty and rich history of that sacred land. Those features made Fort Monroe most inviting and made our life experiences most memorable. There's no finer place for a wedding, reunion, family celebration... Millions of dollars in revenue could easily be realized, annually, by hosting these cherished events.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Honor President James Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Before this idea site closes, we can't forget to mention that the NPS should include some sort of monument or interpretation/presentation about President James Monroe for whom the fort is named and who was instrumental in the founding of the fort as we know it. Virginian James Monroe is surely one of the (many!) important historical figures who could be honored in a great Ft. Monroe National Park.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Good concept!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Close the 100 acre parcel and include it in the National Monumen
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Unfortunately Hampton leadership including the current Mayor Molly Ward has used corrupt dirty politics to win elections for a city council that will try to sell and develop the Wherry Quarter. It is vital for the future of Hampton and generations to learn America's history correctly. Colonial Williamsburg is not selling off 100 acres of prime property at millions of dollars in taxes and rewards to family friends who deal in property. Do the right thing! Close the donut hole! DO NOT SELL OFF OUR COUNTRY AND THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY! This is a beautiful historic area that should become a destination for millions of visitors, children and tourists. Developed areas like town center, the downtown Hampton area and the community center show many of Hampton's failures. The visitors to Fort Monroe will want to walk and see sites properly maintained which show history of the Civil War, and the issue of slavery which pitted brother against brother. Paths, buildings, beaches, museums, trees, motels, hotels, light houses, weapons, MUST BE PRESERVED! NOT SOLD! Hampton leaders have failed at the Air & Space Center as well as their own city museum. DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO FAIL HERE!
<b>Idea Author</b>	malcolm A
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	View From Ninth Floor of The Chamberlin
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There is so much to be lost if the Wherry Quarter is developed, blocking the only potential view of the Fortress from a distance on land or water.  Even the ninth floor of the Chamberlin isn't high enough to get a clear view over the rooftops of the buildings outside the moat.  Please use the link below to go to the website of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, where you will find photos, links to videos, and more information about Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1

<b>Comment 1</b>	Why would anyone even think of developing on Wherry? There is so much great potential for historical and environmental celebration. I wish the descendents of the Kikotan would have an input into its ultimate usage... they were here for many millennia prior to 1607.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Essential Services
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would think that re-activation of the hospital (I was actually born in this hospital) and fire house would accompany the presence of the park rangers, to ensure the safety of the buildings and persons on Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jean S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	One would hope and expect that these precautions would be implemented.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Two Monuments & Two Different Activities
<b>Idea Detail</b>	1st Monument is inside the fort. Activities should reflect the history and military but not duplicate the Casemate Museum. (Reinactments and visits to historical structures.) The parade grounds will need to be raised because it floods.  2nd Monument is open space to walk and study the Chesapeake Bay wetlands and natural resources. Activities include camping, walking, bird watching, etc.  There is no need to connect these since they have 2 different reasons for existing and 2 different types of programs.
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	10
<b>Comment 1</b>	I agree but Luis O has a good point, there needs to be unity and connectivity within the park. Also, I disagree with raising the parade field, the fort needs to remain historically accurate.   By Larry S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Connectivity is key to the success of Fort Monroe National Historic Park. History can not serve if studied dis-connectedly... that results in repetition of mistakes. We must observe the entire history of Cape Comfort -- from the millennia-old occupation of the site by the Kikotan to the residency of TRADOC, and beyond; to fully garner the great lessons to be learned. One park, with many interwoven stories, is what we have, and what it is our duty to ensure in perpetuity.    By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Connectivity is key to the success of Fort Monroe National Historic Park. History can not serve if studied dis-connectedly... that results in repetition of mistakes. We must observe the entire history of Cape Comfort -- from the millennia-old occupation of the site by the Kikotan to the residency of TRADOC, and beyond; to fully garner the great lessons to be learned. One park, with many interwoven stories, is what we have, and what it is our duty to ensure in perpetuity   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Connectivity is key to the success of Fort Monroe National Historic Park. History can not serve if studied dis-connectedly... that results in repetition of mistakes. We must observe the entire history of Cape Comfort -- from the millennia-old occupation of the site by the Kikotan to the residency of TRADOC, and beyond; to fully garner the great lessons to be learned. One park, with many interwoven stories, is what we have, and what it is our duty to ensure in perpetuity.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	I couldn't disagree more. But you mention flooding, which is an important point. It would be inappropriate to develop any further residential use on Fort Monroe due to the annual occurrence of flooding. It would be much better to have activities that don't require further construction but could rely on the land in its natural state - such as nature trails. The parade field couldn't be raised, as the buildings inside the moat would remain at existing elevation.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 6</b>	Integrating the two current separated pieces of the National Monument both physically and functionally is necessary for Fort Monroe to reach its potential. It is well documented that the sites with the greatest long-term appeal are those that involve both historical and natural splendor in immediate proximity. Fort Monroe is the rare site that can combine these two components splendidly, but only if they are effectively joined as one. And Fort Monroe will have amenities like food, lodging and cultural activities in Historic Village and North Gate, and within fort walls, to add to its appeal. Putting stuff in Wherry Quarter will act as a barricade between the natural and historic resources, precluding free and natural flow of visitors and residents between the two now divided areas, and discourage repeat visitors looking for the most pleasing experience.    By mark P
<b>Comment 7</b>	Integrating the two current separated pieces of the National Monument both physically and functionally is necessary for Fort Monroe to reach its potential. It is well documented that the sites with the greatest long-term appeal are those that involve both historical and natural splendor in immediate proximity. Fort Monroe is the rare site that can combine these two components splendidly, but only if they are effectively joined as one. And Fort Monroe will have amenities like food, lodging and   By mark P
<b>Comment 8</b>	I mean no disrespect to James N1 (I wish we were doing this civic discussion with actual citizens' names!), but I disagree profoundly with his statement "There is no need to connect these since they have 2 different reasons for existing." Fort Monroe -- the Army base occupying all of Old Point Comfort -- was designated a national historic landmark a half-century ago because all of that land has a unified history and a single sense of place going back to the very founding of America four centuries ago. In other reply comments here, it seems to me that Ron Wilson and Scott Butler have ably explained why this bifurcation idea is precisely the wrong way to see Fort Monroe. Ron speaks of adding the missing bayfront land to the national monument. For more on the case_for_adding that land, and_against_ the bifurcation of the national monument, please see <a href="http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> . Thanks. Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 9</b>	I feel it is important to keep as much open space as possible on Fort Monroe for the benefit of people. It is especially important to open the Wherry Quarter area to improve the view of the bay from the road and the fort and to provide open space for activities. Adding the Wherry Qtr. to the existing National Monument is probably the best way of preserving it for public use.   By Ron W

<b>Comment 10</b>	The two parts of the National Monument can have overlapping purposes. Hopefully, the National Monument parkland will tell some of the history of Fort Monroe too--human as well as natural. And a tour of the old fortress would be enhanced if visitors could stand on the northern battlements and enjoy unobstructed views of Mill Creek and the Bay, which in addition to the beauty of the scenery would give some sense of being back in time and seeing what the earliest English visitors to Old Point Comfort saw. The same point can be made about looking at the fortress from an open, green Wherry. Context is important to the appreciation of historic structures. In the words of Richard Moe, former president of National Trust for Historic Preservation: "There was a time when preservationists devoted their efforts to saving individual historic buildings, often paying little attention to the surroundings in which these landmarks stood. Happily, those days are gone: We've learned the importance of preserving context, recognizing that a property's setting--including views to and from the site itself--enhances its significance as a historic artifact and as a tool for understanding the past more fully. Efforts to preserve context have been successfully carried out at historic sites all over the
<b>Idea Title</b>	The casino at Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	No, I haven't taken leave of my senses...nor have I forgotten that I live in Virginia.  I suggest this (and it's not tongue-in cheek) -- the Authority should take a look at Connecticut's Foxwoods casino...then find some direct descendants of Chief Powhatan still living locally...organize them as a tribal entity who will claim ownership of 100 acres (or so) of the fort property. These folks would then contract with Harrah's to build and operate a casino on this property. OK, not in the Wherry area or inside the moated fort...build the casino in the fort's former industrial area.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Albert S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	View from The Chamberlin
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There is so much to be lost if the Wherry Quarter is developed, blocking the only potential view of the Fortress from a distance on land or water.  Even the ninth floor of the Chamberlin isn't high enough to get a clear view over the rooftops of the buildings outside the moat.  Please use the link below to go to the website of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, where you will find photos, links to videos, and more information about Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe and the beginnings of our capitalist democracy
<b>Idea Detail</b>	In studying the works of the great political economists and social philosophers (Franklin, Paine, Smith, Quesnay, Voltaire, Locke, van Groot, Jefferson, Hobbes, Montesquieu, Rousseau...) and understanding the uniquely critical position of Cape Comfort (Fort Monroe) at the onset of colonial American international trade; I am inevitably led to the conclusion that this aspect prime importance to our nation's economic history is occluded. Our government is a republic, based on capitalism, which began nearly four centuries ago in Hampton Roads Harbour. That form of governmental policy is what led us to sever political dependency on England, and was a major factor in the defense of national unity during the War between the States.  Cape Comfort, from as early as 1608, was manned as a defensive post to guard trade entering and leaving Hampton Roads Harbour from the Jamestown and Hampton (and, later) Newport News colonies. Cape Comfort served well in our formative years. Our economic history begins here.  A republic, founded on capitalism should celebrate its origins. Among other features, I would love to see the establishment of an institute for economic studies at Fort Monroe, which would draw scholars from around the world to develop political and economic philosophy; and draw tourists, to learn about the very foundations of the greatest capitalist republic in the history of
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>How does Fort Monroe contribute to Hampton being recognized as a great city?</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe's story is Hampton's story
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There are two Hamptons, in a sense--the one that emerged as a maritime city in the Colonial period, and the one that arose from the ashes of the city burned by Confederates to keep it out of Union hands. Fort Monroe is associated with the first Hampton, since it was a checkpoint for ships going up the James as early as 1609; and it is intimately intertwined with the second Hampton, since the thousands of enslaved Americans who escaped to Fort Monroe during the Civil War ended up building their own community on the ruins of Hampton and remained there to create a thriving community that unfortunately was undermined by the Jim Crow laws of the late 19th century. In telling both its Colonial and Civil War stories, Fort Monroe will also be telling the story of Hampton and therefore increasing its long overdue recognition as a highly significant American city. Tourists who visit Fort Monroe will have their interest sparked in Hampton and help to make it a destination city, but only if the FMA is careful to provide the right recreational as well as historic enticements at Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	23
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	It all hinges on whether proper public refurbishment and restoration or private development occurs. With the latter, the possibility of greatness at Fort Monroe diminishes, and any benefits to Hampton will diminish, exponentially. With a well-managed, complete Fort Monroe National Historic Park, with every aspect designed for public use and appreciation, we will see a revitalization of the Phoebus community. A superior park and a thriving community will help Hampton attain the greatness it deserves as the first city.   By Luis O

<b>Comment 2</b>	It is amazing how many Hamptonians (and Hampton Road-ians) have never heard of the "Contrabands" and the significance of that event to American history, and many of us have only a hazy memory of the early history of the Point Comfort area and its importance. So--it's really important that we insist that Ft. Monroe be preserved as a significant history-teaching opportunity (in my view, best achieved by a large, inclusive National Park).   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Excellent addendum.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Right, and the only way a Fort Monroe National Monument can become a vibrant active NP is to include the Wherry Quarter and its waterfront within its protected boundaries. NP's around the USA use recreations to help tell the story of that particular park or area. Jamestown has recreated Indian villages, glass blowing and pottery operations, etc,. A great historic enticement at Fort Monroe would be to tell one of its most important stories, the Contraband Story, by recreating a slave encampment such as those that sprung up in the Wherry area when horges of slaves sought refuge at Monroe. Such an encampment, to be visually accurate, would need to go on the very land on which one sat in the 1800's. i.e. the Wherry Quarter Please, let's do this right. We are not going to get another such wonderful chance to do this the way it should be done for America's now and future generations.   By Sandra C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe's Uniqueness Makes Hampton a Destination City
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Hampton should use its influence to see that Fort Monroe's uniqueness is maintained, that open space is maximized, and that all of the waterfront remains public. A unified Fort Monroe National Monument that includes the Wherry Quarter and the South Waterfront area will help to reach these goals.</p> <p>Placing development in the middle of Fort Monroe National Monument will detract from its mission to re-create the sense of time and place that is crucial to teaching the great history of this national treasure. Let Charleston be Charleston. Let Savannah be Savannah. Let Fort Monroe be Fort Monroe.</p> <p>Please use the link below to go to the website of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, where you will find photos, links to videos, maps, and more information about Fort Monroe.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	22
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Restraint in Wherry and Activity in North Gate, Historic Village
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Great cities are usually identified by great public spaces in close appurtenance with vibrancy. Think Central Park abutting Central Park South, Copley Square and the diversity of surrounding buildings in Back Bay, historic Charleston's East Bay Street area adjoining the new Cooper River waterfront park, Washington, D.C.'s miles of Potomac River parks with the National Mall as a frontispiece to the larger dense city. Hampton and Hampton Roads lack that -- 300 acres of maritime open space (the 244 acres of the National Monument plus a green Wherry) abutting the fortress and North Gate will add such great appeal and economic value to a dense, built-up North Gate and Historic Village (and Phoebus and beyond)) as to more than justify the restraint of agreeing not to build on Wherry or South Waterfront (i.e., Batteries Parrott and Irwin and land on waterside of Fenwick Road connecting them to Wherry)).
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	21
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>I am not advocating great density for its own value but would vastly prefer higher density in North Gate and Historic Village to light density sprawl development in Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront, permanently severing National Monument, destroying open space and viewsheds and mediocritizing entire property. That could be the choice: (i) a unified national monument with 300 acres of open space (including a green Wherry) with somewhat greater density in North Gate and Historic Village to generate sufficient revenue to cover FMA's costs or (ii) lighter density development in North Gate and Historic Village along with development of Wherry and South Waterfront, thus permanently splitting National Monument.</p> <p>.   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>I agree with Susan, I do not like to think of dense housing anywhere at Fort Monroe. Having worked there for years, I can't count the number of times everyone had to take off their shoes and hold up skirts and roll up pant legs in order to wade through standing water to cars and offices. Basements and floors flooded both inside and outside the moat. Developers do not like to talk or think about this but it will continue to happen to anything built on that spit of property, particularly today with rising waters and sinking land. More housing out there will cost everyone, insurance costs will rise for everyone, on or off Fort Monroe, and the runoffs from added hard surfaces will negatively impact the Bay. Use the housing already available....do not build in Wherry Quarter.....leave it as natural as possible....focus on it becoming the best National Park possible in the USA.,   By Sandra C</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	Everything you wrote makes good sense. Too often the inevitable repercussions of our actions are ignored. Let's work well, with what we have, and not compound environmental problems by development.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	I was not suggesting dense housing, or any housing, in Wherry Quarter or South Waterfront. Rather I think we should prefer greater density in North Gate if economically needed, in preference to any development in Wherry or South Waterfront. Density can be well done, as dense historic cities in Italy or even in US (e.g, Charleston, Savannah) illustrate.   By mark P
<b>Comment 5</b>	Oh, I get it! Sorry I misunderstood, but I still don't like to think of dense housing anywhere at Ft. Monroe!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 6</b>	I agree that the park will add to the pleasant-ness of living in a nearby neighborhood, but I don't think "dense" housing in that neighborhood would be so appealing!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 7</b>	How about living in Phoebus, and having an unspoiled National Historic Park at Fort Monroe!?!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Great city? Real national monument/park instead of a fake one!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I wholeheartedly seconded the comments of Scott Butler (Scott B6) and Mark Perreault (Mark P3), a pair of longtime stalwarts in the struggle to save Fort Monroe from its original -- and, unfortunately, enduring -- 2005 misframing as merely a "redevelopment" plum for de facto donation to one city, rather than as a national treasure requiring careful stewardship. But it seems to me that they omitted the clincher from their comments. How does Fort Monroe contribute to Hampton being recognized as a great city? By unifying the two preposterously separated parts of the present fake national monument, transforming it into a REAL national monument or national park. For a quick (maybe 15 seconds of your time) visual summary of what that means, please see the Web site cited with this comment. Thanks. Steve Corneliussen</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Steve C

<b>Number of Seconds</b>	18
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Real NP that injects business into Phoebus, not bypasses it
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I have a strong fear that the commercial development being planned for FT Monroe, even just the Historic Village, will just poach from Phoebus. With a welcome center placed at the SE corner of Woodland & Mercury, I-64 traffic will be funneled to County St exit, then down Mercury to FM...totally bypassing Phoebus! The quaint village to be built on Ingalls Rd in FM just replicates existing Mellen St. Have a full, real National Park on Old Point Comfort and develop the heck out of Phoebus as the gateway - restaurants, shops, hotels on Mill Creek, etc. etc.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Dennis L
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	18
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	what quaint village is being built on Ingalls Road?   By Kady C
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree, a vibrant park at Fort Monroe should support tourism development in Phoebus -shops, B&Bs, vendors, plus the associated story of the working waterfront. It could add a whole extra dimension to the park concept.   By Susan W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Hampton Support for a Unified Fort Monroe Will Define Greatness
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Hampton's role in supporting a unified Fort Monroe National Monument will be a measure of the greatness of the city. Will Hampton measure up to this task and forgo short-term gain for long-term glory?
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	14
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes, we will soon see whether Hampton's leaders will be farsighted and push to have the land at Ft Monroe unified and declared to be a National Park. I hope that is the case and they recognize the big picture by preserving Ft Monroe. All too often local politicians want to reward campaign contributors by paving the way for short term profits for their benefactors. I hope Hampton's leaders and the other members of the Authority resist the inevitable wave of slick developers seeking short term profits from development of the public's treasures, like Ft Monroe. This is the time for them to step up to the plate and preserve this public treasure for the public. Then they will forever have a major achievement to be proud of, instead of an unsavory sell-out they will forever have to hide from the public.   By Kelly P
<b>Comment 2</b>	Great statement! I am shocked and disappointed that they had requested the president to sign a document which would leave a crucial section of Fort Monroe susceptible to worthless private development. This behavior must be stopped, here and now. Fort Monroe is far too valuable for this type of short-sightedness.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Also, for economic as well as cultural reasons, Hampton should be committed to a grand public place with a lot of green space north of the fortress. Fort Monroe's greatest economic contribution to Hampton will be to turn it into a destination city/gateway to Fort Monroe National Monument. Anything that diminishes that outcome, such as new development between the two parts of the Monument, won't be to Hampton's advantage.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Agree with Scott.....unless Wherry Quarter (where thousands of slaves seeking refuge camped before the the numbers got so great the camps had to be moved into Phoebus and Hampton) and Wherry's waterfront (where many run-aways landed in canoes or dugouts) are incorporated into NPS holdings, the true contraband story will never be able to be recreated for the interested thousands of tourists from here and abroad. Anthing less than being able to tell the complete story of a slave's arrival, his shelter, and his life while stayng on Fort Monroe will diminish the whole existence of Fort Monroe as a National Monument.....this just does not happen at other NP's throughout America.....why let it happen here in Hampton.   By Sandra C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Hampton Triangle - Phoebus, Fort Wool and FT Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Major tourist access to Fort Monroe will be via 2 bridges. These bridges tie the Fort to Phoebus and could be used to represent conduits between today and historic Fort Monroe. Crossing the water is the transition - crossing the bridge takes you back in time. This unique arrangement offers the opportunity for private sector and public/private venture revitalization of Phoebus as the support site for visitors to the Fort. Visitors would find lodging, restaurants, etc in Phoebus. Phoebus would offer visitors a view of the Historic Fort while at the same time providing modern accommodations and conveniences. When visitors cross the water, they would enter a unified historic area that has been preserved, protected and restored. The comprehensive plan should address Fort Wool. If Fort Wool can't be included as a part of the Monument, then the City of Hampton should coordinated tours to Fort Wool from Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Betty B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Beautiful thoughts... Fort Monroe, Phoebus and Fort Wool are historically linked together.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe is the great feature of Hampton.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	With the privatization of most of Hampton's waterfront, the rapid influx of Section 8 tenancy, the razing of most of its historic structures, and countless development failures (residential, hospitality, shopping...) Hampton has little left of what once made it a great city. The creation of Sandy Bottom Park and the expansion of the public piers on Hampton River are about the only two good things that this city has accomplished, in the past 45 years, that unfailingly add to our vitality.  We can not allow repetition of the same errors on Fort Monroe. Properly executed, the transformation into a fully-protected national historic park will spur the return of greatness within the city of Hampton, and in all of the municipalities of Hampton Roads.  There are several private, state and federal entities that greatly enhance the city: Langley AFB, NASA Research Center, VA Medical Center, St. George Brewery, Hampton University, Thomas Nelson Community College, St. John's Church, New American Theatre, to name a few. But Fort Monroe, with its 405-year history of national importance, gives us an asset more venerable than anything in Washington, D.C., New York City, Philadelphia, Plymouth Rock, Jamestown, Williamsburg, Trenton, Yorktown, or Boston. Cape
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1

<b>Comment 1</b>	Hampton is the first city of this country, and Fort Monroe (called something else) made it possible for Hampton to survive and grow during the early years.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Wherry and South Waterfront Highest Value is as a Park
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The City of Hampton will benefit more from the Wherry Quarter and south waterfront area becoming part of a unified Fort Monroe National Monument than from any development of these areas.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	With you 100%!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Ft. Monroe : A Great part of a great city.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe is well known and as a National Park - If a real National Park - would be a tourist draw to Hampton. It would add a touch of class! Hopefully Phoebus would be spruced up into a charming small town leading to the crown jewel of Ft. Monroe. In the past, as an Army post, it was a bit forbidding to people because of the MP gate. In the future it will be open to all and a welcome attraction to a great city.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Pauline O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I agree, I would like to see a real National Park.   By Kelly P
<b>Comment 2</b>	A National Monument is just a name. A National Monument is administered exactly the same way as a National Park, a National Historic Site, a National Recreations site, a National River, and etc. Many of the sites in the National Park Service system are National Monuments. Go to NPS.gov to see a list if you are interested.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Ft. Monroe is the best thing about Hampton
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe is the best thing Hampton has - as evident by how it dominates the city's web sites. How much money is the city of Hampton contributing to the preservation and management of the fort since they are advertising "this is Hampton?"
<b>Idea Author</b>	Kady C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Although its history is only two years shy of that of Fort Monroe, Hampton, no longer, has a defining face. Fort Monroe, however, always has been known, and will always be recognized as a bastion of national defense and personal freedoms. Since the "modernization" of the city, and the de-classing of its neighborhoods began in the 1960s, Hampton has so declined in personal esteem and recognizable character that every bit of its historical importance has faded into obscurity. Should the city government maintain a hands-off policy with Fort Monroe, then Fort Monroe will thrive as the greatest of national historic parks; and then, Hampton will have something, within its corporate bounds, of which to be truly proud. And, Phoebus will rise as a vital economic engine.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Although its history is only two years shy of that of Fort Monroe, Hampton, no longer, has a defining face. Fort Monroe, however, always has been known, and will always be recognized as a bastion of national defense and personal freedoms. Since the "modernization" of the city, and the de-classing of its neighborhoods began in the 1960s, Hampton has so declined in personal esteem and recognizable character that every bit of its historical importance has faded into obscurity. Should the city government maintain a hands-off policy with Fort Monroe, then Fort Monroe will thrive as the greatest of national historic parks; and then, Hampton will have something, within its corporate bounds, of which to be truly proud.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Although its history is only two years shy of that of Fort Monroe, Hampton, no longer, has no defining face. Fort Monroe, however, always has been known, and will always be recognized as a bastion of national defense and personal freedoms. Since the "modernization" of the city, and the de-classing of its neighborhoods began in the 1960s, Hampton has so declined in personal esteem and recognizable character that every bit of its historical importance has faded into obscurity. Should the city government maintain a hands-off policy with Fort Monroe, then Fort Monroe will thrive as the greatest of national historic parks; and then, Hampton will have something, within its corporate bounds, of which to be truly proud.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Actually Hampton does not "have" Fort Monroe -- it is (or shortly will be, after Army gives up ownership) controlled by the National Park Service and the Commonwealth of Virginia, through the Fort Monroe Authority (FMA). The City of Hampton does provide certain services to Fort Monroe and in return receives real estate taxes from private lessees/owners on Fort Monroe plus a fee in lieu of taxes from the FMA. But the City of Hampton should definitely benefit if a grand public place, including a unified National Monument, is established at Fort Monroe, especially in Phoebus.   By mark P
<b>Comment 5</b>	I do want Hampton to benefit from a full Ft. Monroe National Historic Park, but I hope you are correct saying Hampton won't be the owber of any of Ft. Monroe.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 6</b>	I do want Hampton to benefit from a full Ft. Monroe National Historic Park, but I hope you are correct saying that Hampton will not be the owner of any part of Ft. Monroe.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Hampton Leadership
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Unfortunately Hampton leadership including the current Mayor Molly Ward has used corrupt dirty politics to win elections for a city council that will try to sell and develop the Wherry Quater. It is vital for the future of Hampton and generations to learn America's history correctly. Colonial Williamsbug is not selling off 100 acres of prime property at millions of dollars in taxes and rewards to family friends who deal in property. Do the right thing! Close the donut hole! DO NOT SELL OFF OUR COUNTRY AND THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY!
<b>Idea Author</b>	malcolm A
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Who are you telling!?! Just look at their record: the big development flop by the Coliseum, the two hotels, the harbor tower, the big mess of a power plant, and the sweet slum deal near city hall--all at the taxpayer's expense!!! Someone on here said it best, that the city just isn't capable of doing anything good when it comes to development. Fort Monroe is way too big for their small and very selfish thinking.    By Jean S

<b>Comment 2</b>	Well stated Jean, and how can we forget Buckroe and what has happened to public beaches. 13.4 million tax dollars for Harbor Square Apartments. Fort Monroe must be preserved as the National Treasure that it is. Our state and national leaders need to be informed in detail of what the citizens want and it's importance to our heritage!   By malcolm A
<b>Comment 3</b>	Who are you telling!?! Just look at their record: the big development flop by the Coliseum, the two hotels, the harbor tower, the big mess of a power plant, and the sweet slum deal near city hall--all at the taxpayer's expense!!! Someone on here said it best, that the city just isn't capable of doing anything good when it comes to development. Fort Monroe is way too big for their small thinking.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Close the Gap!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Close the gap and connect the Wheery Quarters with the rest of the waterfront. Do not give Molly Ward and her puppets the opportunity to turn over waterfront land to the special interest friends and developers. They have corrupted this city enough, and taken away some of the rights of the citizens.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Edward C D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	More history: Pirates seized at Point Comfort!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	According to The Daily Press (May 29), the pirates whose booty ultimately funded Reverend Blair's founding of The College of William and Mary were arrested at Point Comfort. Hampton's Pirate Days celebration should really be tied to Ft. Monroe--even in the 1600's Ft. Monroe (though it wasn't called that then) was protecting Hampton Roads.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	I read the article and Susan makes a good point. If Ft Monroe is made into a National Park, I'll dress up as a Pirate and will bring a lusty wench with me for good measure.   By Kelly P
<b>Comment 2</b>	Ha! I do think the national park can be fun as well as educational!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	I did not see the article, so I'm not quite sure if this was at New Point Comfort or Cape/Old Point Comfort to which the author referred. Whichever, the manned defense on Cape Comfort was a surety for commerce to thrive for the Virginia Colony. Many fantastical fabrications abound concerning pirates, buccaneers and privateers... most have no substantiation where Hampton Roads harbour is concerned. Maybe Hampton should host the "Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe, Defender of of the Colony Festival", for historical relevance. The only drawback would be that about 100 middle-aged persons won't have cause to play dress-up like pirates and wenches.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Funny and true!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	I did not see the article, so I'm not quite sure if this was at New Point Comfort or Cape/Old Point Comfort to which the author referred. Whichever, the manned defense on Cape Comfort was a surety for commerce to thrive for the Virginia Colony. Many fantastical fabrications abound concerning pirates, buccaneers and privateers... most have no substantiation where Hampton Roads harbour is concerned. Maybe Hampton should host the "Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe, Defender of of the Colony Festival" , for historical accuracy. The only drawback would be that about 100 middle-aged persons won't have a cause to play dress-up like pirates and wenches.   By Luis O
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>Do you think the "Peninsula" is a great region?</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Greatness in Protecting Our Historical Landmarks
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Fort Monroe is comparable to Jamestown Island and the Yorktown Battlefield in importance to the history of the United States. Imagine the uproar that would occur if any development was proposed on Jamestown Island or on the Yorktown Battlefield. Why would we even consider any development in the Wherry Quarter/South Waterfront area, which is the heart of Fort Monroe National Monument? Such development would only detract from the re-creation of the sense of time and place that is needed here. Development would permanently block the view from the Fortress toward the Chesapeake Bay and from the waterfront toward the Fortress.</p> <p>Creating an enclave within the park would compromise the mission of Fort Monroe National Monument and diminish one of our most valuable landmarks. The Wherry Quarter/South Waterfront area should become a part of Fort Monroe National Monument.</p> <p>Please use the link below to go to the website of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, where you will find photos, links to videos, maps, and more information about Fort Monroe.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	22
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Amen Adrian Whitcomb! -Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Grand Public Place at Old Point Comfort
<b>Idea Detail</b>	By making all of Fort Monroe a magnificent grand public place, with a unified national monument, with 300 or more acres of maritime open space abutting the stone fortress and the built up Historic Village and redeveloped North Gate, and integrating this with revitalized Phoebus, we create a nationally significant destination, which changes image of lower Peninsula and leads to quality redevelopment and resurgence of Hampton and even beyond.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	20
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	I totally concur with this comment which is predicated on unifying the dangling segments of the National Monument into a real National Park.   By Kelly P
<b>Comment 2</b>	Fort Monroe will not be a grand PUBLIC place, if portions are sold to PRIVATE developers and corporations. Private never means public. Leasing of existing structures, rather than property sales, is a way that will help ensure public accessibility to all of Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	You are so right!!   By Jean S

<b>Comment 4</b>	I agree completely with Mark Perreault's admirably concise comment, but I would add something vital about his reference to a unified national monument. As shown at <a href="http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> in a visual way requiring only 15 seconds of your time, what needs unifying is the present fake national monument, which is gapingly divided on Fort Monroe's sense-of-place-defining bayfront. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Peninsula is a world-class historic region
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Even without including Williamsburg, which some might place along with Jamestown on the margins of the Peninsula, you have Yorktown, where for all practical purposes the Revolutionary war ended;and Hampton, the oldest continuous English-speaking community in America and an important early maritime link between America and Europe. And with the full recognition of Fort Monroe, you will also have not only an enrichment of those other histories but the addition of the beginning of the end of slavery, for all practical purposes, in the Contraband story. Hence the core of American history and its key story of freedom are associated with a region you can see in a single day. Sensitively handled, which also means proper attention paid to its outdoor recreational opportunities in the Wherry Quarter, Fort Monroe can be the capstone to this enormously significant region and increase its luster and appeal to tourists from all over the nation and the world.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	20
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great statements, Scott B6. And thank you for the clarifications, Sandra C and Scott B6.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	can you define in detail what you mean by sensitively handled outdoor recreational opportunities.....?   By Kady C
<b>Comment 3</b>	I mean that if the Wherry Quarter is developed, then views from the north side of the fortress to the shorelines and vice versa may be obstructed, the opportunities for large outdoor public events--larger than Continental Park can accomodate--will be compromised, and Fort Monroe will lose some of the sense of a grand public place that it needs to attract both tourists from afar and regional visitors. I mean also that the FMA needs to be sensitive to the presence of the National Monument, whatever it does in the state-owned parts of Fort Monroe. The National Monument is now part of the defintion of Fort Monroe, and anything that takes away from its historic/recreational purposes will work against all of Fort Monroe. It would be detrimental for the public to perceive the property as a subdivided entity raher than as a magnificent whole.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Kady, Scott is right with his explanation of "sensitively handled" opportunities within Wherry Quarter. One has only to look at the mess that has been created for public use along Buckroe bayfront to realize what will happen at Fort Monroe if the Wherry Quarter is not incorporated into the NPS holdings and is permitted to be sold off or developed. Consider that in the early 1900's Hampton had a population of approx 100,000 yet residents had both Bay Shore and Buckroe Beach Amusement Parks along the Chesapeake Bay. Together that amounted to about 30 acres of bayfront property for public use and enjoyment. In the mid- 60's, with a population then of about 120,000 and with Bay Shore closed, the public still had Buckroe's park with about 22 acres of bayfront property to enjoy. Today, over 144,000 residents are being squeezed into only 8 acres along the Buckroe bayfront between 1st Street and the Boardwalk. The same type of rabbit warren can happen at FM if not "sensitively handled.   By Sandra C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Grand Public Place at Old Point Comfort Will Incite Improvement
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Peninsula, with its economic, natural and historical gifts, should be a great region but it is not. Plagued by auto-oriented sprawl and deteriorating or neglected downtowns, and having devoted almost all its waterfronts to business, military or private homes, it fails to even begin to reach its potential. By maximizing potential of Fort Monroe, through preserving Wherry Quarter as a visual grandstand to Bay and Mill Creek from Fort, a greensward sweeping up to the walls of the fortress and its iconic moat and a powerful green connector of historic fortress and built up North Gate to the National Monument's open space, the Peninsula gains a world class property that can incite resurgence of Phoebus and beyond in dramatic way. Self-discipline and restraint on the Wherry produces greatness that will spill over into Phoebus and do more for region than a few buildings on the Wherry ever could.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	18
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	I believe the proper treatment (without any private ownership) of the entire land and waters of Fort Monroe will create a great, economically stable national historic park; and that will certainly engender a resurgence of the economic vitality of the Phoebus community.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Kady, once again, based on this comment of yours along with your comments elsewhere throughout this document, it is only fair to state that, in my opinion, you either work for, work with or are related to developers. Thankfully, each time you bash out at anyone looking to enrich and protect Fort Monroe's unique national history and its natural resources for America's now and future generations, you receive thoughtful meaningful explanations which show even more just how wrong your thoughts are. You are bringing out the best about Fort Monroe in eveyone as shown in their replies to you. For that, I for one thank you.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 3</b>	Yes... this entire process is spawning so many vibrant and feaseble concepts that private development must seem as an obsolete and utterly worthless option. I am pleased and amazed at the great birth of ideas to protect this entire sacred site. The NPS, FMA, and Sasaki should, now, be well armed to open Fort Monroe to the world.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I'm curious if you have any way to quantify your theory or examples of where undeveloped land did more to economically benefit neighboring towns than revenue generating tasteful development guided by the restrictive governing documents fort monroe is controlled by??   By Kady C
<b>Comment 5</b>	Kady, There is a great deal of evidence that national parks generate tourism and local visitor revenue in adjacent gateway towns. More than that, Hampton Roads in past failed to set aside much waterfront land for preservation and public enjoyment in its core, and we have defined ourself as a place deficient in places for passive public recreation in beautiful places (compare miles of open space along Potomac in DC, or green space all around San Francisco Bay, or park-lined Charles River in Boston), thus making us less competitive in attracting those businesses/corporations seeking a high quality of life for their employees. So creating a great Fort Monroe with natural maritime public open space in immediate conjunction with historic resources will add more value to Hampton and region than just another nice built up private neighborhood on the water, like East Beach or the like, which we have a lot of.   By mark P

<b>Comment 6</b>	Two points. 1. Parkland adds to the quality of life of a region, and quality of life attracts businesses. In the words of Trust for Public Land: "This shortage [of park space in Hampton Roads] deprives the region of many benefits that parks bring — from recreational opportunities to natural preservation, from enhanced property value to greater tourism revenue, from improved human health outcomes to increased community cohesion thanks to volunteerism in parks and the increased competitiveness of the region to businesses considering relocating to the area, especially those with a significant number of white collar workers." 2. Skip Stiles, executive director of Wetlands Watch, on new development at Fort Monroe: " Given that this region of Virginia has the highest rate of sea level rise on the east coast (measured at 1.45 feet over the last century) and that Ft. Monroe is on a barrier island just a few feet above sea level, any further, permanent development on this land is folly. We have documented the withdrawal of nearly 75 % private insurance companies who would write hazard and storm insurance for this land (not to be confused with federal flood insurance), bringing the economic viability of any development on this land into question. To protect
<b>Idea Title</b>	History, Waterfront and Open Space
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Virginia Peninsula contains much of the history concerning America's origins, e.g. the Historic Triangle. It also has many miles of waterfront but most is blocked from the public by private property. Fort Monroe adds substantially to the story of America, especially the freedom story from arrival of the first africans in 1619 through the beginning of the end of slavery at Freedom's Fortress in May 1861. Set in the center of 1.7 million residents, Old Point Comfort can and should provide open space for recreation and environmental education for the entire region. Out of town visitors will contribute to its self sustaining nature by providing accommodations, meals and shopping in the adjacent community of Phoebus. It is at the door to Fort Monroe, just off I-64. Old Point Comfort has attracted overnight visitors since the Hygeia Hotel was built almost two hundred years ago and it will do so again. Perhaps the historic Chamberlin can be converted back to a hotel (at least for three or four floors). Perhaps Building No. 5, on the Parade Ground, could be adaptively reused as a country inn. To spend a weekend, or a week, within the old fort, and walk the three mile promenade on the seawall as freighters
<b>Idea Author</b>	Louis G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	18
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	I strongly believe that the presence of Native people indigenous to the area for millennia would be an essential component of any of the proposed plans for Fort Monroe. Algonquian and other Native languages could be incorporated, for example, using place names (from early maps and other sources), but also more specifically to identify a range of flora and fauna. Indigenous names, the first spoken and heard in these beautiful lands, could be reflected via architectural landscaping, nature walks, walkways, gardens, and other means. Historical Native land use could also be addressed, preferably demonstrated in a variety of ways, with environmental practices. Attention to indigenous presence is vital to more recent history as well, including interactions with European and African newcomers to these shores. In addition to historical representation, contemporary indigenous involvement should be incorporated on an ongoing basis at Fort Monroe. Whether designing, consulting, drawing, planting, fishing, building, singing, speaking, planning, researching, leading, or other roles, Native participants are fundamental to this place. Paulette M    By Paulette M
<b>Comment 2</b>	Spectacular!!! Thank you for these ideas. I hope others will appreciate them, as well.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Thank you, Dr. M. I have been advocating proper acknowledgement of the millennia-old presence of the Kicotan (of the Algonquin Federation) in concert with the preservation of the natural environment... and in the re-telling of the full history of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe. Your suggestions are spectacular, and would greatly contribute to the living-history experience for any visitor to Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	All good observations and concepts!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	All good ideas and concepts.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	the optimal Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	To realize its full potential, Fort Monroe needs to fill its many historic buildings with residents and businesses, build beautiful, architecturally compatible new development in the non-historic Northgate area, and turn the Wherry Quarter into green, open space, with a substantial part of it set aside as National Park Service land to connect the two parts of the new Fort National Monument. A green Wherry is essential for tourism, an extremely important aspect of revenue generation not only for the state but also for Phoebus and the surrounding region. A green Wherry will provide recreational opportunities and a much bigger open area than Continental Park (where the gazebo is) for outdoor events such as Op Sail and large-scale concerts. It will also create a seamless whole between the state parts and the National Park Service parts of Fort Monroe. And it will provide striking views from the north side of the fortress to the Bay and Mill Creek, as well as from the shorelines back to the fortress. In all of these ways, a green Wherry will reinforce the atmosphere of a historic and recreational tourist mecca. For Fort Monroe to be all it can be, both economically and culturally, Wherry must go green!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	14
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Totally agree. Additionally, another way Wherry would reinforce the true historic atmosphere of Freedom's fort would be the recreation there of one of the many slave encampments that sprung up in the Wherry Quarter and other open areas of Fort Monroe. Just as Indian villages, early American settlements, and other encampments are set up in NP's throughout the USA, Fort Monroe's Wherry Quarter and its waterfront were essential for the hordes of slaves arriving and seeking refuge at Monroe. Wherry and its waterfront within NPS holdings will can only reinforce the atmosphere of a historic and recreational tourist mecca.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 2</b>	Excellent addendum!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	how does a green wherry generate revenue? OpSail and Large Scale concerts are very damaging to the surrounding landscape and do not generate revenue - they cost money. After all the tourists trample the grass, walk thru the landscape and litter the beach how do you see this generating revenue?   By Kady C

<b>Comment 4</b>	Historic sites with great recreational opportunities are very attractive to tourists today, and tourism revenue is going to be important not just to Fort Monroe but to Phoebus and Hampton. I don't see tourism as an undesirable thing but a central aspect of Fort Monroe's and the region's future. Surely, maintenance of green space in Wherry is possible. The alternative is lots of new houses with privately maintained yards and no public access--which will detract from the very thing that the state has pursued in getting a national park at Fort Monroe. Also, if the FMA is able to sell or lease the historic properties, it will be generating revenue without having to develop Wherry.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 5</b>	Traffic can generate revenue, if properly managed. As the Hampton Roads region learns that Fort Monroe is now open to the public, and all that is available for day visits, I expect many tens of thousands of local people will want to take advantage of the open space on the water, and the magnificent views. The Fort Monroe Authority and/or the National Park Service will be responsible for keeping the area clean. But much too much of our waterfront has been closed off from the public by private property owners. Old Point Comfort has been public property for 400 years and it must be preserved forever for appropriate uses by the public. The Newport Jazz Festival was a wonderful national success story, and it was located in the shadow of Fort Adams, a slightly smaller twin to Fort Monroe. If the Wherry Quarter is preserved as open space, it could be an ideal location for future Hampton Jazz Festivals.   By Louis G
<b>Idea Title</b>	THANKS to the President, the Governor, other officials for FMNM!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, along with many other civic minded organizations, took part in a full page ad (Daily Press, November 2011) thanking the President and other government officials for their part in the creation of Fort Monroe National Monument. We have thanked many of them personally and publicly since then and will continue to be thankful. Their actions have done much to make the "Peninsula" a greater region. Our advocacy at this point is to complete the task of making Fort Monroe National Monument unified by including the Wherry Quarter and the south waterfront areas.  The ad, along with news articles, photos, and links to the video of the signing can be found on our website.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	14
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	A successful Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	A successful and cooperatively managed Fort Monroe will certainly add to the attractiveness of the Peninsula. The FMA and NPS must work together to bring the Fort to a level that will serve the region and the people of this country.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	I hope we all will be able to continue to enjoy this priceless benefit at Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree that a well--run and cooperatively organized Ft. Monroe would add to the Peninsula's attractiveness. Too often the Peninsula's wonderful waterviews and recreational opportunities are limited only to those who own the big houses that face the beach or the water. Not enough of us get to actually walk beside the water or see the vistas that a National Park with open space for the public will provide.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	I hope we all will be able to continue to enjoy this proceless benefit at Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I hope we all will be able to continue to enjoy this priceless benefit at Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Peninsula's Historic Diamond: full story of America's founding
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Peninsula's Historic Triangle -- Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown -- tells only the partial story of America's founding. Ft Monroe could anchor the new fourth node of a Historic Diamond telling the complete story. Please consider: In a Civil War sesquicentennial discussion, the historian Edward L. Ayers observed that "emancipation began almost as soon as the war did," that "African Americans began freeing themselves at the first opportunity, which was indeed at Ft Monroe, where they went to offer their aid," and that Americans "will need to broaden our understanding...to include the determination of black people to become free from the first moments of the conflict." Ayers later called those Fort Monroe events "the greatest moment in American history." Decades earlier, victory at Yorktown had made independence real, but had not made real the most important principles of the Declaration of Independence. For millions of America's inhabitants -- culture-enhancing, wealth-creating, but enslaved and denied citizen-dignity -- the new nation had defied the self-evident truths "that all men are created equal" with "unalienable rights." Four score and seven years after the Declaration, President Lincoln invoked those truths in proclaiming a
<b>Idea Author</b>	Steve C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes, to include Ft Monroe as the tip of the Historic Diamond (or the 4th leg of the Historic Quadrangle) is the ultimate goal. By merging it with the Historic Triangle there is so much potential synergy and benefit for the area that it is almost incalculable. The value and benefits would be limited only by development, short sighted greed or lack of imagination.   By Kelly P
<b>Comment 2</b>	This is a critical point. Fort Monroe, for all of its historic importance, is relatively unknown to people outside of our area. To be a successful monument, it must be marketed alongside Jamestown, Yorktown and Colonial Williamsburg. Its story is just as important to tell, and to-date it is largely untold.   By Brian K
<b>Comment 3</b>	Four notes about my idea above: 1. For five years I've promoted but disliked "Historic Quadrangle," so I thank whoever introduced "Historic Diamond" at a Sasaki meeting. 2. Ayers URLs: <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/discussion/2010/10/29/DI2010102904641.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/discussion/2010/10/29/DI2010102904641.html</a> and <a href="http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/">http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/</a> . 3. I fundamentally dispute our celebrating May 24. To celebrate May 23 will be to begin shedding the residual, hidden, inadvertent and pernicious Gone-With-the-Wind presumptions of black inferiority that still stain the telling of this beautiful Fort Monroe Freedom Story. General Butler's astute, indispensable "decision" is only secondarily important, for as Jefferson foretold, the inevitability of all of this was built into Nature itself -- as the self-emancipators demonstrated. 4. When we finally win a REAL, unbifurcated national park ( <a href="http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> ) for the Historic Diamond, I hope we call it Freedom's Fortress National Park.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 4</b>	How about this--Fort Monroe IS the diamond on the ring (Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, Hampton).   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Part of a great region
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Topographically and ecologically, Hampton Roads (from Hampton to Smithfield and from James City County to Chesapeake) is a great region. The Peninsula is the historic center of that region, beginning with Cape Comfort (Fort Monroe), where our USA history actually begins.

<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	I think you are so right!!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Greater Vision Required for a Great Region
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Special places bring people back time and time again. They treasure them in their memories and in their photographs. A greater vision will lead to a grander view for visitors to enjoy and to treasure and which will beckon them to return. That greater vision includes the Wherry Quarter and south waterfront area in Fort Monroe National Monument.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	The history of the Fort Monroe planning process has been one of state authorities catching up with the vision of the public for a grand public place at Fort Monroe. The creation of Fort Monroe National Monument was a huge step in the right direction, involving unprecedented bipartisan cooperation among state, federal, and Hampton officials in these partisan, economically challenged times. But, as Adrian says, another step needs to be taken for Fort Monroe to become what the public wants--and what, not incidentally, Hampton and the region need for future economic growth. I hope, and trust, that the FMA, now that it has so vigorously pursued a National Monument at Fort Monroe, will expand its vision further and work to transfer Wherry to the Monument. We're 100 acres away from a truly spectacular regional, national and international destination.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree, and I hope the FMA and others involved in the planning for the future of Ft. Monroe National Park will take to heart (and mind) the many comments along these lines that have been made on this website. Thanks to Sasaki for allowing such an inclusive on-line discussion to take place.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Excellent addendum to an excellent entry!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Significant Factors that make the Peninsula a great region
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe of course with its rich history of the Contraband, the army, the Fort. Fort Monroe is world class. Veterans will have a close connection to Fort Monroe wherever they live in the world. There is Endview in Newport News. Then there is the Bay, Hampton Roads, the James River, the York River. The Mariner's Museum is world class and the Mariners Museum Park, CNU is an outstanding University as well as housing a first class Ferguson Fine Arts Performance Center. The Peninsula has a number of parks and museums.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Barbara S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Peninsula could be greater with Ft. Monroe as gateway
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Peninsula has lots to offer (waterways all around, some great public colleges, NN Park, Mariner's Museum, the so-called "Historic Triangle," and so on), but the lower part of the Peninsula especially has always been sort of bypassed or sandwiched between Williamsburg and Virginia Beach. Many people outside the area don't know anything about Newport News (except maybe that there's a shipyard here) or Hampton, not to mention Ft. Monroe as anything but a closed-off army post. I think a great Ft. Monroe National Park could be an important draw of people to stop on the Peninsula and not just rush through to get to the beach or to Colonial Williamsburg or Jamestown.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	I am a native of Hampton, and I have seen this city become a worse place to live each year--every parcel of land is being developed and every neighborhood is rapidly degrading. Take a look at Wythe--not the wonderful place to live it was 60 years ago. A great Fort Monroe National Historic Park would be just the thing to help boost the local economy and instill some personal pride to restore Hampton to its former greatness.    By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Thanks for your comment--I agree that Ft. Monroe National Park could really add to Hampton's attractiveness--and the Hampton advertisers must think so, too, since they put pictures of Ft. Monroe on all of their new ads and brochures!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	For decades, Hampton's Department of Conventions and Tourism has been marketing this city as a rest stop or gas station between Williamsburg and Virginia Beach. Obviously, they have never appreciated anything great about what is here. BUT, many here have always known what a privilege is to live in the first city of USA, and what a great treasure of history and beauty we have in Fort Monroe. We can help to make Fort Monroe the greatest tourist attraction in the country, and we have to ensure that its rich story is told and retold, so the world will know who we are. Then, the vitality of the city (and of Phoebus, in particular) will be restored.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I am a native of Hampton, and I have seen this city become a worse place to live each year--every parcel of land is being developed and every neighborhood is degrading. A great Fort Monroe National Historic Park would be just the thing to help restore Hampton to its former greatness   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	For decades, Hampton Conventions and Tourism department has been marketing this city as a rest stop or gas station between Williamsburg and Virginia Beach. Obviously, they have never appreciated anything great about what is here. BUT, many here have always known what a privilege is to live in the first city of USA, and what a great treasure of history and beauty we have in Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Cape Comfort/Fort Algernon/Fort Monroe Ensured Our Greatness

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The Virginia Colony, 1607 - 1776, initially contained all (or most) of what was to become Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. For nearly two centuries, the governmental and economic heart of that colony was on the land we call the Peninsula.</p> <p>The Age of Exploration saw the Portuguese, Spanish, English, Dutch and French in constant search for expansionist footholds in the Western Hemisphere. While these efforts eventually spawned two centuries of rampant piracy throughout the Atlantic coastal areas of both continents, there were no known instances of piracy in Hampton Roads. The early settlements on, or in direct communication with, the Hampton Roads Harbour: (Jamestown, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Williamsburg) were defended most ably by Cape Comfort/Fort Algernon/(later) Fort Monroe, which was manned for defense by 1608.</p> <p>Commerce (as opposed to looting) with the "Old World", which began as early as 1616, was able to flourish, and the establishment of government was made possible; because these early settlements of the Virginia Colony were free to trade, under the protection of Cape Comfort. As government is based on economy, and economy is based on trade; I do not believe that the germinal settlements of what would become USA would have survived without the manned occupancy of Cape Comfort. Therefore, our nation would have a very different history than the one that brought us to be the greatest in the world.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>You sure write big articles, but I agree with you. When I was in school, we never learned much about this more important history. We learned about Pilgrims, and witch trials, and John and Priscilla, while some of the earlier important facts were ignored. Fort Monroe is great in our history and made this country greater.</p> <p>  By Jean S</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>All the above points are supportive of the essential imperative of preserving all of Ft Monroe in the form of a connected National Park. Allowing privatization or development of any of the land between the two disconnected pieces of the National Monument would be a tragedy. People won't pay for the potential attractions if the area is sullied by profiteering development. People don't pay to visit residential communities. Hotels and casinos are a dime a dozen and are most inappropriate for Ft Monroe because they would make an exceptional place become a mediocre tourist trap. Preserve all the green space, connect the beach and preserve it for the public who are the rightful owners.   By Kelly P</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	Wow! You said it well!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>Yes--we definitely don't want Ft. Monroe to become a "mediocre tourist trap" with stuff like carnival rides, hot dog stands, and casinos! And you're correct that tourists don't come to visit residential developments. The historic and environmental uniqueness and beauty must be preserved .   By Susan B</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>You sure write big articles, but I agree with you. When I was in school, we never learned much about this more important history. We learned about Pilgrims and witch trials and John and Priscilla while some of the earlier important facts were ignored. Fort Monroe is great in our history and made this country greater.</p> <p>  By Jean S</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	You sure write big articles, but I agree with you. Fort Monroe is great in our history and made this country greater.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Peninsula is part of the entire Hampton Roads Region
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Peninsula is not a region in itself, but is part of the entire region that centers around the watery Hampton Roads itself. Fort Monroe is the most significant historic site right at Hampton Roads center. It is important to think inclusively and regionally in planning the surroundings for the Fort itself.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Vaughn R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	A full Fort Monroe National Historic Park will be a boon to all of Hampton Roads, just as the site was a great defender of Hampton Roads for centuries.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>I agree, and would add that it's also important to think inclusively and regionally about planning for the Fort. To quote a Virginian Pilot editorial, "The Wherry Quarter ... should be permanently set aside as open space and added to the park as soon as possible. ...[The National Monument's] value as a historic site, a natural resource and tourist attraction will be degraded if the Wherry Quarter is not preserved." To see the complete editorial, please go to the homepage of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park: <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org">fortmonroecitizens.org</a>. You'll find it near the top.   By Scott B</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Set the Right Priorities
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>A great region deserves a great master plan for Fort Monroe that, rather than drain its riches for the benefit of a few individuals in this generation, clearly passes along to future generations this national treasure unadulterated. We must not "sell the baby" to pay for the "bathwater." Set the right priorities and find a way to achieve them!</p> <p>One of the priorities should be to keep the entire waterfront public. The Wherry Quarter and the South Waterfront area should be included in Fort Monroe National Monument.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>There are a myriad of probable and practical concepts that can be implemented to preserve ALL of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe, and make it extremely inviting to anyone, with ample economic vitality, and with no permanent residential nor private ownership of any part. The natural setting can (and must) be preserved, and the historical edifices will be saved and preserved. The Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, Fort Monroe Authority, Commonwealth of Virginia, and 99 percent of the contributors on this web-site all must realize these to be true and valid concepts. This survey has been loaded with good options. The long-term goal must be achieved for this to ever work.</p> <p>  By Luis O</p>

<b>Comment 2</b>	I believe it can be done with no loss to the Fort, and with great economic benefit to the region, and great historic benefit to the nation.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	There are a myriad of probable and practical concepts that can be implemented to preserve ALL of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe, and make it extremely inviting to anyone, with ample economic vitality, and with no permanent residential nor private ownership of any part. The natural setting can (and must) be preserved, and the historical edifices will be saved. The Department of Interior, National Parks Service, Fort Monroe Authority, Commonwealth of Virginia, and 99 percent of the contributors on this web-site all must realize these to be true and valid concepts. This survey has been loaded with good options. The long-term goal must be achieved for this to ever work.    By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	There are a myriad of probable implementations to preserve ALL of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe, and make it inviting to anyone, with economic vitality, and no residential nor private ownership of any part. The natural setting can (and must) be preserved, and the historical edifices will be saved. The Department of Interior, National Parks Service, Fort Monroe Authority, Commonwealth of Virginia, and 99 percent of the contributors on this web-site all know these to be true and valid concepts. This survey has been loaded with good options. The long-term goal must be achieved for this to ever work.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	The real Heart of Hampton Roads
<b>Idea Detail</b>	When I came here in 1979, I didn't have a true knowledge of history. The Great VA Peninsula IS American history- Jamestowne, Williamsburg, and Yorktown (a nice triangle indeed). However, Fort Monroe sits in the center of the whole SEVA history- from First Landing SP, to Nansemond Indian areas, up to the triangle area. This area played a part in every significant milestone the country has reached (first colony to men on the moon). Promote Fort Monroe as the true Heart of Hampton Roads.
<b>Idea Author</b>	David D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Fort Monroe is not just the "Heart of Hampton Roads", but the "Heart of USA"... this is the birthplace of our nation.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	where are the grateful citizens?
<b>Idea Detail</b>	You would think in all these postings the citizens who fought for the National Park would express some gratitude to the NPS or the president for giving them a National Monument. There is not one positive comment about the Presidential Proclamation to be found. All I am reading is negative comments about how the park is fake, not big enough, not green enough and even someone who wants to lock it up. I would like to be the first to say thank you President Obama. Thank you NPS and FMA for working together to plan the best possible future for Fort Monroe. Seems to me that the citizens who wanted a national park at fort monroe should say thank you also. Some people are never satisfied.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Kady C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	No... we are not satisfied with mediocrity, nor with second-rate, nor with half-done jobs, nor with neglected greatness, nor with selfishness, nor with economic segregation, nor with any exclusionary practices... That's why we're on here... to ensure the very best, and to ensure that none of the aforementioned negative characteristics will ever apply to the citizens of USA, where Fort Monroe is concerned.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	No... we are not satisfied with mediocrity, nor with second -rate, nor with half-done jobs, nor with neglected greatness, nor with selfishness, nor with economic segregation, nor with any exclusionary practices... That's why we're on here... to ensure the very best, and to ensure that none of the aforementioned negative characteristics will ever apply to the citizens of USA, where Fort Monroe is concerned.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Actually, National Monument status was accorded to much of Fort Monroe nearly 60 years ago. The entire Moat, Post Office and Clock Tower, Lincoln House (Quarters #1), Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, Chapel of the Centurion, several officers' residences... (to cite a few entities) were already protected. But... for environmental, historical and practical economic reasons, the entire footprint (land and waters) of Fort Monroe must be unified and protected for this sacred and germinal site of national and global importance to survive. A full National Historic Park must be established to maximize the potential of Fort Monroe, for all time. Enough steps in the proper direction will achieve the best result. That's why we're here... taking those steps. This is a task for all of us to undertake, for the benefit of the whole world.    By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Actually, National Monument status was accorded to much of Fort Monroe nearly 60 years ago. The entire Moat, Post Office and Clock Tower, Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, Chapel of the Centurion, several officers' residences... (to cite a few entities) were already protected. But... for environmental, historical and practical economic reasons, the entire footprint (land and waters) of Fort Monroe must be unified and protected for this sacred and germinal site of national and global importance to survive. A full National Historic Park must be established to maximize the potential of Fort Monroe, for all time. Enough steps in the proper direction will acieve the best result. That's why we're here... taking those steps. This is a task for all of us to undertake, for the benefit of the whole world.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	Please see "THANKS to the President, the Governor, and other officials for FMNM!" under this same section of ideas (Do you think the "Peninsula" is a great region?). The ad shown appeared in more than one newspaper. Also go to <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/national-monument-declaration/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/national-monument-declaration/</a> where this ad is posted along with news articles, photos, and videos. We have said thanks and continue to do so. We also continue to advocate for the best possible national monument/park at Fort Monroe. That advocacy in no way diminishes our thankfulness!   By Adrian W
<b>Idea Title</b>	be thankful
<b>Idea Detail</b>	You would think in all these postings the citizens who fought for the National Park would express some gratitude to the NPS or the president for giving them a National Monument. There is not one positive comment about the Presidential Proclamation to be found. All I am reading is negative comments about how the park is fake, not big enough, not green enough and even someone who wants to lock it up. I would like to be the first to say thank you President Obama. Thank you NPS and FMA for working together to plan the best possible future for Fort Monroe. Seems to me that the citizens who wanted a national park at fort monroe should say thank you also. Some people are never satisfied.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Kady C

<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	I am thankful to all the fine persons on here who are working so dilligently to ensure the very besy outcome for Fort Monroe. Aren't you grateful, too?   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Actually, National Monument status was accorded to much of Fort Monroe more than 50 years ago. The entire Moat, Post Office and Clock Tower, Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, Chapel of the Centurion, "Lincoln House", several officers' residences... (to cite a few entities) were already protected. But... for environmental, historical and practical economic reasons, the entire footprint (land and waters) of Fort Monroe must be unified and protected for this sacred and germinal site of national and global importance to survive. A full National Historic Park must be established to maximize the potential of Fort Monroe, for all time. Enough steps in the proper direction will achieve the best result. That is why we are here... taking those steps. This is a task for all of us to undertake, for the benefit of the whole world. What is wrong with striving for the best? We deserve the best... the world deserves the best.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Actually, National Monument status was accorded to much of Fort Monroe nearly 60 years ago. The entire Moat, Post Office and Clock Tower, Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, Chapel of the Centurion, several officers' residences... (to cite a few entities) were already protected. But... for environmental, historical and practical economic reasons, the entire footprint (land and waters) of Fort Monroe must be unified and protected for this sacred and germinal site of national and global importance to survive. A full National Historic Park must be established to maximize the potential of Fort Monroe, for all time. Enough steps in the proper direction will achieve the best result. That is why we are here... taking those steps. This is a task for all of us to undertake, for the benefit of the whole world.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Actually, National Monument status was accorded to much of Fort Monroe nearly 60 years ago. The entire Moat, Post Office and Clock Tower, Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, Chapel of the Centurion, several officers' residences... (to cite a few entities) were already protected. But... for environmental, historical and practical economic reasons, the entire footprint (land and waters) of Fort Monroe must be unified and protected for this sacred and germinal site of national and global importance to survive. A full National Historic Park must be established to maximize the potential of Fort Monroe, for all time. Enough steps in the proper direction will acieve the best result. That's why we're here... taking those steps. This is a task for all of us to undertake, for the benefit of the whole world.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	Please see "THANKS to the President, the Governor, and other officials for FMNM!" under this same section of ideas (Do you think the "Peninsula" is a great region?). The ad shown appeared in more than one newspaper. Also go to <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/national-monument-declaration/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/national-monument-declaration/</a> where this ad is posted along with news articles, photos, and videos. We have said thanks and continue to do so. We also continue to advocate for the best possible national monument/park at Fort Monroe. That advocacy in no way diminishes our thankfulness!   By Adrian W
<b>Idea Title</b>	How Great it would be if the people are Listened to!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	How great it would be if the people are listened to on this matter of Master Planning and a truly great plan for Fort Monroe is created that puts Fort Monroe National Monument first by uniting both sections with an open green Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront area. There is more than enough room in the North Gate area for development to accommodate tourists and residents of the historic village.  Do the right thing and people will come from all over to see and experience a truly great and unique place!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	AMEN, Adrian! (In a quick glance at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> you can see the geography that Adrian means.) Thanks for this forthright demand that what belongs to America -- not to Hampton, not to developers, not to politicians beholden to parochial interests -- be treated that way. If Fort Monroe means what everyone says it means, then the gaping omission of sense-of-place-defining bayfront from the national monument is -- here it comes again! -- ***self-evidently preposterous.*** Will Sasaki figure out that it owes more to itself and to America than to employers who presume, along with Republican Gov. McDonnell and the two Democratic senators, that Fort Monroe is more of a development plum and a "village" to be suboptimized than a national treasure and candidate World Heritage Site to be stewarded? Great to see this forthrightness. Glad to have had the honor of being the first to register a vote (a "second"). I hope thousands join in on this one. Steven T. Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Grateful Citizens, where are they?
<b>Idea Detail</b>	You would think in all these postings the citizens who fought for the National Park would express some gratitude to the NPS or the president for giving them a National Monument. There is not one positive comment about the Presidential Proclamation to be found. All I am reading is negative comments about how the park is fake, not big enough, not green enough and even someone who wants to lock it up. I would like to be the first to say thank you President Obama. Thank you NPS and FMA for working together to plan the best possible future for Fort Monroe. Seems to me that the citizens who wanted a national park at fort monroe should say thank you also. Some people are never satisfied.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Kady C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	It seems you repeatedly like to negatively attack those with positive intentions, so I'll post this statement, again.  ""National Monument status was accorded to much of Fort Monroe more than 50 years ago. The entire Moat, Post Office and Clock Tower, Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, Chapel of the Centurion, "Lincoln House", several officers' residences... (to cite a few entities) were already protected. But... for environmental, historical and practical economic reasons, the entire footprint (land and waters) of Fort Monroe must be unified and protected for this sacred and germinal site of national and global importance to survive. A full National Historic Park must be established to maximize the potential of Fort Monroe, for all time. Enough steps in the proper direction will achieve the best result. That is why we are here... taking those steps. This is a task for all of us to undertake, for the benefit of the whole world.""  We are striving for the best, and I am grateful to anyone who works toward this end. Fort Monroe deserves the best... Wouldn't you agree? Anything less is unacceptable.   By Luis O

<p><b>Comment 2</b></p>	<p>It seems you like to negatively attack those with positive intentions, so I'll post this statement, again.</p> <p>Actually, National Monument status was accorded to much of Fort Monroe more than 50 years ago. The entire Moat, Post Office and Clock Tower, Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, Chapel of the Centurion, "Lincoln House", several officers' residences... (to cite a few entities) were already protected. But... for environmental, historical and practical economic reasons, the entire footprint (land and waters) of Fort Monroe must be unified and protected for this sacred and germinal site of national and global importance to survive. A full National Historic Park must be established to maximize the potential of Fort Monroe, for all time. Enough steps in the proper direction will achieve the best result. That is why we are here... taking those steps. This is a task for all of us to undertake, for the benefit of the whole world.   By Luis O</p>
<p><b>Comment 3</b></p>	<p>HOO-AH to Adrian, Mark, Steve and Scott's replies to Kady C's comments. So true, all of them, and all of which I am in total agreement. Kady, who do you work for or with?   By Sandra C</p>
<p><b>Comment 4</b></p>	<p>Please see "THANKS to the President, the Governor, and other officials for FMNM!" under this same section of ideas (Do you think the "Peninsula" is a great region?). The ad shown appeared in more than one newspaper. Also go to <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/national-monument-declaration/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/national-monument-declaration/</a> where this ad is posted along with news articles, photos, and videos. We have said thanks and continue to do so. We also continue to advocate for the best possible national monument/park at Fort Monroe. That advocacy in no way diminishes our thankfulness!   By Adrian W</p>
<p><b>Comment 5</b></p>	<p>I cannot speak to Kady C's motives but would note it is common in Hampton Roads for development advocates to accuse citizens who do not want more strip malls, convenience stores, roadways, subdivisions and big box stores of being greedy or unappreciative for the few public parks and green space they have, in order to try to put advocates for more green space on the defensive. If these tactics had been applied and successful in DC and Boston, we would have a Potomac and Charles River lined not with parkland on both banks but instead lined with strip malls and housing developments interspersed among the miles of magnificent green space DC and Boston citizens enjoy today. No. Hampton Roads citizens are not being greedy in asking for Fort Monroe to be magnificent. Rather they are seeking to add value to the entire region by creating a magnificent public place on the shores of Hampton Roads and the Bay that will at least partially offset the development of most of the lower Peninsula.   By mark P</p>
<p><b>Comment 6</b></p>	<p>Kady's charges lack merit. Here's what's happened since 05: A handful of Big-Money-influenced politicians, backed by the Daily Press, has grimly framed this national treasure not as a stewardship duty and extraordinary international opportunity, but as a narrow development plum for one city -- albeit with a nuisance (to them) history dimension. In 06 at fake, PR-choreographed public meetings, they censored national-park talk. After six years of thwarting efforts to reframe the debate on patriotic rather than narrow parochial grounds, they found they could no longer ignore the history. So they engineered a fake national monument/park that, according to the Virginian-Pilot, will "degrade" Ft Monroe's potential unless we insist on unifying it by including the missing 100 bayfront acres. Kady is bashing the very people who uphold the civic duty that our leaders, with her cheering, are dodging. Her locked ID and comments elsewhere justify asking if she represents developers.   By Steve C</p>
<p><b>Comment 7</b></p>	<p>To correct a partial misimpression, Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park has expressed its thanks for the creation of the Fort Monroe National Monument to the many people involved, from the members of the Fort Monroe Authority to the governor to our Congressional delegation to President Obama. At the same time, we have always advocated for an open-space Wherry and continue to do so. We think that a developed Wherry would diminish the present 365 acres of the Monument and therefore the tourism revenue that a grand public place would bring to the state and the region. The expression of this view is in keeping with the general purpose of this website. For a fuller sense of CFMNP's views on the Monument and Wherry, spend a little time on our website: <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org">fortmonroecitizens.org</a>.   By Scott B</p>
<p><b>Idea Title</b></p>	<p>you got your park</p>
<p><b>Idea Detail</b></p>	<p>You would think in all these postings the citizens who fought for the National Park would express some gratitude to the NPS or the president for giving them a National Monument. There is not one positive comment about the Presidential Proclamation to be found. All I am reading is negative comments about how the park is fake, not big enough, not green enough and even someone who wants to lock it up. I would like to be the first to say thank you President Obama. Thank you NPS and FMA for working together to plan the best possible future for Fort Monroe. Seems to me that the citizens who wanted a national park at fort monroe should say thank you also. Some people are never satisfied.</p>
<p><b>Idea Author</b></p>	<p>Kady C</p>
<p><b>Number of Seconds</b></p>	<p>0</p>
<p><b>Number of Points</b></p>	<p>0</p>
<p><b>Number of Comments</b></p>	<p>0</p>
<p><b>Topic Name</b></p>	<p><i><b>How can we ensure a pedestrian friendly street network?</b></i></p>
<p><b>Idea Title</b></p>	<p>Avoid Overdevelopment and Maximize Open Space</p>
<p><b>Idea Detail</b></p>	<p>By limiting new development to the North Gate area the built-up area of Fort Monroe will be more compact, making it more walkable. Sidewalks and bike paths should be created and maintained throughout Fort Monroe, including along the Chesapeake Bay and Mill Creek waterfronts and around the moat. The Wherry Quarter and the south waterfront area (shown in red on second map) should become part of Fort Monroe National Monument. There should be pedestrian/bicycle connections to both Phoebus and Buckroe.</p> <p>Please use the link below to go to the website of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, where you will find photos, links to videos, maps, and more information about Fort Monroe.</p>
<p><b>Idea Author</b></p>	<p>Adrian W</p>
<p><b>Number of Seconds</b></p>	<p>21</p>
<p><b>Number of Points</b></p>	<p>0</p>
<p><b>Number of Comments</b></p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Comment 1</b></p>	<p>The pedestrian connections between Fort Monroe and Phoebus/Buckroe need coordination with the neighboring communities. On the Phoebus side, the commerce, open waterfront, &amp; arts venues along Mellon St compliment anticipated Fort Monroe development but the bridge is narrow and the small sidewalk discourages pedestrian traffic. The Mercury Blvd bridge is more user-friendly for all types of traffic, but connects to a residential area on the Phoebus end. With the current arrangement, we can expect visitors to drive around Fort Monroe and leave walking/biking to the locals who know the area.   By Rebecca C</p>
<p><b>Comment 2</b></p>	<p>The more bike paths the better   By Barbara S</p>

<b>Comment 3</b>	I'm glad someone mentioned the old trees! The Algernon Oak is one of the oldest trees in Virginia and is pictured (and discussed) in the book The Remarkable Trees of Virginia. The beautiful trees, shrubs, and landscaping at Ft. Monroe that the Army has maintained must be saved and continued. They are part of the uniqueness of the place, and nothing should take away from their importance to the experience of being at Ft. Monroe.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Strengthen off-street walks, trails and paths + curbs/sidewalks
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The street network has many sections of sidewalks with inconsistent curbing, and cuts for driveways sometimes ramp back to sidewalks and in other places are tall and unfriendly to the elderly, handicapped and people with strollers. Sometimes it's different on either side of a drive! These conditions should be as consistent as possible to ensure a pedestrian friendly street network. Also, crosswalk markings need to be updated.</p> <p>A great way to ensure that pedestrians feel comfortable is to reinforce the network of walks, trails and paths around the property now. Walking around areas already designed for people instead of vehicles helps encourage people to cross at the intersections designed for walkers instead of feeling that walking alongside a street will 'go on forever' and that crossing mid-block without a crossing is the better route. Marked mid-block crossings are fine since Fort Monroe has a developed network of off-street paths that allow walkers to feel their 'own space' outside of streets.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Josh G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	14
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	An example of incomplete walkway systems is Moat Walk around outside of moat -- see my separate comment to complete and enhance Moat Walk. This Walk should be completed (including moving road away in North Gate, closing gaps behind Generals' houses and in Wherry Quarter, etc.) and improved and, if so, will be a very popular way for people to circumnavigate fortress comfortably and easily.   By mark P
<b>Comment 2</b>	Great ideas! And a great result would ensue, if implemented.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Starting with the off-street walkways already existing, extend and interconnect them with well designed street crossings resulting in a network of walkways insulated from vehicular traffic leading to the points of interest and services.   By Richard S
<b>Comment 4</b>	Yes! There are so many beautiful places to see while walking through them, so walking should be the main way of getting around the fort.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Quality Infill with Carefully Designed Parking Structures
<b>Idea Detail</b>	This should be pertinent only in Historic Village and North Gate, as we should not be building streets in Wherry or in South Waterfront (i.e., Batteries Parrott and Irwin and land on waterside of Fenwick Road connecting them to Wherry), which should remain open space. But in the Historic Village and North Gate, all new construction should be built up on sidewalks, with any parking on street, in well-designed structures or, to extent surface parking lots are allowed, confined to back of structures, out of sight from street. Consider as good examples downtown Annapolis, Alexandria and Georgetown, in addition to those you have cited. Be careful with parking garage design -- there is a good example in downtown Staunton, VA, as well as the one you showed in Charleston, SC on East Bay Street.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I am not necessarily urging construction of parking garages. But it would be better to put one or two well-designed parking structures in North Gate or even Historic Village than to develop Wherry Quarter. If denser development in North Gate or Historic Village may ultimately be necessary to permit state owned land to cover its costs without building in Wherry Quarter and precluding National Monument unification, more parking in North Gate or Historic Village may possibly be needed.   By mark P
<b>Comment 2</b>	Parking structures are not needed. Expansion of existing parking (in any form) may be aesthetically and environmentally detrimental to the entire site. Every day, there were thousands of military, civil service, and foreign liaison personnel; as well as casual visitors, marina users, church attendees and hotel guests on Fort Monroe. There was ample parking to accommodate all of them.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>Building infill may not be feasible in proximity to historic structures.</p> <p>Why would you need a parking garage on the Fort? That would be a poor use of the limited amount of property on Monroe. If a garage is economically feasible, let private developers build one in Phoebus and keep motor traffic on the fort to a minimum. If you've ever been to Ft Monroe for 4th of July fireworks, you'll understand what I'm saying.</p> <p>Someone else has already suggested pedestrian connections from Phoebus to Monroe. That's the way to go.   By Susan W</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Bikepath to Buckroe!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Would love to be able to bike, walk, jog or run from Buckroe Park down to the fort! It would unify the two locations, encourage exercise, and allow people to combine beach activities with historical interpretation.
<b>Idea Author</b>	john R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	10
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes!! Me on a bicycle and my two dogs trotting alongside--what a joy that would be!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	I love this idea too and I would love to see the path extended to include Phoebus and maybe even all the way to Grandview.   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 3</b>	But only if it would be only a path, not a road with cars coming into the park from the north side. Connecting to Buckroe might be a disaster otherwise.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 4</b>	True... particularly considering that Buckroe, where it abuts to Fort Monroe, is private/residential.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	shops
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Create a section of well designed, adaptively used buildings to establish a "town center". This should be designed for walking, with shops, art, food establishments, coffee shops, outdoor tables and etc.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5

<b>Comment 1</b>	I am not crazy about the town center idea either. I'd rather see an intimate cafe, bistro or upscale restaurant placed on different points on the Fort. We have enough shopping else where.   By Jennifer S
<b>Comment 2</b>	I think a town center concept would be wrong for Fort Monroe. Carefully selected and scattered shops and eateries will prevent much tourist congestion. We don't want to make the same errors here that have occurred in Williamsburg.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I think a town center concept would be wrong for Fort Monroe. Carefully selected and scattered shops and eateries will prevent much tourist congestion. We don't want to make the same errors here that occurred in Williamsburg.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	A small coffee shop or bistro with outdoor seating would be great! Can't wait until the marina opens their eatery!   By Jeannie W
<b>Comment 5</b>	A good idea but I am not sure Fort Monroe will support a "town center". If it will, North Gate is place for this. More likely I think we should locate a few restaurants and other visitor-oriented businesses, carefully, in pedestrian-friendly formats, either in historic buildings or in compatible infill in Historic Village or North Gate.   By mark P
<b>Idea Title</b>	Bikes!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I think Ft. Monroe is an excellent area to attract the biking community. It offers lots of interesting sights and the boardwalk is wide enough to accomodate a "bike lane" as well as pedestrians.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jacqui K
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Cycling and foot traffic
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Walking and bicycling on Fort Monroe has always been a pleasure for my family and my friends. Aside from the usual 8:00am and 4:00pm rush hours, (and, of course, Independence Day), there never were motor traffic problems. There are numerous sites on the post, conducive for family picnicking and sight-seeing, and walking or cycling would be ideal modes of travel. Accessibility, on foot, to the entire acreage of Fort Monroe is essential for tourism. Motor ingress and egress, through the two existing bridges, may require some future reconfiguration for facility. Once enough entities are in-place, controlled mass transit service should be extended to Fort Monroe, at least, with a schedule of a few arrivals and departures, each day
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Controlled occupancy levels will help
<b>Idea Detail</b>	By maintaining a reasonable limit on tenancy on Fort Monroe (no greater occupancy than the Army's); ensuring plenty of open, unspoilt land; and providing regular attraction venues that will be available throughout the day and evening (so the casual visitor may have reason to come during non-peak times), then rush hour congestion can be avoided, and walkers and cyclists can travel in relative comfort and safety.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	And do not over build. Leave the lovely, open spaces.   By Jennifer S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Fort Monroe has always been a great place to visit, morning, afternoon and evening.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	A Walker's Paradise
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I have read many great ideas on here. I'd like to add that I enjoy visiting Fort Monroe. I walk my dogs under the tree-lined streets, through the moat, on the beaches, and over the grassy open areas near the batteries. (I always clean-up after them.) It is a most pleasurable way to spend a few hours. I wouldn't mind being able to stop somewhere to get a bite to eat and a drink for myself, and a bowl of water for my dogs. If we don't over-populate the fort with unnecessary entities, touring on foot will continue to be inviting to all.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jean S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I agree that touring on foot is the nicest way to see Ft. Monroe, especially the tree-lined areas and the shoreline. Wouldn't it be great if the Wherry area were left green (after demolition of the aging, moldy quarters there) with lots of walking opportunities?!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Yes, the open space in Wherry could serve the greater community in a multitude of ways.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Parking in Phoebus instead of on Ft. Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	It would be nice if Ft. Monroe could be sort of like Tangier Island with very limited vehicular traffic (and then maybe only golf carts or bikes); there could be parking off-post in Phoebus with rides to the gates for those who live in the Historic Village area.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Not far from the main gate; somewhat behind, and east, of the former MP Building, are abundant parking surfaces. That building could become a welcoming center/park ranger headquarters. Bicycles (or golf carts) could be rented there. Maybe even periodically scheduled "trolley" buses for fee-based, organized tours could originate from this location. Any of which would eliminate undue motor traffic throughout the park.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Sounds like a good idea!   By CAROLYN M
<b>Comment 3</b>	I agree with this. It makes practical and economical sense.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	Not far from the main gate; somewhat behind, and east, of the former MP Building, are abundant parking surfaces. That building could become a welcoming center/park ranger headquarters. Bicycles (or golf carts) could be rented there. Maybe even periodically scheduled "trolley" buses for fee-based, organized tours could originate from this location. Any of which would eliminate undue motor traffic throughout the park.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Limit the cars

<b>Idea Detail</b>	Sections of the Historic Village and Inner Fort area should be declared no vehicular traffic (not including residents or authorized access). Moat gates North and East limited access times to Inner Fort. Connect roadways for cars with parking areas where people can park and walk (with iPod walking tour narratives), rent a bike (pay-go, RFD tracking?), or take a trolley/ tram ride around the "no vehicles" areas. Since roads are narrow, designated walk/ ride paths can be marked/ color coded on the street. "Go Slow" is the way to truly enjoy the beauty of Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	David D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	As discussed elsewhere, this is a good concept. Centralized motor parking (on existing surfaces) near the Main Gate, would facilitate the appropriation of less-invasive touring options, like a "trolley" bus, and bicycles or golf carts for rental use.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	As discussed elsewhere, this is a good concept. Centralized motor parking (on existing surfaces) near the Main Gate, would facilitate the appropriation of less-invasive touring options, like a "trolley" bus, and bicycles or golf carts for rental use.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I agree that little or no vehicular traffic is best to create a unique Fort Monroe. Trolleys, golf carts and bicycles are the preferred means of transport for visitors and will result in memorable experiences. More and more, people enjoy leaving their cars behind. The less polluting exhaust, the more attractive is the visit.   By Tyla M
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>How can we enhance the residential experience at Fort Monroe?</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Renovate and upgrade existing homes; don't add condos!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The existing homes (except for the deteriorating duplexes in the Wherry Quarter which should be torn down) could be beautifully renovated and the "historic village" would be a nice place to live, but adding a bunch of condos or some other new buildings would destroy the ambiance that would make the place attractive as a "hometown" for residents. Whatever is done should be compatible with the entry to a beautiful national park--unobtrusive and a natural lead-in to the park! I should also add that there must be strict covenants for residences--no painting houses pink or adding extra stories!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	21
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	10
<b>Comment 1</b>	First you need to get rid of the signs that say "Residents Only" along that beautiful entryway. This is first of many "Keep Out" signs the NPS will post as special interest groups press their respective agendas. Don't give the balance of our land to NPS. Under NPS governance you can expect years of delays and several studies involving a dozen or more federal agencies to approve the design of residential trash cans. Name one well managed self supporting National Park. That beautiful entryway to Ft Monroe is now closed unless you happen to be a resident or a guest of a resident. Those residences are of little historical value, they are just old. Preserve the Fort proper and a handful of buildings with true historical significance and allow free market development in the balance of the Fort.   By Michael M
<b>Comment 2</b>	Michael M11, a Hamptonian with a half-century link to Ft Monroe, reflects certain Hamptonians' brazen sense of entitlement concerning this national treasure. Note the "our" in his command not to give "the balance of our land" to the National Park Service--to the agency that, whatever its flaws and bureaucratic burdens, represents America in preserving, enhancing and interpreting places to be cherished for the ages. The gentleman's comment shows the enormity of America's error in consigning this treasure in effect to one city and the vagaries of local politics. He writes, "Preserve the Fort proper and a handful of buildings with true historical significance and allow free market development in the balance of the Fort." Too many in Hampton scant or ignore why almost all of that "balance" has been a national historic landmark for a half-century. And way too many Virginia officeholders, along with the Daily Press, plan never to unsettle that profoundly mistaken, anti-American attitude.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	Re: "... special interest groups press their respective agendas." That is exactly what we wish to avoid... developers (special interest groups) pressing their agendas (condominiums, gated communities. self-contained village settings, etc.). And, do not despair... we are already in the process of "delays and ... studies" involving several agencies; which translates to developers' interests versus the public good. Hopefully the outcome will be positive. But, please, do not malign the National Park Service, as they are the finest steward of this great historical and environmental treasure that we could desire.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Re: "... special interest groups press their respective agendas." That is exactly what we wish to avoid... developers (special interest groups) pressing their agendas (condominiums, gated communities. self-contained village settings, etc.). And, do not despair... we are already in the process of "delays and ... studies" involving several agencies; which translates to developers' interests versus the public good. Hopefully the outcome will be positive. But, please, do not malign the National Park Service, as they are the finest and most capable steward of this great historical and environmental treasure that we could desire.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	A broadcast e-mail message from the authorities has flagged this worthy posting for special attention. So it seems important to restate unambiguously something overwhelmingly agreed by voters ("seconders") in the first round of this online civic discussion: the way for true friends of Ft Monroe and of America's history to ensure respect for Ft Monroe's sense of place is to press relentlessly for unification of the two disconnected parts of the split national monument, as depicted at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> . Top two vote-getters by far in the first round: "Lets make a REAL national monument/park!" ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/lets-make-a-real-national-monument-park">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/lets-make-a-real-national-monument-park</a> ) and "Virginian-Pilot calls for including missing bayfront Wherry land" ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land</a> ).   By Steve C
<b>Comment 6</b>	Agree with Luis O, reference leased stewardship. Private ownership of residential properties on Monroe will limit its viability as a national park. Deed restrictions become something that has to be policed legally. A lease will ensure proper authority is retained to enable adherence to appropriate conditions and restrictions.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 7</b>	You make a great point--thanks for the addition!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 8</b>	I really like the part about the 'entry to a beautiful national park'. That makes me think of Phoebus (the entryway) for long-term residential, and Fort Monroe for tourism and short-term visitation.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 9</b>	Thanks, and yes--I agree Phoebus would be a great (and appropriate) place for long-term residences and tourism lodging, restaurants, etc. as a gateway community to the Ft. Monroe National Park   By Susan B
<b>Comment 10</b>	Leased stewardship would eliminate any concerns for potential aesthetic degradation of any of the structures.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Make Fort Monroe a Grand Public Place

<b>Idea Detail</b>	We are hearing planners refer to Fort Monroe as a "neighborhood" or "community" rather than a grand public place for all Americans. That is very regrettable. If we make Fort Monroe a grand public place by preserving the Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront, and unifying the National Monument, the appeal of living on Fort Monroe, already high as demonstrated by recent rental demand, will only soar. But if we concentrate on the minutiae of standard suburban sprawl community building, we will detract from the uniqueness of Fort Monroe and its potential.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	18
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	12
<b>Comment 1</b>	Participants in this sub-discussion might want to participate also in the perversely related one at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-can-be-done-to-enhance-residential-housing/mixed-residential-use">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-can-be-done-to-enhance-residential-housing/mixed-residential-use</a> , where a gentleman whose profile identifies him as a Fort Monroe resident declares that as "much as possible the property should be sold" and closes with this: "I believe most ideas for the master plan have not been creative but only reactive to a small number of people. For Fort Monroe to become the residential neighborhood of choice in Hampton Roads we need creative thoughts from the people that would buy and develop the properties."   By Steve C
<b>Comment 2</b>	Yes, Mark P3... we must think big! Replicating what already exists throughout Hampton Roads will provide nothing to the region. Residential neighborhoods are being compounded every year, and the need for public services (schools, police, courts, rescue/fire, utilities, recreation, roads...) increases, as does the motor traffic; yet the tax-bases always seem to need broadening. The development syndrome is a vicious cycle that has no end... it provides no ultimate solution for itself, nor for the locales in which it is practiced. Fort Monroe is not the place to experiment with further failures. We need no more residents, we need tourists!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	You are absolutely correct, but you left out the severe crack trade and related crimes that are increasing yearly!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	Although the Sasaki presentation showed a green Wherry as one of several options, its language leaned heavily toward the supposed benefits of development in this 72-acre area. The presenter talked about Wherry as a place where "flexibility" is required to allow for "opportunities" to keep Fort Monroe from becoming "frozen." But development will forever negate the real opportunity here of Wherry being incorporated into the Monument, which would enhance the beauty and tourist appeal of the entire property and make it more alive, not less. It's time, past time, to talk about Fort Monroe not as a neighborhood or a community but as a unique combination of the private and the public, with an emphasis on the public. It's the public aspect of Fort Monroe that will give it a special character for residents and businesses, and that will bring the greatest benefit, both culturally and economically to Hampton and to the region.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 5</b>	I agree whole-heartedly!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 6</b>	Well worded, Scott B6. You have true vision!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 7</b>	Although the Sasaki presentation showed a green Wherry as one of several options, its language leaned heavily toward the supposed benefits of development in this 72-acre area. The presenter talked about Wherry as a place where "flexibility" is required to allow for "opportunities" to keep Fort Monroe from becoming "frozen." But development will forever negate the real opportunity here of Wherry being incorporated into the Monument, which would enhance the beauty and tourist appeal of the entire property and make it more alive, not less. It's time, past time, to talk about Fort Monroe not as a neighborhood or a community but as a unique combination of the private and the public, with an emphasis on the public. It's the public use of Fort Monroe that will bring the greatest benefit to Hampton and to the region, both culturally and economically.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 8</b>	Make Fort Monroe a Grand Public Place built on the foundation of a substantial national monument/park that includes the bayfront land that was unwisely omitted from the split national monument? Amen! (For a quick view of what this national monument/park unification would mean geographically at Fort Monroe, please glance at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> .)   By Steve C
<b>Comment 9</b>	After seeing the area, I could not agree more with Steve. The space needs to be unified to have the sense of place Fort Monroe deserves.   By Catherine W
<b>Comment 10</b>	I agree completely with this!   By David D
<b>Comment 11</b>	I agree! Bill B.   By William B
<b>Comment 12</b>	Yes, Mark... we must think big! Replicating what already exists throughout Hampton Roads will provide nothing to the region. Residential neighborhoods are being compounded every year, and the need for public services (schools, police, courts, rescue/fire, utilities, recreation, roads...) increases, as does the motor traffic; yet the tax-bases always seem to need broadening. It's a vicious cycle that has no end. Fort Monroe is not the place to experiment with further failure. We need no more residents, we need tourists!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Reserve one Generals Row Residence for special functions.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Reserve one of the homes, on Generals Row, to be used as a special-function location for weddings and other parties. The homes were designed as locations for entertaining and there should be plenty of opportunity to rent access to a furnished home for special occasions.  This would accomplish two things. First, it would substantially expand the number of people that would have an opportunity to experience an event at a General's home. And second, it would increase revenue and provide greater financial support for the Fort Monroe Authority's primary missions.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ken H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Destination weddings are a huge source of revenue and this idea has the potential for self-marketing for the rest of the park. Wedding pictures are shared not only with family and friends but on social media that are accessed by thousands. Think about planning a wedding on the fort and you would immediately ask "Where will everyone stay?" and now you have another opportunity for B&Bs, cafes, etc. Endless. . .   By Marcia M
<b>Comment 2</b>	Wonderful idea! I was married at the Chapel of the Centurion in 2005, when the was under construction/unavailable. A General's Row location would have been an excellent alternative choice for a reception site!   By Lara C
<b>Comment 3</b>	*when the Chamberlin was under construction.   By Lara C
<b>Comment 4</b>	Interesting idea--and there are two churches/chapels on the post that would be nearby sites for wedding services!   By Susan B

<b>Comment 5</b>	I have participated in weddings in both churches and at the Gazebo. The receptions were in the Chamberlin, the Officers Club, and the Casemate Museum. All of them were beautiful and lavish. Tens of thousands of dollars were spent for each one, and all of that money was spent on Fort Monroe!!! What a great activity to market for our National Park!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 6</b>	Weddings are big business. Fort Monroe could realize several million dollars in income, annually, from hosting weddings. The TRADOC Commander's home would be most suitable as a venue, as would Continental Park, the Parade Field, the Officers' Club, Chapel of the Centurion... the list goes on.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Think Small or Think Big
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Look to the immediate neighbors of Fort Monroe--Phoebus and Buckroe--for the "residential experience". The infrastructure and neighborhood plans are already in-place.  Let's think big! Let's think on Fort Monroe as the "experience" for all of Hampton, Hampton Roads, the commonwealth, the nation and the world to share--not only for a few possible on-site residents.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	9
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great issue condensation, Luis. Maybe we need a motto similar to this for all friends of Fort Monroe to use: Don't think small, think big. (Now if we could just work in green somehow.)   By Scott B
<b>Comment 2</b>	The existing homes could be upgraded and used as short term rentals for vacations. The remainder of the actual Fort should be preserved for all to visit.   By Virginia M
<b>Comment 3</b>	Yes! Why should a few have the privilege of living on my historic land. I could see a hotel on Mallory Street, and plenty of existing housing opportunities in Phoebus.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	Phoebus and Buckroe would be great places for enhanced tourist amenities--leave Ft. Monroe alone! The National Park (with the addition of the open green space in the Wherry Quarter, of course) would be great for people to visit while they stay in Phoebus or Buckroe.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 5</b>	Fort Monroe and the very fine Casemate Museum have been accessible to the general public for the past 50 years, except during times of national crisis. Please tell me, where have these massive droves of tourists that everyone seems to expect been? Read paragraph 2 "Show me the Money".   By Tom B
<b>Comment 6</b>	National parks generate business. Green space, authenticity and character multiply a region's attractiveness to enterprises needed for Tidewater's international aspirations. True, the world doesn't yet know Fort Monroe much. But it knows the Historic Triangle and Virginia Beach. "Show me the money"? Even if you care only about money enrichment -- even if you overlook recreational, historic and environmental enrichment -- the money lies in the advice of the Virginian Pilot on the left and Tom Gear on the right: unify the split national monument by expanding it to include the unwisely omitted ( <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> ) bayfront land. "Show me the money"? We won't see the real benefits if we merely make a Kiln Creek or a gated Kingsmill out of the site that served as one of America's major tourist draws ca. 1900 -- the site also of what Ed Ayers calls (last paragraph at <a href="http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/">http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/</a> ) the greatest moment in American history.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 7</b>	I entitled this entry: "Think Small or Think Big" to encourage the latter. Let's choose to think big... we can not afford to make short-sighted choices which will provide only limited and temporal benefits. We must ensure that the greatness of Fort Monroe is fully expressed, shared and appreciated, in perpetuity. When we demonstrate that we truly value Fort Monroe for what it means, historically, environmentally and aesthetically, then the world will recognize that there is something great here.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 8</b>	I entitled this entry: "Think Small or Think Big" to encourage the latter. Let's choose to think big... we can not afford to make short-sighted choices which will provide only limited and temporal benefits. We must ensure that the greatness of Fort Monroe is fully expressed, shared and appreciated, in perpetuity. When we demonstrate that we truly value Fort Monroe for what it means, historically, environmentally and aesthetically; then the world will recognize that there is something great here.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 9</b>	Amen, Luis.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	No additional residential development
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There is nothing but greed driving the development of Fort Monroe. I'm sorry for those who cannot see through the subterfuge. If the Dry Tortugas are important enough to be designated as a National Park, why not Fort Monroe??? The place was abandoned in 1874. Monroe has a long and storied history and deserves National Park protection. <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dry_Tortugas">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dry_Tortugas</a>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Pat H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	10
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	You hit the nail on the head!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Yes greed drives a lot of what is happening in this country... much of it is bad for the people. FM is a "last chance" to do it right in the Hampton Roads area. We should not give in to developers and real estate interests. We must protect FM for future generations to enjoy.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 3</b>	Thanks, Pat H. Believe me, there are thousands whom have the same feelings as you do. We have been treated with smoke and mirrors, but we are informed enough to not be fooled.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	I have been watching the ruin of Hampton for more than 50 years--I have seen enough to not be fooled by inept government when it comes to Ft. Monroe!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	I have been watching the ruin of Hampton for more than 50 years--I have seen enough to not be fooled by inept government when it comes to Ft. Monroe!!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	College Campus
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Make a portion of the residences part of a research college of environmental studies and "green" engineering and studies. The facilities are there and would offer money and life to the remainder of the entire parcel as a NPS park.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adam F
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3

<b>Comment 1</b>	This is a good concept, Adam. There already is an environment of re-usable office and multi-family residential structures that would be most conducive for a campus setting. Academic and research facilities would not be terribly burdensome on the historic and environmental aspect of Fort Monroe. And, they would provide steady income for the Park. I would also like to see an historically appropriate research program for the allied disciplines of admiralty, international law, economics, military history and trade. As well, many are advocating a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, applied mathematics) Academy. I believe your concept and mine would be the least invasive, and the most environmentally friendly.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	I like the ideas for environmental studies and for the research in economics, international law, etc.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	I have always been skeptical of the oft-raised idea of using part of Fort Monroe for a college campus. First, by all indications, residential and business and other (STEAM Academy) demand for the historic structures and available land for new construction in North Gate will be more than sufficient to utilize these resources. Second, college campuses tend to want to control their own destiny and tend to sprawl over time, including bringing hundreds of automobiles needing parking space. In the end a college would blanch at living under the strict rules of the FMA and NPS, and likely ultimately detract from Fort Monroe National Monument and adjacent state lands reaching their potential as a grand public place for the American people.   By mark P
<b>Idea Title</b>	Tourist and residential accomodation will make Ft Monroe vibrant
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Imagine sitting on a large deck with friends by the Ft Monroe marina, watching sailboats come and go, maybe enjoying a picnic or a beer from a marina restaurant. With a cool breeze and the afternoon sun glinting off the water there would be no better place to sit on the Peninsula and enjoy Ft Monroe's greatest assets – its waterfront and its history. Redevelopment of this landmark should maximize these assets.</p> <p>There is plenty of room at the Fort for both residential housing and tourist development. There are great recreational opportunities for boaters, tourists and residents alike. Redevelopment should offer a mix of ways for experiencing Fort Monroe; historical walks, bike paths, sailboat marinas and camping areas. There should be plenty of accommodations for tourists and boaters in the form of condominiums. Some of the elegant old homes facing the bay could be used as vacation rental homes available for special occasions like weddings or family reunions. The redevelopment should keep occasions like weddings in mind, perhaps dedicating a few historic buildings for use as banquet halls, meeting space, wedding chapel or formal garden accommodating tents for large events. The town of Duck in NC has just squeezed in a multi-use town hall space in a park that can be used for business meetings and private events. Ft Monroe should do the same.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Shelly S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	46
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>You just said the magic words - the right mix!</p> <p>The future of the fort will and should always be a compromise between preserving the history and economic sustainability. The beach can be free and open to all, the views can be preserved and there can be new development. I trust the economic consultant the master planners have engaged to determine what that mix should be.</p> <p>  By Kady C</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	What is the basis for your trust? I have seen planners cater to economic interests of the few and forgetting the public.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 3</b>	Ron, thanks--and Amen. Seven years' struggle proves there's no basis for trusting Virginia's leaders on Kady's history vs. economic sustainability. (Note: Because a *real* national monument is in fact *better* economically than the present fake one, which suboptimizes the asset, the conflict is actually national treasure stewardship vs. Hampton "neighborhood" exploitation.) The leaders aren't financially corrupt (I hope). And except for their seven years of ruthlessness in forcing their own framing onto the discussion, and occasionally silencing dangerously democratic debate, they aren't dishonorable either. They're just profoundly wrong about the very nature of this whole issue. Even Robert Nieweg of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which sullies its very name by engineering allegedly "compatible" overdevelopment, ranked Ft Monroe with Monticello and Mount Vernon. Virginia's leaders grimly intend the wrong thing, and we are about to lose Ft Monroe for the ages.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>I disagree with the blanket statement re "redevelop[ment] of ... waterfront areas" with residential housing, etc. If Fort Monroe is to be great, and reach its potential, it must not be just a more northern version of Hilton Head or the Outer Banks. Greatness means definitely reusing historic buildings but also a fulsom National Monument, unbroken from the fortress to the Buckroe border, with natural lands, trails and unspoiled Bay views right up to ramparts of fortress. That kind of special place will bring lots of tourism and local visitors and, to extent the needs of visitors and residents are not met in North Gate and Historic Village, they can and should be met in Phoebus and the rest of Hampton.</p> <p>  By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	AMEN! And I assert yet again: the irony here is that Mark's prescription not only provides historic, recreational, cultural and environmental enrichment for everyone, it provides _financial_ enrichment for the region as well. Please, no Kingsmill or Kiln Creek on the Fort Monroe waterfront -- no McFort Monroe. Starting at the southern shore by the ship channel and leading all the way up to Buckroe, we need unification of the split national monument by inclusion of the unwisely omitted bayfront acreage -- just as the Virginian-Pilot on the left and Tom Gear on the right are prescribing. (Note to Ken H2 from further below: No, the easy part is to give up and sacrifice Fort Monroe just because this is all happening during a horrendous economic time. The hard part is what history charges us with overcoming. History charges us to find ways to handle this once-in-a-millennium civic duty not for the present decade, but for the ages.) Steve Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 6</b>	Well put, Mark! We need the tourism draw that can only be produced by a fully-integrated national park setting at Fort Monroe. This means: open, unspoit natural environment, well-maintained and fittingly utilized historic structures, ample learning and recreational amenities, un-obstructed views and un-hindered traversal of the entire site. On Fort Monroe we have all the requisites to give the serious and casual tourist the impetus to willingly experience this great core of history and natural beauty, and to freely spend; which will be a great boost to the local economy.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 7</b>	Yes, Yes, Yes!!! Let's use the areas already established as residential (Phoebus and Buckroe), and make Ft. Monroe even more attractive to tourists, with NATURAL landscapes and waterfronts!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 8</b>	Well said Mark.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 9</b>	Thank you, Tom B7. They are speaking, but are they being heeded?   By Luis O

<b>Comment 10</b>	Luis; Well spoken regarding "your historical legacy". Please let the millions of other citizens speak for themselves!   By Tom B
<b>Comment 11</b>	"There is plenty of room at the Fort for both residential housing and tourist development." This is a terrible idea. Yes, it will generate a few jobs, but at the expense of many, many more jobs on the mainland. This kind of development will turn hundreds of thousands of visitors a year into tens of thousands of visitors a year. As someone who lives over 1,000 miles away, if I visit, I bring money from far away, and spend a lot of it. But if you build it like you describe, I will NOT come at all. That would be tragic for all.   By Tom C
<b>Comment 12</b>	Thank you, Tom C2, for your valuable perspective!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 13</b>	Tom C2. I respect your opinion that "{this is a terrible idea" but am not clear what idea you are talking about. Several have been discussed. And, if you disagree with the idea, what would you do to improve the current situation. Currently, the FM Authority is tasked with maintaining all buildings and grounds with only a limited budget. The U.S. Parks authority has, for budget reasons, refused to accept the area of the Wherry Quarters area and the FM Authority needs to raise funds to meet their obligations. How does the authority balance all of the interests of all of the parties when no one wants to pay for anything nor allow for any kind of commercial development. I don't see anyone suggesting that the state or federal governments raise taxes to pay for subsidizing a park. And if any state or federal projects are cut to free up funds for a project like this, isn't it simply a way of having someone else (those losing benefits) pay for the cost   By Ken H
<b>Comment 14</b>	Ken H2: It's true that after more than three years when Virginia's leaders could have begun seeking a national park, a horrific economic downturn came ca. 08. So yes, the startup costs, thanks to Virginia's grim past irresponsibility, are now a big problem. But history isn't over, we're a great nation, and we mustn't miss this chance. What's false is the myth that the park service does the deciding, though Virginia's leaders are happy to have you believe it. In fact the park service is forced to respect state politics, or they'd be out on a limb. The nation faces an entitlements crisis, not a crisis of the relative nickels involved here. When part of our country burns from a huge unexpected fire, we pay the countermeasures cost. Comparably, we must also find ways to capitalize on the opportunity to make Fort Monroe into something truly enriching -- starting with enriching in the financial sense. And that ain't "compatible" new condos and exclusive boutiques. Steven T. Corneliusen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 15</b>	Steve C6 Ok. I agree that we have problems. The easy part is to point out problems. The hard part is to propose solutions. What solutions to you propose? In the short term, we are not going to see entitlements go away. And people don't want to pay more taxes. So, in the short term, what do we do to make Fort Monroe a success so that we can protect it for the long term?   By Ken H
<b>Comment 16</b>	Ken H.: Well said! This appears to be all that we could possibly hope for in these "trying economic times". The tremendous Federal and State deficits/debts will result in a sea change in the way we solve our economic problems. I fear that historical considerations and the environment will take a back seat to job creation and debt reduction. Complaining will be to no avail.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 17</b>	To Tom, who may or may not represent developers but asserts here that Fort Monroe must "take a back seat to job creation and debt reduction": On job creation, the answer is a unified national park along the bayfront. On debt reduction, the answer is to fix the entitlements crisis, which represents many orders of magnitude more than the mere start-up costs for a Fort Monroe that will serve as an economic engine if narrow parochialism doesn't doom the national monument to permanent status as a fake. For the first four years of the Fort Monroe struggle, there was no economic downturn for use as a red herring and a dodge by narrow parochialists. Today it's true that the near-term start-up costs are a challenge. But as an excuse to do the wrong thing at Fort Monroe, they're just a dodge. Please don't tell our children's children's children that we had to pave Fort Monroe with "compatible" condos because the financial crisis made us panic hysterically and forget that we're a great nation.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 18</b>	Steve, I am glad you addressed the entitlement crisis. For 8 decades the payout for entitlements has been in the tens of trillions of dollars--far more than the cost of all the combined wars on the globe in the past 700 years! If all the self-induced addicts and irresponsible parents of multiple illegitimate offspring can get that kind of deal, then, as tax-generating, tax-paying contributors to society, we should get to have an unspoiled, non-partitioned, totally public, efficiently managed Fort Monroe National Historic Park.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 19</b>	Steve, I am glad you addressed the entitlement crisis. For 8 decades the payout for entitlements has been in the tens of trillions of dollars--far more than the cost of all the combined wars on the globe in the past 700 years! If all the self-induced addicts and irresponsible parents of multiple illegitimate offspring can get that kind of deal, then, as tax-generating, tax-paying contributors to society, we should get to have an unspoiled, non-partitioned, totally public, efficiently managed Fort Monroe National Historic Park. In other words, Fort Monroe is not the cause of the nation's great debt burden, and it should not be expected to rectify the problems of others' failures.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 20</b>	How can you advocate privatization, then conclude with "... sought after destination accessible to everyone."? This is our national heritage, and should not be sold!!! "Privatization" and "accessible to everyone" are utterly incompatible concepts. By doing things properly, we ALL can enjoy your vision of sitting in the sunshine, feeling the breeze, and watching the harbor traffic.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 21</b>	I disagree with Jean S3. I believe that privatization can be very compatible with access to everyone. Privatization already exists on Ft. Monroe. Whenever a residence is rented, it is "privatized". When a commercial building is rented, it is "privatized". As the old Officer's Club is being renovated, it is being "privatized". There is a big difference between "sold" and "privatized". And there are unlimited possibilities for partnerships, long-term leases, and reversions that will allow for private entities to operate at Fort Monroe and generate the revenue that will be needed to maintain the facilities and maximize public enjoyment. And, for me, that would include appropriate development of the Wherry Quarters area. Maybe not all of it. But converting all of that area to open space would be expensive and would contribute no revenue for the operation and maintenance of FM. Without some "privatization" we will not be able to afford "accessible to everyone".   By Ken H
<b>Comment 22</b>	I agree with Ken that *some* privatization can be great, as when families cherish homes on the well-shaded bridge-tunnel side. But I agree with Jean on the vital heritage dimension on the bayfront side, where Ft Monroe gets its Chesapeake Bay sense of place. Ironically, to undervalue that can actually <u>cost</u> money, as the Pilot editorial explained when calling for unifying the national monument through bayfront expansion: "Protecting the waterfront from development -- any development -- is critical to securing the integrity of the new national monument. Its value as a historic site, a natural resource and tourist attraction will be degraded if the Wherry Quarter is not preserved." (Please note: "Degraded.") Mark Perreault points out that history isn't over and that a great nation cherishes its treasures. He's right. Please see <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land</a>   By Steve C

<b>Comment 23</b>	<p>You are absolutely correct, Jean. Aside from the pre-existing, self-owned entities: The Chamberlin, Saint Mary's Church, Old Point Comfort Marina and Old Point National Bank (all of which are accessible to the public), the land, waters and structures of Fort Monroe belong to the nation. Selling bits of our heritage to homeowners, developers, corporations... is a dangerous prelude for yet further disintegration of Fort Monroe.</p> <p>If anyone thinks it can be curtailed, they are, sadly, mistaken... just take a look at our Constitution, riddled with special interest clauses, because someone, then everyone else, wants a piece of the pie. "If so-and-so can have a house on Fort Monroe, then I should be able to have a house there" or "Such-and-such company has a plant on Fort Monroe, then we could build our factory there". The initial replies may be "No", but the ensuing court hearings will defer to the plaintiffs... "it's not fair to allow for some, and not for ... it's un-Constitutional."</p> <p>In the end, we will have left a legacy of nothing to future generations. Fort Monroe will be nothing more than another part of Hampton... no visible signs of history, no beauty, no openness... just developed.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 24</b>	<p>You are absolutely correct, Jean. Aside from the pre-existing, self-owned entities: The Chamberlin, Saint Mary's Church, Old Point Comfort Marina and Old Point National Bank (all of which are accessible to the public), the land, waters and structures of Fort Monroe belong to the nation. Selling bits of our heritage to homeowners, developers, corporations... is a dangerous prelude for yet further disintegration of Fort Monroe.</p> <p>If anyone thinks it can be curtailed, they are, sadly, mistaken... just take a look at our Constitution, riddled with special interest clauses, because someone, then everyone else, wants a piece of the same pie. "If so-and-so can have a house on Fort Monroe, then I should be able to have a house there" or "Such-and-such company has a plant on Fort Monroe, then we could build our factory there". The initial replies may be "No", but the ensuing court hearings will defer to the plaintiffs... "it's not fair to allow for some, and not for others... it's un-Constitutional."</p> <p>In the end, we will have left an empty legacy to future generations. Fort Monroe will be nothing more than another part of Hampton... no signs of its history, no beauty, no openness... just developed.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 25</b>	<p>Shelly, the property within the Fort Monroe National Monument, including the shorelines of about 240 acres of parkland from the south end of Walker Air Field to the north tip of Fort Monroe, is protected in perpetuity from the kind of development you have in mind. This leaves North Gate, where in my view historically compatible new construction would be an improvement, and the Wherry Quarter, which needs to become open, green space transferred to the Monument for safe keeping if Fort Monroe is to become a tourist-friendly grand public place.   By Scott B</p>
<b>Comment 26</b>	<p>In response to Tom M5: Hampton is receiving an annual fee of more than \$2 million equivalent to property taxes on the (hopefully soon-to-be) state-owned parts of Fort Monroe, in exchange for providing city services like police. Also, land in the Wherry Quarter cannot be sold without the consent of the General Assembly and the governor. But more importantly, Hampton will become the economic beneficiary of Fort Monroe as a regional, national and international destination, once Fort Monroe achieves its full potential--and this means not only telling its unique story and protecting the historic village through preservation standards but also expanding Fort Monroe National Monument to include the Wherry Quarter. For Fort Monroe to succeed as a grand public place attractive to tourists and regional visitors, a broader vision of its future is required than residential and other kinds of development in Wherry.   By Scott B</p>
<b>Comment 27</b>	Well-put! I concur, whole-heartedly!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 28</b>	I concur with Scott B6's comments.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 29</b>	Thanks for the info--I agree!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 30</b>	<p>The Wherry quarter has been for decades home to many soldiers and officers. It is the perfect footprint to provide a reasonable place for residential development. Ft Monroe needs a quality property tax base so that the residents of Hampton and the Commonwealth do not have to bear the financial burden of the old infrastructure of the post. The City of Hampton (nor the Commonwealth) does not have the vast resources necessary to maintain this infrastructure (witness the current sad state of affairs of the road system and the lack of political will to resolve the issue) . Green space will not provide a tax base.</p> <p>A mixed use residential development in place of the Wherry quarter makes economic sense...and I am not a real estate developer or investor - it provides a permanent occupant-owned real estate base which will promote commercial utilization and development of the entire property - both public and private..</p> <p>  By Tom M</p>
<b>Comment 31</b>	This will provide commerciality and development for the few whom might live in Wherry. What about the other 350 millions Americans?   By Luis O
<b>Comment 32</b>	Tom 5. That is exactly how feel about the 100 acres of Wherry. Under current economic conditions neither the Government nor the taxpayers should be required to spend one nickel on the development of Fort Monroe. This can be done effectively with proper restrictions by the private developer on their dime. You don't need land valued at about \$250,000 per acre to improve a view in one direction when the view is all around the Fort. Use the capital in the Wherry acreage to sustain the Fort for the tourists and to create jobs and taxes.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 33</b>	<p>I like the idea of making Ft Monroe a tourist destination. I do not like the idea of turning the large old homes into vacation houses. I think that would cheapen the area and lead to instability. These houses are too fragile to be treated as weekly rentals. If we are turning the fort into a tourist attraction, it only makes sense to reopen the large runway to private aircraft. This would bring a higher class of people with money to spend at the fort.</p> <p>To help the tax base, we should subdivide the land where the Wherry quarter is into lots, only allowing high quality homes that match the current old historic houses.</p> <p>  By Lawrence S</p>
<b>Comment 34</b>	<p>Egads! It's public land where over 400 years of the most seminal events in US history occurred. By what right does the government take, divide and privatize hallowed public land to dole out to a few. The disconnected parts of the "National Monument" should be connected by the Wherry Quarter, thereby becoming Ft Monroe National Park. Tourists don't come to tour private neighborhoods or gated communities and neighborhoods don't like tourists and strangers wandering in or past their front yards. I can't think of a worse place for a private development if the object of Ft Monroe is to get paid visitation and events. That's what a National Park is for.   By Kelly P</p>
<b>Comment 35</b>	That being said, there is probably some truth to the point that the nice homes should be primarily long term residents and not weekly rentals. The Airstrip idea is interesting. The approach to the runway is long and flat with few, if any people below. Others might not like it though.   By Kelly P

<b>Comment 36</b>	my historical legacy and that of millions of others will never be deemed justifiable as a means to increase the tax-base. I do, however, concur with your first two points.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 37</b>	Putting my historical legacy, and that of millions of others, on the market will never be deemed justifiable as a means to increase the tax-base. I do, however, concur with your first two points.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 38</b>	Selling my historical legacy, and that of millions of others, on the market will never be deemed justifiable as a means to increase the tax-base. I do, however, concur with your first two points.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 39</b>	Shelly, sadly, like you, huge numbers of people do not realize the National Monument is split in two by a 100-acre piece of bayfront property, i.e., the Wherry Quarter and its waterfront, and that those 100 acres are largely unprotected from developers and private ownership. Their expressions of shock over this fact came when they read one of nearly 400 little cards I handed out during OpSail at Fort Monroe. The cards told about the unprotected waterfront gap and asked the public to join many others who are insisting not just on special respect for that omitted land but that it be promptly incorporated into NPS holdings to unify the two pieces into one complete bayfront national park. The unprotected gap is shown in red at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> And, no, the marina is not included in the NPS holdings. Your comment for the marina and its surrounding residential area is what many would like and hope will happen.   By Sandra C
<b>Comment 40</b>	Very good map. Always great to have a visual to really understand the situation. Thanks for the work everyone continues to do to protect this historic treasure for the future!   By Shelly S
<b>Comment 41</b>	Thank you for posting this clarification.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 42</b>	Great stuff, but Shelly's fine writeup can be interpreted to justify the authorities' envisioned deliberate failure to unify the split national monument by including the bizarrely omitted bayfront land. If you agree with Shelly's thoughtful, constructive analysis above, I hope you'll also consider two other "idea" comments that frame her thoughts in a vital political reality: <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-what-would-you-like-to-see-in-national-park/virginian-pilot-calls-for-including-missing-bayfront-wherry-land</a> and <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/lets-make-a-real-national-monument-park">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-should-fort-monroe-become-new-neighborhood-in-city/lets-make-a-real-national-monument-park</a> As both the liberals at the Virginian-Pilot and the conservative politician Tom Gear say in those two ideas, Fort Monroe will remain "degraded" -- the Pilot's word -- unless we somehow cause Virginia's leaders to carry out their obvious fiduciary duty to unify the national monument/park. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 43</b>	I'm sorry I didn't know the Bayfront land was omitted. What area was left out? Is the marina area included in the park?   By Shelly S
<b>Comment 44</b>	To Shelly on land omission: In a glance at <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a> you can see the footprint of the split national monument, of the land that Virginia's leaders irresponsibly excluded, and of the land that will be developed in any case. The marina and generally the land on the bridge-tunnel side will effectively remain part of Hampton regardless, which in my view could be OK if there's also a REAL national monument or national park, not the present fake one. To Shelly and others: This incident seems to me to illustrate the deplorable success of the Orwellian campaign to deny the public the knowledge that the president in fact did <u>not</u> make Fort Monroe a national monument. As engineered by Virginia's leaders, he only designated the parts that were mainly unthreatened anyhow. Now that the damage is done -- now that good people like Shelly have been deceived -- the Daily Press, but not the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has begun telling the truth.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 45</b>	Steve; Sounds like a lot of plotting, and collusion going on in the Country. You don't believe that the politicians might recognize (from their unique perspective) that our Country might be in trouble financially. This may have resulted in their attempting to reduce future costs at the National and the State levels in their dealings with Fort Monroe. With the 16 trillion Federal debt and the billions in State debt, I do not see how they can possibly sleep at night. On the 2nd of January, 2013, a quarter of DOD budget will be cut automatically if we cannot agree to a solution to cutting our government costs. The times could not be worse for a solution to the Fort Monroe Master Plan problem. That is just the way it is. Economics will trump history and the environment.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 46</b>	To Tom, who may or may not represent developers, but who in any case asserts here that "economics will trump history and the environment" at Fort Monroe: *No.* It's true that America, posterity, the history of liberty itself and Tidewater's need for waterfront green space all do look like they're going to be trumped. But it's not by economics. That's a red herring and a dodge. It's by narrow, anti-American parochialism that began in Hampton and Richmond years before the downturn that you're adducing as an excuse to do what almost everyone knows is the wrong thing. Yes, we're in a horrific downturn. But the economic problem is an entitlements crisis. So delay my Social Security, or something. Fix health care. But don't portray nickels and pennies as thousands and millions. Don't tell our children's children's children that we had to pave Fort Monroe with "compatible" condos because the financial crisis made us panic hysterically and forget that we are a great nation. History isn't over.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Redevelopment with class and dignity
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I can see that need for some redevelopment will need to happen. The problem will be what kind, where and how much. Fort Monroe is a class act the needs to be treated as such. It was where America, as we know it started. The roots go very deep. From the Native Americans up to today. There is room for all this. The historic military housing could be very nice housing, but an eye to the history. The need to not only created a unique high class environment, but to keep it that way over the years.  The circus like environment that we see outside many of our parks should be avoided at all cost. I know that the surrounding areas are out of our control, but from the causeways on it should be a different story.  Fort Monroe is a treasure! I mean a real National Treasure. It should be treated that way.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Robert H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Renovation and appropriate reuse and careful oversight of the nicer buildings that already exist, demolition of the crummy stuff and leaving open GREEN SPACE, joining the two parts of the National Monument by ceding the "Wherry Quarter" and south beach areas to the NPS, and making the approaches to Ft. Monroe more clearly the entrances to the national treasure/national park would make new development unnecessary. The attraction to the park for tourists would be most enhanced by the emphasis on the national park, not by any new development.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Spot on, Susan B4!!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I don't agree that development of residences is inevitable. I totally agree that Monroe is a treasure that should be kept for future generations to appreciate, not privately developed for condos or other residential schemes.   By Susan W

<b>Comment 4</b>	Not much room to improve this idea. It is well stated!   By Ron W
<b>Comment 5</b>	Not much to improve the idea. It is very well said!   By Ron W
<b>Comment 6</b>	If the site is fully developed as a unified Fort Monroe National Historic Park, as it should be, then the surrounding areas will progress accordingly and complement the park.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Dog Beach
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I really miss not having Dog Beach available. I would really like to see a place where people who own dogs can take them year round. Hampton has become much more pet friendly in the last 20 years and I would like to see that continue with the opening of Dog Beach again.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jeannie E
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	13
<b>Comment 1</b>	Although I don't own a dog, I like the idea of having a designated beach that is dog-friendly so that their owners will not bring them on other beaches. Win/win situation for all.   By Lynn G
<b>Comment 2</b>	Doesn't the name Dog come from the Army's A,B,C, D labeling of beach segments from decades back, when the military used the phonetic alphabet that began Able Baker Charlie Dog? By the way, it's nice to find some agreement with Tom B7 for once, if he's saying (in a comment below) that Fort Monroe's beaches should be thrown open to wide, easy accessibility for public use, including with sensible, convenient parking. If that's what he means, Amen to it. (But maybe he's still calling for selling off Fort Monroe, and only talking here about Buckroe.)   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	I love Dog Beach! It's part of the family atmosphere at Fort Monroe because many dogs (like ours) are an important part of our family! Its great to have a place to go and include them. It's also nice to go and see the dogs play in the water even if you don't have one!   By Jeannie W
<b>Comment 4</b>	Dog Beach is pretty rocky and not the best beach for swimming, although many people like it for sunning.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 5</b>	Since moving to Hampton in 1962, I have enjoyed swimming at Dog Beach... never had a problem.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 6</b>	I have something of value with every idea presented. One thing is for certain, my ideas are as "valuable" as any presented by you or your preservationist colleagues thus far on Mindmixer. Try harder to keep an open mind, Jean. If I weren't so open minded, I would probably label you a "Fort Hugger" (sic), except there already is one across the James (haha).   By Tom B
<b>Comment 7</b>	Buy up a couple of the waterfront homes and extend the main street from Buckroe. Construct additional "green pavement"for parking. Add a lifeguard or two for the summer and add this to make-up Buckroe Beach. This might just qualify as the most beautiful beach on the East Coast. Let the citizens use this beach as soon as possible! Oh yes, I almost forgot the construction of the necessary "Beach House" with showers.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 8</b>	Do you have anything of value to offer?   By Jean S
<b>Comment 9</b>	I remember when the "Dog" in Dog Beach, referred to a GI... but it is nice to have a beach where our four-legged friends can be taken, year-round.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 10</b>	Cute, Luis!! I take my chocolate lab and my keishond to dog beach several times each week. We love it!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 11</b>	Cute, Luis!! Before this heat wave, I would take my chocolate lab and my keishond to dog beach several times each week. We love it!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 12</b>	I remember when the "Dog" in Dog Beach, referred to a GI.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 13</b>	I never brought a pet to Dog Beach but I loved to sit out and watch them romp. Dog Beach was always my favorite because it was a peaceful place for the most part, and natural. There aren't many beaches like that any more, and I miss it.   By Donovan K
<b>Idea Title</b>	Connecting transportation system
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Work out an arrangement with HRT to connect Fort Monroe with Downtown Hampton and Coliseum Central even if its a contracted operation. This would connect Phoebus, HU, Air & Space and the convention center area allowing for economic synergy. Downtown to the Fort by water may also be worth exploring. It may also be economically favorable to establish commuter parking and bus service from Fort Monroe to NOB reducing tunnel traffic or at least offering an alternative to self drive bumper to bumper traffic.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Bruce W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	There is no question that green transportation needs to be planned into the expansion of tourism at Fort Monroe and surround attractions and accommodations. In addition to HRT busses, we need to look at bike trail links, and tourist ferry opportunities.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Competitive Bidding for Renting Residences
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The residential units, at Fort Monroe, are an incredibly valuable resource and should be managed for the benefit of the Fort Monroe Authority. The authority is tasked with managing the entire property and needs to maximize revenue to be able to fulfill its other goals and obligations.  During the first round of rentals, one year contracts were signed with the primary goal of getting the residences occupied. The FMA staff should be commended for exceeding the initial goals that were set. However, part of the reason for their success is that some the residences were rented out at below-market rates.  When you consider that all rents include all utilities, some of the prime properties - General's Row - were rented well below market. And that is ok - for the first or second year. But future tenants should pay whatever the market will bear. The challenge is determining what the market will bear.  My suggestion is that current tenants be notified that they have the option to renew their current lease for one year. During the second year, the properties should be marketed regionally and nationally for interested parties to submit sealed bids for a three-year occupancy. Then as each property enters its third lease year, it will be re-advertised for a new three-year agreement.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ken H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	10



<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Why not make all the housing available as season rentals? Take all the existing housing, inside and outside the moat, including the Wherry Housing, renovate all the stuff and make it habitable. Then put it on the market for weekly and/or monthly rentals throughout the year. There is already a gymnasium on the fort, and a small air strip, use some of the other buildings as shops, restaurants, theaters, bars and places with dance floors, whatever, and make it a vacation place. Some place where people can bring their families for a week or two during the year. It is actually nice all year long, winter, spring summer and fall. Make it a vacation destination, something like the outer banks. Look at that picture on the website and tell me it's not a place you'd like to spend some time relaxing.</p> <p>Some of the side benefits would be need to hire a lot of people just to manage and maintain the place.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jim W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>There are many state parks that have cabins for rent. I would love to come for a few weeks. Our son was stationed here until a year before it closed. We visited many times and absolutely love Fort Monroe. Please include the whole Fort in the National Park and upgrade existing housing for short term rentals. The rest should be preserved for all to visit and learn.   By Virginia M</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Repurpose some of the buildings on Fort Monroe for Veteran Care
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Repurpose rather than build new the buildings on Fort Monroe. A house could become a Bed and Breakfast. The first floor of the original Administrative Building will now house a place to council veterans on their needs and opportunities. The \$37 million if passed by the Federal Government for Veteran Care should be at Fort Monroe. The veteran care is stipulated to be near the Veteran Administration Building in Hampton. What could be closer than Fort Monroe. Large buildings could be renovated with elevators or whatever is needed. Large buidings could be dormitories. Fort Monroe has the housing, the recreation centers, the walkways. What could be more appropriate than the military history of Fort Monroe and the veteran tie in.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Barbara S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	tours
<b>Idea Detail</b>	i would like to see a tour of the old part thats to be torn down??
<b>Idea Author</b>	ed G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Mixed Residential Use
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>There should be a mixed residential use, from bed and breakfast, hotel to private residence(apartments, condos and single family). As much as possible the property should be sold to tax paying private hands for development. Real estate rental is not a primary function of government.</p> <p>Any new structure should have the same architectural features as the current buildings.</p> <p>There will always be some land such as the pet cemetery on top of the fort wall, continental park, cannon park, swimming beach, etc. that will remain in public hands. The income from taxes on the property sold can be used to maintain the property that should not be developed.</p> <p>Bids and ideas for development should be solicited world wide as soon as possible. I believe most ideas for the master plan have not been creative but only reactive to a small number of people. For Fort Monroe to become the residential neighborhood of choice in Hampton Roads we need creative thoughts from the people that would buy and develop the properties.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	11
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Fort Monroe open space in the Wherry Quarter does not need to be destroyed to benefit developers. There are ample opportunities in surrounding communities for development. Please don't lose site of the fact that the WQ is the last stand for quality open space and public recreation in Hampton Roads. Keeping it open will be of benefit locally and nationally. And, yes I am one of the small number of people who want to preserve the quality of the Fort. But judging from the result of polls and petition efforts, we are not really a "small number of people."   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Thanks Ron. It may well be that I've paid attention to public sentiment on this issue for longer than anybody in the struggle, which began for me in the late summer of 2005 when I first began blowing the whistle in public on the horrendous misframing of this national stewardship obligation as merely a parochial "redevelopment" opportunity--"redevelopment" being the key word in the horrendously flawed (for a national treasure) base closure law.. That doesn't make me an expert, but it does mean I've paid deep attention for seven years. And here's what I see: if we held a TRUE and comprehensive debate, not manipulated by leaders with development agendas, and if we then held a referendum Tidewaterwide, a tsunami would overwhelm the few people who share this anti-American sense of Hampton entitlement to this national treasure with international significance. I say yet again: just look at the map at FortMonroeNationalPark.org. That gap in the national monument is self-evidently preposterous.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>Re: "For Fort Monroe to become the residential neighborhood of choice in Hampton Roads we need creative thoughts from the people that would buy and develop the properties." This sentence has no validity, as it eliminates the "we" from the process.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>Re: "Fort Monroe to become the residential neighborhood of choice in Hampton Roads we need creative thoughts from the people that would buy and develop the properties." This sentence has no validity, as it eliminates the "we" from the process.   By Luis O</p>

<b>Comment 5</b>	Maybe it would be a good idea to break Monticello into condos for single-family use, and hey, there's probably room on the National Mall for a bed and breakfast. There's room in the Jefferson Memorial that's clearly not being tapped for its true commercial potential. After all, it's all about money for a few right now, not celebrating American Exceptionalism. Absurd.   By Catherine W
<b>Comment 6</b>	Maybe we should entice some developers (I know quite a few) to see about razing Park Place, Merrimack Shores, Chesapeake Avenue, Farmington, Willow Oaks, Howe Farms, Elizabeth Lakes and other low-density neighborhoods, so we can construct condominiums and apartment complexes there. These areas are of far less value than Fort Monroe--the developers would be pacified and the city would have twenty times more people to collect taxes from. Personally, I wouldn't mind the change, and it wouldn't affect 95% of Hampton.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 7</b>	Re: "For Fort Monroe to become the residential neighborhood of choice in Hampton Roads we need creative thoughts from the people that would buy and develop the properties."   By Luis O
<b>Comment 8</b>	For Ft Monroe to "become the residential neighborhood of choice" would mean failure in our stewardship duty to the nation--and to the planet, given that May 23 (not 24!) 1861 establishes Ft Monroe's unique stature in the history of liberty. As thousands of Hamptonians attested in the unfortunately never-consummated citizens initiative conducted under the city charter--and as tens of thousands would attest if we held a ***fair and comprehensive*** debate and referendum Tidewaterwide--this national treasure is not a mere Kiln Creek or Kingsmill. In WHRO's 07 film, a National Trust for Historic Preservation official ranked it with Monticello and Mount Vernon. Edward Ayers calls it the site of the greatest moment in our history. A half-century ago, almost all of it became a national historic landmark. May its existing neighborhoods flourish, but Lord please deliver us from parochial, vision-deprived prescriptions for Virginia's only political issue with thousand-year implications.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 9</b>	A bed and breakfast is not a bad idea. No big hotel. No condos. No apartment buildings.   By Phyllis N
<b>Comment 10</b>	We already have plenty of residential neighborhoods. Real estate taxes are minimal and terminal, and will fall very short of the income to be generated by a large, full public park.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 11</b>	Oh, yes!!! We really need more population and more residential neighborhoods--NOT!!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Experience the History
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The best residential experience is the opportunity to spend time in the existing homes on Fort Monroe. Imagine spending a week in one of the Generals' or Colonels' quarters and seeing documentation and possibly photos of previous occupants and events related to those quarters. Fort Monroe could provide a unique experience of the typical officer's command and activities during the day as well as his life at "home", across several generations. Any new residential development would detract from this experience. Therefore, a unified Ft Monroe, including the missing Wherry Acres, is a must.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Amen to your last line: A "unified Ft Monroe, including the missing Wherry acres, is a must." The bayfront land missing from the national monument can be seen in a quick glance at the map shown with the idea "Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres" ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> ). And that posting is designed for use by people who agree with Susan W2 and who also believe the Virginian-Pilot is right to urge that everyone insist on unification of the entire bayfront as a national monument/park. It's ours, and we need to stand up and say so.    By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Batteries
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Do not level the concrete batteries as stated. They are an integral part of the Fort.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Edward C D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	They are a central part of the Fort Monroe story and need to be renovated and enjoyed by the public by adaptive use or just for exploring.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Enhancing the residential experience.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Take the barricade down at the dog beach. Why is that gone. That was one good thing about living there during the summer was having a place to take the dogs when they couldn't be on the other beaches. Why is the do beach blocked?
<b>Idea Author</b>	charlotte B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	A little history...Dog beach was so called because it was the fourth beach in that area, Alpha,Baker, Charlie, Dog. Dogs were not allowed on Dog beach it was just called that in Army "talk". However, opening it for dogs is a good idea. A historical maker could explain the history of the name. Ironic.   By Diann C H
<b>Comment 2</b>	You can keep saying dog was an army term but people took their dogs there and got the impression it was a dog beach because of the bag stand that used to be there with a trash can on the pole. It's a secluded area and people assumed. Since it worked so well for so many years I don't understand why it was barricaded.   By charlotte B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Insurance
<b>Idea Detail</b>	One way to enhance the experience is to assure that adequate renter insurance is available along with flood insurance. If properties are ever sold I wonder if owner property insurance and flood insurance would be available. When I asked the FMA folks they said they did not know about ownership insurance issues as it is not a factor at this time. They do require renter insurance.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Install Electric Meters and Water Meters ASAP

<b>Idea Detail</b>	It is my understanding that the leases at Fort Monroe include the cost of electricity and water. What a deal! If these buildings are poorly insulated the utility costs will put this leasing program into the red rather quickly. Prior military residents may have deserved this financial break for serving their country. What justification does FMA use to grant civilian renters the same consideration? I am sure the cost of installing these meters throughout the Fort may exceed a million dollars. Can the taxpayers afford this? And, for those of you who question the need for capital, this is but one example. There will be many more examples to follow, you can be certain. First, the government should not be in the rental business. Second, this should justify the need to sell as much property as is necessary to obtain capital. Third, as a minimum, please install the necessary utility metering systems on the individual properties as they are leased. I personally do not like the idea of paying my neighbors utility bill. Super deal for private and commercial renters, for sure.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Most Americans in the 21st Century accept the conservation ethic to avoid waste of resources. Metering utilities for each unit is a vital part of that ethic. Otherwise human nature takes over and there is no motive for the residents/users to conserve.   By Louis G
<b>Comment 2</b>	I'd have to check, but I believe the Army metered these properties already.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 3</b>	You know, I have huge differences with the Fort Monroe Authority, starting with their unwise assumption that Fort Monroe is more a "village" or Hampton neighborhood than a national treasure. But the FMA _staff_ does a lot really well, starting with hiring first-rate real estate people. Tom, I gather you know a lot about business. I respect that. But I wonder how much you know about FMA's overall real estate plans. (What does Mark Perreault (of Norfolk Southern) have to say about those?) Two other things: 1. Elsewhere you mentioned that Hampton taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for Fort Monroe. Amen to that. It has been a big error all along to get Hampton so immersed in the future of this national treasure. Hamptonians shouldn't have to subsidize the biz aspirations of the handful who just want to develop. 2. Nobody "questions the need for capital" or for sensible economic judgment. To make a _real_ national park by unifying the fake one will not bring less enrichment. It'll bring more.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 4</b>	P.S. Tom, you never answered either of my tries to get you to state whether you have a development industry conflict of interest.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 5</b>	Steve; In addition to not being "abusive" in my discourse on Mindmixer, I also support the sites "privacy" policy.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 6</b>	Re: "Steve; In addition to not being 'abusive' in my discourse on Mindmixer, I also support the sites 'privacy' policy." Glad to hear you aren't abusive, but wondering why you mention it. As to the site's privacy policy, in my view it unwisely discolors an important civic and political discussion with pernicious anonymity, only one dimension of which is the potential for unrevealed conflict of interest. I note that MindMixer, Sasaki and the FMA have not dictated that people _not_ reveal who they are.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Highest and Best Use of the Wherry Quarter
<b>Idea Detail</b>	After reading a plethora of ideas about the Wherry 100 acres I have come to a conclusion. It seems that at the present time "open land" to maximize the views of the distant beaches to the Northeast and the reverse view of the low walled Fort seem to predominate. I suggest that the Fort, Moat, and Museum have all the historic features allowing it to "stand alone" as the Monuments preeminent draw. The hundred acres of recommended park land is simply too valuable to not draw upon to create more capital when the economy improves in the future. Until then, after removing the old Wherry buildings, temporary features such as trails and historic markers could benefit this land. About 50 acres should also be reserved, away from the Fort structure, to sell to private developers for Virginias first Resort/Casino. Level the ugly concrete Batteries to improve the view from the Fort to the beaches and vice versa. Remember, deeded restrictions can make all Monroes beaches accessible to the public in perpetuity. Probably a good idea to keep future development 200 yds away from the moat to improve viewing aspects.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	"The hundred acres of recommended park land is simply too valuable to not draw upon to create more capital when the economy improves in the future. "  This is the kind of thinking that has left most of Hampton Roads a totally developed mess of auto sprawl and privatized waterfronts that the public is blocked from. Did Washington think the Potomac River banks were too valuable to preserve as public green space? Did San Francisco think the Marin headlands under the Golden Gate Bridge too valuable to leave in the public's hands as open space? Did Boston think the Charles River banks too valuable to create a necklace of public parks on? Of course not, and those cities are regarded as among the most appealing and successful places in US. Until Hampton Roads develops enough self-esteem to create great public spaces. like Fort Monroe could be if not mediocritized by development, Hampton Roads will never be appealing to the highest quality businesses or the most talented people.   By mark P
<b>Comment 2</b>	The Batteries Irwin and Parrott are not ugly... they are structures of great historical significance, and unique aesthetic appeal. Naturally-landscaped, as they are, the Batteries are great for exploring, sight-seeing and picnicking. The Wherry emancipation encampment, the Lighthouse, the Post Office & Clock Tower, the Batteries Parrott and Irwin, St. Mary's Church, The Chamberlin, Generals' Row, the YMCA Building, the site of Fort Algernon, CONARC/TRADOC Headquarters, etc... are all of great historical significance and beauty that can be found outside the walls of the Fort, and are vital to the entire story of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe. A Resort/Casino in Wherry, or on any portion of Fort Monroe, would be absolutely the lowest and worst use.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	The Batteries Irwin and Parrott are not ugly... they are structures of great historical significance, and unique aesthetic appeal. Naturally-landscaped, as they are, the Batteries are great for exploring, sight-seeing and picnicking. A Resort/Casino in Wherry, or on any portion of Fort Monroe, would be absolutely the lowest and worst use.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Now, wait a minute!!! I,m not so sure about a rresort/CASINO (THAT I DONOT want)...this is the first I've heard about this. THE MORE CLEAN and REVERENT the BETTER.If the choice is between resort/CASINO and carefully zoned homes...I say the HOMES have it!   By Patricia H
<b>Idea Title</b>	residence

<b>Idea Detail</b>	New private residence construction s/b limited in height to no more than 3 stories and built in the middle of the fort, NOT WHERE THEY WILL OBSTRUCT ANY WATER VIEW. Ocean City, Md. and Marco Island, Fl are tragic examples of blocked water access. Hampton already has high rise monstrosities in the middle of its downtown.  All Wherry housing s/b razed  Free beach access for all.  Restaurants (not fast food); grocery store. No chain stores.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Pat W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Adaptive reuse of existing structures can eliminate the need to construct more housing. To add to your thoughts about "high rise monstrosities". Just ride down Shore Drive, Ocean View Blvd., and Visit the streets of Virginia Beach. What you see is what some would like to have at Fort Monroe. Let's hope the 'enemy" does not win. I gave you a second, because i like most of what you say and there are areas where housing could be added (if needed) and away from beach access. However, I much prefer to see very limited development anywhere on Fort Monroe.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	Not having any more residential construction. This should be a public place, not a waterfront community for the well,to do!   By Richard E
<b>Comment 3</b>	There's no need to construct new housing, there are plenty of fine structures that can be leased for residences.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Excellent point, Luis O!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Better Accessibility
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I think that a connection, such as a bridge, between Fenwick Road to the north and Atlantic Avenue in Buckroe could create better accessibility to the fort, which would be beneficial in terms of more local visitors, as well as a drive for more development towards the southern end.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ryan T
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	I believe the southern end has the light house, the generals' homes, the hotel, the moat, Continental Park... Why would any development be needed?   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Future
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I spent some time at Ft. Monroe recently looking at the Wherry Quarter that some want added to the National Park. I didn't see anything of historical value in this area or the North Beach. If the NPS needs to be involved let's lobby to limit that involvement to truly historical areas. The Wherry Quarter would be a great place to develop a residential community that helps make Ft. Monroe self-sustaining. Let's not tie the hands of the FMA using this false argument of tying the two areas together with the Wherry Quarter. The FMA is required by law and charter to preserve the historical aspects of Ft. Monroe. Some development is required reach their legislative requirement to be self-sustaining. I worry that the goal of those pushing to add the Wherry Quarter to the FMNP is to simply make it impossible for the FMA operate without taxpayer funding. These are the very same people who wanted all of Ft. Monore to be a national park.
<b>Idea Author</b>	keith D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	16
<b>Comment 1</b>	Residential development in the Wherry would only help to make the Wherry self-sustainable, not assure self-sustainability; and would add no financial assist to the rest of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe. Revenues from the land sales and the resultant real taxes will, at best, minimally affect the surrounding portions of the site; and will only exclude any long-term, profitable options that might have occurred there.  The goal of those concerned is not to have anything occur to perpetuate the FMA. The FMA is a temporary stewardship designed to facilitate for the interests of the public, the Department of Interior, the Department of the Army and the Commonwealth of Virginia (and, possibly, others). When the concerned entities consent to agreeable disposition, then the FMA will have been successful and will be disbanded. There is far more to be considered than most of us on this web-site "making decisions" are aware.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Keith D; You hit the nail on the head. I have been trying, unsuccessfully I might add, to convince our local contingent of preservationists to accept our economies "new normal" status. This group of activists seem to be operating outside of reality. They do not seem to realize that even an expenditure of nickels, dimes, and dollars must be balanced with an equal amount of revenue.or it will not "fly". And any politician who wants to keep his job also realizes this. Sustainability is a clearly stated goal in the Master Plan. This will continue to impact the final decision on at least the North half of the Wherry Quarter.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Local contingent? Please survey the vote totals for every posting here, and then check the total for "Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres." As of 6:30 p.m. on August 30, that posting had ten times the votes of most postings and three times as many as the nearest competitor. That's because Americans know that this is a great country and that we can and will find our way. They know that just as we shouldn't panic fearfully and cancel the many-millions expenses of studying what can be learned from the new rover on Mars, we shouldn't cower before the challenge of fittingly preparing Fort Monroe for future centuries. Fort Monroe is not equivalent to a plea to continue an unaffordable entitlement program. And history is not over. The debt bomb is a big deal, I agree, but it does not call for this kind of hysteria. There are ways to make this work, and it is our generation's duty to find them. You are good guys. You should join the overwhelming majority on this.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 4</b>	Thank you Tom. Steve S. fails to understand the financial sitiation America faces. Across America and the world are important projects that need money. Our national debt is a testament to that fact. We can borrow to to preserve all or part of Ft. Monroe and ask our children and grandchildren to pay for it. How irresponsible is that? Would it be right for me to borrow money that I can not repay and expect my boys to pay the debt? Steve, is that how you live your life? Of course not. You live within your means and I bet you actually operate with an annual surplus. So I implore you to be a responsible citizen. Do not ask future generations to pay for Ft. Monroe. We can preserve Ft. Monroe and do it without spending money we do not have.   By keith D

<b>Comment 5</b>	Money is absolutely going to be spent to get post-Army Fort Monroe started, even if Keith and Tom were to be put in charge. The question is how to do it most wisely. There's no point in repeating yet again for Keith--who by the way is plainly the Keith whom I suspected (a good citizen and well informed, even though deeply wrong about Ft Monroe)--about the two different "how" questions: how to overcome the national entitlements-based debt crisis at the level of trillions, and how to get Ft Monroe started, at a level that is literally a million times smaller in scale. (A million!) But I do want to repeat this challenge: We could save <b>**many**</b> millions by canceling the science to be done with the new Mars rover. Would you cancel that? If yes, I deplore your fearful lack of faith that we can find our way through the national debt crisis. If no, then I assert that you have agreed that we must continue doing certain things even despite the debt bomb. You just don't think FM is among them.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 6</b>	Keith D2, I agree that many projects need money. Phoebus and the surrounding area need money! A well functioning Fort Monroe historic area and natural area will help bring that money to local cities.... for the long term. Over development of Fort Monroe brings a few people quick bucks but fails to provide a sustainable income stream. Over development also loses the last chance the Hampton Roads Area has to provide our residents and the nation a wonderful open green space and well managed community with integrated business concerns that can be enjoyed by all.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 7</b>	To continue my comment below. As I have said in other posts, local communities should be developed to provide services and entertainment for the visitors to our area who are touring historic elements of Fort Monroe and/or making use of National Monument resources. That puts money in the hands of local business and increases the tax base for the county and state. Those who would like to see race tracks and casinos on the Fort can see their desires filled by appropriate development in local communities and not impact the historic or natural resources of Fort Monroe. National Park Service areas such as the National Monument WILL bring tourists to the area. They will spend money. It is up to us as citizens to assure proper planning and development so we can reach deep into their pockets while providing a top notch experience.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 8</b>	Ron, I hope you won't mind stating here just a bit about where and how you got your expertise and knowledge concerning the local economic implications of national parks. (If you'd rather not, I'll understand. It's just that it's important for the discussion for people to know that you really know what you're talking about.)   By Steve C
<b>Comment 9</b>	Steve C6. Yes, I will share that I spent 30 years in the National Park Service working in several different jobs and at several parks. I worked in two new parks and had the pleasure of watching the local areas be positively impacted by appropriate development and promotion. I can say with authority that communities do develop when a National Park Service site comes to the area. It takes vision, patience, and proper planning. There are statistics cited elsewhere in these comments about just how much of an impact National Park Service areas have on local economies. It is substantial.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 10</b>	Which two parks is Ron referring to? It is difficult to see Ft. Monroe becoming a big tourist destination. Inside the moat are modern buildings that detract from the historic atmosphere unlike Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown or even Yorktown. Since the "majority" want no development Ft. Monroe will never be a destination but simply a quick stop for small numbers of visitors. I can assure you 99% of Americans could not tell you which state Ft. Monroe is in. I have a vision of a Ft. Monroe that may entice large numbers of tourists to take the Phoebus exit. It would require all of the modern buildings inside the moat to be torn down and Ft. Monroe recreated to look as it did in 1864 with re-enactors in period costumes, Union troops, Confederate prisoners, free slaves, But this is not being considered. So let's face reality. Ft. Monroe can not count on tourist revenue and Hampton will not have development as a result of Ft. Monroe.   By Keith D
<b>Comment 11</b>	Keith D's profile is private. I know a Keith D who spurns the simple truth that, as I show below without response from any Keith, all of Old Point Comfort is indeed historic, and intrinsically so. The question isn't battles. The question is sense of place from the first three centuries (the fourth being relatively unimportant anyway, just like the Wherry shacks, given the meaning-of-America implications of the first three). The other Keith D argues that Fort Monroe is a potential accelerant to the Medicare and entitlements national debt bomb, which I agree is paramount. But what he fails to grasp is the simple arithmetic. A million is one-millionth of a trillion. The scale of start-up Fort Monroe expenses is relative nickels and dimes. It's true that nickels matter too, but we're too great a nation to be scared into hysteria on the false elevation of Fort Monroe interim expenses to debt-bomb status. Keith D does not -- or both Keith D's do not -- understand what this is all about.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 12</b>	The entire peninsula is a historic landmark where numerous seminal events have occurred in our nation's grand history. To consider parceling out sections of the lands of Ft. Monroe is a short-sighted endeavor that would over time, degrade the historical significance and beauty offered by Ft. Monroe. Do we want to tell our children, "These condos are where brave men once worked and fought to make our country what it is"? Wouldn't we rather show our children the actual lands in all their glory? Do we really want to relegate the beauty of Ft. Monroe to history books.   By Michael K
<b>Comment 13</b>	Michael, The entire peninsula is historic? Come on. Preserving history and development are not mutually exclusive. There were no battles on the Wherry Quarter and it has been the site of apartments, baseball fields, a school, warehouses, and a gas station. What do you want there? Empty fields?   By Keith D
<b>Comment 14</b>	Keith D2, I think that you are correct in saying that preservation and development do not exclude each other. However, there is a proper place for everything. I want to see development in the communities surrounding the Fort. I want to see an open Wherry Quarter so that vistas of the Bay are possible and make it attractive to major group use on a regular basis. There is really no other place in Hampton Roads that will offer the same mix of history and recreation. Let's save it.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 15</b>	"Truly historic areas"? Almost all of Old Point Comfort became a national historic landmark a half-century ago--a historic landscape with the profoundest significance for the first three of the four centuries involved. The land itself is intrinsically historic for the same reason it was intrinsically strategic: it commands the entrances to the harbor and the bay. Unlike Appomattox, for example, that means that what happened here could only have happened here--whereas the two generals could have met at any old farm anywhere. Also: No activist ever asked to make all of it a national park. We need an economically dynamic hybrid like the Presidio, because the way to get enrichment from this asset is not to suboptimize it and delete its Chesapeake Bay sense of place, as you prescribe. Readers, please visit <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> in this forum. Thanks.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 16</b>	The Presidio is a dynamic drain on the treasury. Nancy Pelosi has excelled at extracting borrowed money to support this beautiful spot right at the Golden Gate Bridge overlooking the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. In the ideal world our government would have a surplus of funds to spend on Ft. Monroe. In an ideal world I would have been both rich and handsome. But in the real world all three fictional.   By Keith D
<b>Idea Title</b>	College Campus Neither Necessary or Even Suitable

<b>Idea Detail</b>	I have always been skeptical of the oft-raised idea of using part of Fort Monroe for a college campus. First, by all indications, residential and business and other (STEAM Academy) demand for the historic structures and available land for new construction in North Gate will be more than sufficient to utilize these resources. Second, college campuses tend to want to control their own destiny and tend to sprawl over time, including bringing hundreds of automobiles needing parking space. In the end a college would blanch at living under the strict rules of the FMA and NPS, and likely ultimately detract from Fort Monroe National Monument and adjacent state lands reaching their potential as a grand public place for the American people.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Temporary Accommodations Suffice
<b>Idea Detail</b>	An inn or hostel for visitors, and appropriate dormitory facilities for potential academic candidates are the only two features that will be required for the residential experience. And, these could easily be fashioned from existing structures. Any other residents would be park rangers, NPS and FMA personnel; and of course, the occupants of the Chamberlin (which does a bang-up job in residential experience enhancement, already).
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Create Opportunities for Nearby Jobs
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I am certain that many citizens would appreciate residing in the very beautiful and historic location of Fort Monroe. It would be similar to residing in historic Williamsburg. People from the entire country retire to Williamsburg. Living at the Fort would appeal to citizens of lesser wealth also. In their situation employment is a necessity. I am sure that preferential treatment could be given to residents who qualify in seeking future jobs on the island and in nearby Buckroe and Phoebus. God forbid if they should be employed on the wrong side of the tunnel.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	I believe the residents in Williamsburg live in communities around the historic sections, not in the midst of them. As beautiful as Williamsburg is, it does not have the great 4-century historical significance that Fort Monroe has, either.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	I believe the residents in Williamsburg live around the historic section, not in it. As beautiful as Williamsburg is, it does not have the great 4-century historical significance that Fort Monroe has, either.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	The draw of Williamsburg is that it has gone to great lengths in recreating 18th Century Williamsburg. More than just a few buildings and a scale model inside a museum, Williamsburg is a place for visitors to walk through and to view in real life scenes what our American ancestors would have seen. New development within the viewscapes of Fort Monroe would destroy the sense of place that is so important.  We have heard of developers who cut down all the trees and then named the streets of their subdivisions oak, maple, pine, magnolia, etc. The uniqueness of Fort Monroe must be preserved or we will inherit just another waterfront neighborhood. The Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront area need to be added to Fort Monroe National Monument.   By Adrian W
<b>Comment 4</b>	Repeatedly, the developers' route is given preference whenever there is an opportunity for land use or re-use. In the past 30 years, all we have gained is an ever-increasing pile of failures, which the tax-payer has to cover. Let's learn from our more recent, local history, and prevent the chance of those same repeated mistakes on Ft. Monroe. Let the developers fix their existing problems on the Peninsula, and leave Ft. Monroe to those with loftier aims.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	Repeatedly, the developers' route is given preference whenever there is an opportunity for land use or re-use. In the past 30 years, all we have gained is an ever-increasing pile of failures, which the tax-payer has to cover. Let's learn from our more recent, local history, and prevent the chance of those same repeated mistakes on Ft. Monroe. Let the developers fix and pay for their existing problems on the Peninsula, and leave Ft. Monroe to those with loftier aims   By Jean S
<b>Comment 6</b>	Repeatedly, the developers' route is given preference whenever there is an opportunity for land use or re-use. In the past 30 years, all we have gained is an ever-increasing pile of failures, which the tax-payer has to cover. Let's learn from our more recent, local history, and prevent the chance of those same repeated mistakes on Ft. Monroe. Let the developers fix and pay for their existing problems on the Peninsula, and leave Ft. Monroe to those with loftier aims.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Tourist Residences
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Open up the area beyond the moat to long term leases and building of low rise contractor operated and NPS owned low cost lodging and camping for visitors, not only to the Fortress, but to the Hampton Roads/Williamsburg/Jamestown area.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Roberta J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Topic Name (Instant Poll)</b>	<b><i>Waterfront Trail Ideas</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Scenic overlooks
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	21
<b>Idea Title</b>	Restrooms
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	18
<b>Idea Title</b>	Seating areas
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	18
<b>Idea Title</b>	Interpretive signage
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Idea Title</b>	Environmental education
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Idea Title</b>	Monuments
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7

<b>Idea Title</b>	Concession stand
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Idea Title</b>	Information kiosks
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Idea Title</b>	Bath house / locker room
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Idea Title</b>	Other: Please explain in a phrase or sentence in the comment box.
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Comments</b>	
<b>Number of Comments</b>	28
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>I think we would be better served to think of every amenity as an investment. Every feature listed above COSTS money, but does it necessarily bring in money? Sure, seating areas and kiosks may invite more traffic, but how does FM profit from that traffic? You can't charge to get in restrooms or read a sign, and you surely can't charge to gain access to FM. Concession Stands may bring in money, especially during tourist season, but that would require new development, which loud voices have successfully campaigned against thus far.</p> <p>If there are seating areas, we had better offset the cost by putting in coin-operated binoculars. If we won't allow have concession stands, we can at least have vending machines housed in design-conforming structures. If there is a fishing pier, charge money as OV does. And if we are going to have "interpretive signage," then GET SPONSORS.</p> <p>Fort Monroe is beautiful, and people will visit, but that doesn't mean it has to be free -- quite the opposite.   By Andrew S</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>I have visited Harper's Ferry, Antietam National Battlefield, Gettysburg National Battlefield, Appomattox, Mount Vernon, Valley Forge, El Castillo de San Marcos, El Morro, Shenandoah and Yosemite National Parks. I have also visited Monticello and Natural Bridge in Virginia in addition to a number of state and city parks and privately owned and managed estates. I believe that given a mission, the National Park Service can preserve history while at the same time implementing many ideas on this mindmixer website including the addition of nearby parks to Fort Monroe. There are also examples in different states, such as Kentucky, where there is a national recreational area and a state park: Island Between the Lakes and Barclay Lake State Park. We also have examples like the Thousand Islands and Acadia National Park where governments of bordering countries have been able to preserve adjacent lands and designate them for various purposes. It can be done when there is a mandate.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>I would definitely add public restrooms and picnic facilities. I think it would be nice to have public ferries and privately operated dinner cruises connecting Fort Monroe with the different Hampton Roads communities during the peak tourist season.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>Connecting Fort Monroe with different Hampton Roads communities is a great idea. The use of ferries can be a fun experience for visitors. I remember riding a ferry when I was child.   By Zakiyyah W</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>I support the Waterfront Trail. Keeping in mind that this is a National Treasure and tourism will be the driving economic engine, we must have a historical trail system with interpretive signage, overlooks, park benches, monuments, an improved Casemate Museum, gift shop, new attractions and on-going events to keep tourist coming. Open land does not attract tourist. There must be a plan for open spaces to be developed into such as outdoor concert areas, memorial parks, etc. Tourist will not travel 200 miles to play frisbee in an open area for the sake of preservation.   By Calvin P</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>Many ideas have been suggested on this website that can be implemented in a way that preserves the historic mission while at the same time provide for scenic beauty, protection of wildlife, outdoor recreation and entertainment. Do we create one park managed by the federal government or we do have a few parks zoned for different purposes under different jurisdictions. Initially, I did favor one national park; however, I do know examples where national state parks, monuments, and forests have co-existed close to each other. There are even examples where bordering states and countries have shared jurisdiction or have parks very close to one another also. Popular examples might include Island between the Lakes, Barclay Lake State Park, Cumberland Gap, Niagara Falls, Thousand Islands, Acadia National Park, Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone National Parks. Initially, I favored one national monument or park; however, I am not closed to having several parks owned and managed by different jurisdictions if different zoning restrictions apply. I just want the public to be able to enjoy this region. I feel that there is so much that can be offered.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>Any trails or public use areas should have waste containers emptied regularly, pet waste disposal sites and public restrooms. Swimming areas should have bath facilities for showering and changing clothes.   By James N</p>
<b>Comment 8</b>	<p>There can be no 7 mile waterfront trail without NPS joining in the project. NPS has its own planning process, still in early stages, and it is presumptuous for Sasaki to be pressing this as a major item now. Its premature pushing of this 7 mile trail tends to confirm this proposal is an intended distraction from its obvious desire to build stuff on the 50 key character-defining Wherry Quarter acres, between North Beach area of National Monument and the fortress.   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 9</b>	<p>If we could connect the Fort Monroe trail to Buckroe Beach then you'd have miles of walkable/runable/bikeable recreational space open and available to the public. Pretty nice! Please connect the two areas.   By John R</p>
<b>Comment 10</b>	<p>The trail needs to be wide enough to accommodate both bikes and pedestrians. Bikes should be required to have a bell to warn walkers in advance of passing from behind.   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 11</b>	<p>I prefer separate walkways in parts of the park which draw large crowds for special events. Your idea may be workable in more isolated naturally preserved scenic areas which may not be as noisy.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 12</b>	<p>Parts of the trail will pass close to built-up areas. What is not needed is additional development. Visitors should be able to walk or ride their bicycles from the Fortress to dog beach along both waterfronts as well as along interior trails. There should be no new buildings blocking the views and changing the character of Fort Monroe. The Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront areas should be maintained as a park and added to Fort Monroe National Monument ASAP.   By Adrian W</p>
<b>Comment 13</b>	<p>I like when they separate the walkways from the bike trails even if they are adjacent to one another. If there is a large event where there are lots of crowds and concerts, the noise may make hard for individuals to hear the bells from bikes, especially if there are many bikes with bells ringing at the same time. Another concern I have is for the elderly and disabled who may not respond fast enough if they hear the bells in the first place. Walking trails can be made with brick or stone pavers. Bike trails can be concrete.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 14</b>	<p>this might be included in the Environmental education area - I'd like to see wildlife information.   By Jeannie W</p>
<b>Comment 15</b>	<p>The waterfront trail and the green crescent will not be a satisfactory replacement for a large open Wherry Quarter. While very desirable they need to be combined with a large expanse of open space if the FMA hopes to attract large group activities.   By Ron W</p>

<b>Comment 16</b>	I don't want the Fort to be over-developed. It should continue to be a preserve of what it was, a Fort and beautiful waterway, and a quiet place for learning and just enjoying.   By Virginia M
<b>Comment 17</b>	If and when other commercial ventures are added, I also agree that any developments should be restricted in a way that they preserve the historic mission of the park in its history as well as preserving the scenic beauty and providing outdoor recreation.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 18</b>	Amen, again to SteveC6   By Virginia M
<b>Comment 19</b>	What about a bike trail? People come from all over Hampton roads to the trail by Riverside hospital.....   By Shelly S
<b>Comment 20</b>	bike trails are a great idea and will allow for not only great tourism opportunities but education as well   By mike C
<b>Comment 21</b>	There needs to be more fishing allowed off the banks of the bay and Mill Creek. When I was a child in the 1960's my father took me fishing all around the Fort. My wife and I fished the banks of Mill Creek and often caught dinner as a young couple. Now fishing is almost off limit's. This makes no sense to me since me. We have a Bass Pro Shop in town. Fishing should be promoted along with all the great outdoor activities available. I hope there will better and safer access to Mill Creek for small boats, kayaks and wind surfers; Etc.   By James A
<b>Comment 22</b>	Great observation about the fishing, if you ask me. This issue has bothered me for the whole seven years since the Army's departure decision. With Hampton back-room insiders trying to make Fort Monroe into another Chesapeake Avenue -- with water access de facto off-limits to mere citizen nobodies who don't have property there --   By Steve C
<b>Comment 23</b>	Great observation about the fishing, if you ask me. This issue has bothered me for the whole seven years since the Army's departure decision. With Hampton back-room insiders (and their well-placed allies in politics and journalism) grimly determined to make Fort Monroe a good bit like Chesapeake Avenue -- with water access de facto off-limits to mere citizen nobodies who don't have property there -- the simple pleasures of shoreline fishing are threatened at future Fort Monroe too. And that's even granting that yes, there'll be some fishing access even in a plan that does the most donating of this public treasure to private uses. Thanks, James A3. Steve Corneliussen, SaveFortMonroe@gmail.com   By Steve C
<b>Comment 24</b>	The waterfront trail is no substitute for preserved land, and trails within that, in the heart of the Wherry Quarter between the fortress and the North Beach of the National Monument (50-55 acres) and in the South Waterfront (i.e., Batteries Parrott and Irwin and the land on the Bay side of Fenwick Road between Battery Parrott and the Wherry Quarter boundary). Frankly the waterfront trail (much of it is in National Monument, and not even under state's jurisdiction) seems to be a tactic to distract citizens seeking more open space, by appearing to be responsive, when the master planner's consistent adherence to unwanted development in Wherry continues. Hampton Roads and Fort Monroe are more than worthy of a grand public place with a grand landscape like is seen along the Charles in Boston or the Potomac in DC or the Bay in San Francisco, despite the lack of respect Hampton Roads appears to command in some quarters.   By mark P
<b>Comment 25</b>	More areas for people to enjoy . To have picnics . Have concerts like it was in the past .   By John W
<b>Comment 26</b>	In my view this trail is a wonderful idea. And it's great to connect Fort Monroe with adjacent parts of Hampton. However, it's only Virginia's leaders and the moderators of this online discussion who believe that Fort Monroe is merely a "neighborhood" -- as the moderators phrase it above, and as some of Hampton's leaders have been calling Fort Monroe since 2006 or earlier. The rest of the world thinks of Fort Monroe as primarily a national treasure that only secondarily contains a strictly boundary-limited "neighborhood."   By Steve C
<b>Comment 27</b>	Amen Steve!   By Ron W
<b>Comment 28</b>	Elisa R. Public ferries and private cruises would connect Fort Monroe with other Hamplton Roads communities. I have suggested a scenic cruise from Fort Monroe to Rudee Inlet because it not only is close to the boardwalk which attracts crowds, but it also has the first wheelchair accessible ramp. There are also trails from Rudee Inlet to the Virginia Beach Aquarium. I would have a shuttle between the Virginia Beach Convention Center and the marina at Rudee Inlet. I might also have some other seasonal tourism shuttles that do no t stop at every corner but focus on the popular attractions. This could be a combination of public and private enterprise. I am not excluding other communities. I think people who live in these communities are very familiar with popular places and events and may be able to suggest other ideas.. I'm also trying to use what already exists for different purposes.   By Elisa R
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>Share how you would spend one hour at Fort Monroe</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Like WMBG, FM Must be Unified, with No Development in Middle!
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The draw of Williamsburg is that it has gone to great lengths in recreating 18th Century Williamsburg. More than just a few buildings and a scale model inside a museum, Williamsburg is a place for visitors to walk through and to view in real life scenes what our American ancestors would have seen. New development within the viewscapes of Fort Monroe would destroy the sense of place that is so important.  We have heard of developers who cut down all the trees and then named the streets of their subdivisions oak, maple, pine, magnolia, etc. The uniqueness of Fort Monroe must be preserved or we will inherit just another waterfront neighborhood. The Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront area need to be added to Fort Monroe National Monument.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	17
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	The most spectacular aspect of the entire site; from Walker Airfield to the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, to the post office and clock tower, to the central fortress, to the Wherry... every venerable square inch of the land and waters gave birth to vital historical events. Every structure is history--there are no facsimiles nor reproductions... this is real, living history, and, for that reason, it is unique in North America. Few places in the Western Hemisphere can boast 402 years of continuous historical occupation, as can Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe. To settle for partitioning here would be as ludicrous as constructing condominiums on The Mall in Washington, D.C. (a far less venerable site)... and that would never occur. While Williamsburg has many great historical structures and even more facsimiles and replicas, the unifying concept is good; and the non-historic development occurs from the perimeters, outward. In this case, that would be in Phoebus and Buckroe!.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Steve, spoken like a true preservationist. I agree with your impressive descriptions of the "sheds" as well as the "scapes", not to mention the "authenticity". My only question is; with full availability and access of the Fort to tourism for around 50 years, where are the visiting tourists? I suggest that with some additional draws you might bring them in.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Amen yet again, Adrian!   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Historical & Recreational Importance Includes Wherry, Waterfront

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The National Park Service went through a study before they recommended a new park unit at Fort Monroe. To those of us who consider the preservation of historical places critical to our national memory, Fort Monroe rises to such a height of importance that it deserves more than most other candidates to be a national park.</p> <p>Despite its great importance, the history of Fort Monroe has remained hidden to most Americans. By having this place that will attract those drawn to waterfront parks as well as historical sites, this part of American history can begin to enter the American consciousness. As a national park, Fort Monroe will draw a lot more visitors than it ever could as an Army post. To make their visits complete, there must be a unified Fort Monroe National Monument that includes the Wherry Quarter and the South Waterfront area.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	15
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	You are so right!!! This is about the greatest site in North America!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Well-stated! You're right to mention that most Americans don't know the important history of Ft. Monroe/Point Comfort and that the National Park would draw them and then let them learn the historical significance.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Walk
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Walk and enjoy the view of the Bay and ships.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	14
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	and of the fort. And then I would walk some more...   By Nadine T
<b>Idea Title</b>	Walk or Bike as Much of 565 Acres As I Could
<b>Idea Detail</b>	If I had only one hour, I would explore as much of Fort Monroe's historical and natural assets as I could by foot or bicycle, including walking around ramparts, along Bay and observing ships. If I had time, it would be nice to close with a meal, in Historic Village.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	This is the approach I would take, but "one hour" misses the point as a question. I would travel a significant distance to visit a historically sensitive Ft Monroe and would spend a lot more than one hour. Would drink in the place and see it all.   By Kenneth R
<b>Comment 2</b>	I would ensure Fort Monroe is hiking- and dog-friendly. The Dog Beach was absolutely wonderful and has a clientel that could very easily be motivated to return. It would not be expensive to make some paths and put up some nature signs.   By Brian K
<b>Idea Title</b>	Wander and watch
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would do what I have frequently done in the past (at least before the tighter restrictions after 9/11): walk along the seawall, watch the ships coming and going in Hampton Roads, listen to a concert at the gazebo/Continental Park while enjoying the children rolling down the little hills and playing in the grass, go up to the roof garden room of the Chamberlin and look at the view, wander around the moated fort area looking at the trees and plants, and go up on the ramparts to see the pet cemetery. And that's probably more than I could do in an hour--and it doesn't even begin to cover things like the Casemate and the beaches!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Me ,too...With reverence and awe.   By Patricia H
<b>Comment 2</b>	I'd like to join you on this excursion. I derive so much pleasure from all the things you describe on Fort Monroe.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Walk the Walls
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I'd walk the top of the walls of the star fort taking in the views of the historic fortress below, and of the vistas of the Chesapeake Bay - these two things must be preserved, and views of the Bay can best be restored and improved by removal of the Wherry Housing, which is non-historic and non-contributing to the park.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Destry J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	10
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	8
<b>Comment 1</b>	Good entry, Destry J! Yes the views are paramount in importance!! Every great vantage point must be preserved for both historical and pleasure reasons.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	With Wherry cleared of buildings, there will also be an unobstructed view of the fortress from Wherry--the best and probably the only such view of it possible. And a cleared Wherry will visually unite the fortress and the present 244 acres of National Monument green space, reinforcing Fort Monroe's two major appeals to visitors: historic buildings and historic landscape. Moreover, if the best use of Wherry is as green space, it (and the south waterfront with batteries Irwin and Parrott) should be transferred to the Monument to reinforce the national park brand.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 3</b>	With Wherry cleared of buildings, there will also be a striking view of the north wall of the fortress from Wherry--the best and probably the only such view of it possible. And a cleared Wherry will visually unite the fortress and the present 244 acres of National Monument green space, reinforcing Fort Monroe's two major appeals to visitors: historic buildings and historic landscape. Moreover, if the best use of Wherry is as green space, it (and the south waterfront with batteries Irwin and Parrott) should be transferred to the Monument to reinforce the national park brand.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 4</b>	This is under the heading of general info to Mindmixer contributors. When communicating with a group of like professionals such as medical doctors, astronomers, or historical preservationists one should definitely use their lexicon (dictionary) for maximum effectiveness. However, when your goal is to communicate with the general public, especially when pursuing their support, I suggest using the common English language. Strange, big words, are not as impressive as one may think.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 5</b>	I like your description of the moated fort as the "star fort"! What a great way to see it.   By Susan B

<b>Comment 6</b>	And speaking of seeing: I agree that the views are really important to be preserved and enhanced by the removal of Wherry housing blocking those views--and by the inclusion of the resulting open space in the National Monument!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 7</b>	It's good to hear another voice defending the viewshed principle -- the idea of sense of place, the integrity of the historic landscape. Destry J, what do you think of this idea from Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park? "The use of any buildings in the Wherry Quarter should be on a short-term temporary basis with the long-term commitment being to transfer all of the Wherry Quarter to the National Park Service. No new construction should take place except for appropriately located restroom facilities." Another from that group added: "The FMA should come up with a plan and a rapid time schedule for transferring Wherry and the south waterfront...to the National Monument. This plan should include removal of Wherry's non-historic buildings to create an open space." (The idea and addendum appear at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/temporary-use-only-of-wherry-buildings">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/temporary-use-only-of-wherry-buildings</a> .) Thanks, Destry J. Steven T. Corneliussen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 8</b>	Having only a moated fort and a one mile "seascape" is like a "one trick pony". Why can't we include a few more attractions to keep the tourists in the Hampton area for more than a day? I thought that our planning goal should present something for everyone. Beach for the kids, a little history for the family, and (in the future) some adult entertainment and a "game of chance" for the parents. This will create needed jobs and and most importantly, make Fort Monroe self sustaining.   By Tom B
<b>Idea Title</b>	A Wealth of Experiences on Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	To walk the land, where the Kikotan and their ancestors fished and hunted... that is a Fort Monroe experience. To stand on the southwest shore, where the first English ships landed; or when the first colonial goods were shipped across the Atlantic; or on the southeast shore, where the first West Africans arrived on the continent... that is a Fort Monroe experience. To stand on the east (Chesapeake Bay) shore, where the first self-emancipating slaves landed; or on the Wherry, where their great encampment existed... that is a Fort Monroe experience. To stand atop the moat to view the harbour, where the ironclads battled; or on the Irwin and Parrott Batteries, where we were defended against Axis u-boats... that is a Fort Monroe experience. To walk through the Casemates to view where Jefferson Davis was imprisoned; or through Quarters #1, where Abraham Lincoln worked and slept... that is a Fort Monroe experience. To walk the Parade Field, where two centuries of formal military presence was celebrated; or rest on Continental Park, where seven decades of music was heard... that is a Fort Monroe experience.  One hour is not sufficient for this wealth of experiences.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great summary of key events!   By Susan W
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree 100%..well said...   By toni L
<b>Comment 3</b>	Nicely done, Luis, with an apt conclusion.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Well said! You do know your Ft. Monroe history well!   By Neva A
<b>Comment 5</b>	You've certainly hit the high points--and each one of these activities would take more than an hour!!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 6</b>	You said it!!! Thanks, Luis O.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 7</b>	Outstanding Louis. Well said.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Sit by the water and sketch
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The water views at Fort Monroe are unique. A cadre of artists should be encouraged to capture those views in different light similar to the way artists capture Niagara Falls or in western Virginia the Arch. It takes less than an hour, unless you have to wait for the light. Flickr has some spectacular images of the Fort and the waterway produced by both professionals and visitors to the Fort. However, more artists need to be encouraged to contribute their works or the rights to reproduce their works to the Fort Monroe staff to raise money for programs.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Anne P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Ft. Monroe offers something for lots of people: artists, history-lovers, recreation seekers, walkers, bicyclers, concert-goers, ship-watchers, environmentalists, scholars, and the list goes on! A beautiful national park would offer all these people opportunities to enjoy and appreciate Ft. Monroe.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Introduce others to Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Being comfortably acquainted with the architectural, environmental and vastly important historical aspects of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe; I would take as many unfamiliar persons as I could on a one-hour motor tour of the site. I would be sure to acknowledge one hundred or so points of interest, then ask that they each return to further investigate for themselves; and then, bring other unfamiliar persons to introduce them to this great treasure.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Virginian Pilot reporter Kate Wiltout interviewed President Obama, who said he plans to visit Fort Monroe at some point in the not too distant future. Her article ended with this quote from the president: "It's an important part of our history and our heritage that I want everybody to be aware of."   By Scott B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Everytime I bring a visitor to Ft. Monroe, they are astounded by the beauty and history, and whenever they visit the area, they want to return to Ft. Monroe.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Yes, Susan, a walking tour would be nicer... but they've only given me an hour to do this!!! Hopefully, those I introduce to the site would return to leisurely explore and experience the wonders of Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	Good idea--many people are still unaware of the significance of Ft. Monroe. Maybe a walking tour would be even better?   By Susan B
<b>Comment 5</b>	Yes, Susan, a walking tour would certainly be nicer... but, remember... they've only given me an hour to do this!!! Hopefully, those I introduce to the site would return to leisurely explore and experience the wonders of Fort Monroe, on foot; as I would also prefer.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 6</b>	Good idea--maybe a walking tour would be even better!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Bike tour of the Fort

<b>Idea Detail</b>	Go for a bike ride around the fort. Would be great if one could rent a bike there.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Bruce W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	If ferry service is ever established to FM, bike rentals and return stations would be very useful for tourism circulation and access.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	Yes, bike rentals and drop off stations at several points around Fort Monroe would be outstanding. Several cities around the country provide this service and it seems a wonderful fit for tourism amenities. This could conveniently be managed as a concession operation.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 3</b>	I like someone else's idea about a welcoming center with bicycle and cart rentals in the MP building by the main gate.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Visit Casemate Museum
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Best use of the one hour would be to visit the Casemate Museum to learn the origin of the term "Old Point Comfort," learn about who built the fort and where did the brick and stone come from, learn about the history of the Army at Fort Monroe from 1823 to September 15,2011 to include the role of the fort in the Civil War, learn about the the fort as the Army's Artillery School to include the legacy of the Coast Artillery Corps, learn about the resorts at Old Point Comfort, and see the artifacts that are part of the way the museum tells its story.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ray H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Introduce the Casemate Museum Foundation as the key fund raising organization and solicit donations and membership to further enhance the museum experience.,   By Ray H
<b>Comment 2</b>	Agree with comment.   By Ray H
<b>Idea Title</b>	Public waterside benches
<b>Idea Detail</b>	lots of benches for public to sit on.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Elizabeth E
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Historic Village
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Since 1609 the Fort has had a long and varied history. As an adjunct to the Casemate, it would be so interesting to have a few dwellings built from every period, with a soldier dressed from each period giving presentations. The houses could form a village of sorts. It could be placed close to one of the existing buildings on the fort which could be turned into a place to give the presentations, provide food, historical materials, and tasteful souvenirs.</p> <p>The buildings that have historical significance, like where Lincoln stayed, should have more than just a plaque as a designation. They could be included on a tour. This might give the Casemate area a Colonial Williamsburg feel. That would definitely be a plus!</p> <p>As another topic: allow a good-sized area for camping, for a fee, of course. This would provide a good revenue and a wonderful history filled family vacation. Campgrounds are always filled. Campers are usually very careful with their environment.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Pat W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great suggestions, Pat W!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Learn about history and share with my children.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would spend the hour learning and teaching my children.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Michael C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	One Hour to Experience Fort Monroe?!?
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I would cycle to Fort Monroe up the causeway by Old Point Comfort Marina, and visit the CONARC/TRADOC Headquarters, Post Theatre, Saint Mary Star-of-the-Sea Church and the old YMCA; park my bicycle inside the fortress, tour the Casemate Museum, ascend and walk the entire circuit of the Moat; visit the "Lincoln" House, Parade Field, Chapel of the Centurion; bicycle through Walker Airfield and the Wherry Quarter; visit the Officers' Club, NCO Club; take a dip in the bay at Dog Beach; climb and explore the Batteries; visit the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, cycle past the generals' homes; stroll with my bicycle through Continental Park and ascend the Gazebo; walk the boardwalk to the Chamberlin and have a drink on the porch, while viewing the ships passing in the harbour.</p> <p>I would feel unfortunate that I would only have had enough time to experience one fifth of all I could wish.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>A "share" bicycle site for families to cycle around the fort. It's so flat it begs for cyclists.</p> <p>I would also stop by my old home on Tidball Road, right down the street from the theater, where my mother escaped the July heat when pregnant with my brother. It was the only air-conditioned building in 1948. My brother and I were both born in the Fort Monroe hospital)</p> <p>The history of this spit of land is phenomenal and it deserves to be preserved.   By Pat H</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	In order for visitors to enjoy all the high points, a tour bus/van could be used. Better yet, maybe some type of antique military vehicle to ride the visitors in. Maybe Fort Eustis could help out with this idea since it's a transportation post.   By Zakiyyah W

<b>Comment 3</b>	Or maybe an environmentally-friendly electric tram or other vehicle?   By Susan B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Whew! there's too much to see and do in an hour, but you seem to have hit the high points! We'd have to be in great physical shape to do as much as you!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 5</b>	Point taken! The richness in living history and natural environment would demand far more than one hour to even begin experiencing all there is.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	History
<b>Idea Detail</b>	An hour is not enough. I would like a presentation of the history of the Batteries. The same plus a tour of the casemates and the buildings around the parade field. Two hours maybe for a quickie.
<b>Idea Author</b>	DONALD P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Time on Ft. Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Time is almost meaningless to me on Ft. Monroe. The knowledge of the past pervades the present. My personal experiences and the history become intertwined in a multi-directional flow of time. If you're thinking about clocks, then you'd have to time my visit with a broken clock. I never spend less than a few hours on each visit, twice a week, at least. There is always something else to experience!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jean S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Even when going on a "mission" to Fort Monroe, my departure is, invariably, delayed by urgent desires to experience the historical and natural treasures that are there.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Center for the Arts at FM
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Now that was a good Idea! Phoebus already getting some of that feel. It could and should be extended into Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Robert H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Ft. Monroe's existing buildings and village "feel" could easily be a wonderful arts performance and conference center similar to Chataqua and other national arts venues!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Were there a performance in Continental Park of the Army band, then that would be a happy way to spend my one hour.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Take my dog for a walk on the beach
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I'd take my dog to the beach and let him have a little adventure.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Karen C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	My dogs and I further the adventure romping in Wherry, and walking on top of the moat.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	And you could have a great time, too!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Casemate Museum
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Casemate Museum sums up the whole Fort in a one hour experience.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Richard S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	11
<b>Comment 1</b>	Totally agree with Scott! Great points!   By Neva A
<b>Comment 2</b>	The Casemate Museum is a marvelous jewel, and provides a wonderful means to becoming introduced to the great stories, of global import, that originated with Fort Monroe. It can provide the visitor much information that may not be evidenced in the current physical aspect of the Fort, but the total experience of living history goes far beyond the confines of the Museum. The land- and water-scapes, the magnificent edifices, the long-standing traditions, the continuous historical contributions... these must be fully realized in a multitude of places throughout all of Cape Comfort.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	The Casemate Museum is great, but a museum is no substitute for the living history experience of the total Fort.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	In response to Tom: Casemate Museum attendance, according to a Dec. 2011 Daily Press article, has been down since 2001, because of the extra difficulty of getting on the post. Since 9/11, it has remained at around 32,000 visitors per year, but FMA executive director Glenn Oder reported that "attendance over the [2011] Thanksgiving holiday weekend was the highest ever at the Casemate Museum." And Claire Samuelson, the Army Museum Activity Director partnering with the FMA, said at the May 31, 2012 FMA meeting that attendance is considerably up. It will continue going up, in my view, if the entire post is made into the most attractive place it can be, with an emphasis on the preservation of historic buildings and the historic landscape. No casinos.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 5</b>	Good information and a good case for the Casemate as part of a larger National Park!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 6</b>	The Casemate Museum is a marvelous jewel, and provides a wonderful means to becoming introduced to the great stories, of global import, that originated with Fort Monroe. It can provide the visitor much information that may not be evidenced in the current physical aspect of the Fort, but the total experience of living history goes far beyond the confines of the Museum. The land- and water-scapes, the magnificent edifices, the long-standing traditions, the continuous historical contributions... these must be fully realized in many places throughout.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 7</b>	Luis and Scott; This has been a tourist "freebe" with cost free access for 50 years. If there is so much interest, as you say there should be, where are the lines of patriotic visitors??   By Tom B
<b>Comment 8</b>	Excellent defining statement, Scott!   By Luis O

<b>Comment 9</b>	The Casemate Museum is a wonderful museum, especially since it has added some Contraband material, and it benefits greatly from the historic ambience of its setting. What it doesn't capture, however, is the entire historic setting of Fort Monroe--the fortress itself, the other historic buildings, and the historic landscape. Fort Monroe exists, as did the forts that preceded it, because of the strategic importance of Old Point Comfort to protecting Jamestown and other inland settlements. So in addition to the natural beauty of the place, reason enough for it to be preserved for public enjoyment, the shorelines, live oaks and open space convey a rich sense of history. That's why converting Wherry into green space and transferring it to the National Monument for safekeeping is so important.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 10</b>	Excellent defining statement, Scott!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 11</b>	Yes!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Bay breezes, open spaces, pedestrian friendly paths, great views
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe has many cool aspects to enjoy. Its natural beauty and bay breezes rank way up on my scale. I love that there are pedestrian paths that wind around the fort and along the seawall. No one mentions Stillwell road that winds along Mill Creek, but that is also a lovely view, although not pedestrian friendly. Love the yellow-crested night herons!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	The idea can be improved if pedestrian paths also are created in and around the Wherry Quarter, provided it is left un-developed so in time it can become part of the FM National Monument. Right now, if any but Choice #2 is picked from the five choices for what to do in the Wherry Quarter, as put out recently by Sasaki, then the Wherry Quarter, like Stillwell Road, will be anything but pedestrian or cycling friendly. Visitors and tourists trying to traverse from the the historic moat to the other part of the National Monument (the north beaches) will have to wind around private homes, driveways, traffic, etc if Wherry Quarter (which now divides the National Monument, is allowed to be privately developed. Does selling to developers the bayfront property which divides FM's National Monument make any sense to anyone but the greedy?   By Sandra C
<b>Idea Title</b>	One Hour at Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would visit the Casemate Museum for an overview of the history of the fort and then walk along the top of the moat to visualize the firing of the ramparts to preserve our freedom and the arrival of the Africans seeking freedom.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Calvin P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	A beautiful and inspiring hour that would be!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	A Great Hour at Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I'd spend one hour at Fort Monroe by visiting the historic moated fort area, and focus on the wonderful Casemate Museum. They do a great job, and really make history come alive.  I'd also try to fit in a walking tour on the top of the walls of the moat, including a visit to the pet cemetery up there. The scenery is terrific.  Regards,  Hugh
<b>Idea Author</b>	Hugh B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Some of my favorites, too!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Share an hour
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe has a signature at it is called the Casemate Museum. If you have not visited it lately, I recommend it strongly. No admission fee and it tells the terrific story of Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	bob S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	It is definitely worth it to make a donation, when visiting the Casemate Museum. The scope and the exhibits have expanded, greatly, in recent years. They are doing a spectacular job covering the entire military history of Cape Comfort.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	It's worth it to make a donation, when visiting the Casemate Museum. The scope and the exhibits have expanded, greatly in recent years. They are doing a spectacular job covering the entire military history of Cape Comfort.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Only One Hour
<b>Idea Detail</b>	If I were given one hour at Ft. Monroe--only one hour--I think I would cry.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jean S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	This is the most poignant single line I've read on this site! To be given only one hour on Fort Monroe would truly be depressing.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	To be given only one hour on Fort Monroe would truly be depressing.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	visit
<b>Idea Detail</b>	like to see visits to the old forts that are blocked off on the water before they were torn down is this possible i have lived here for 83 years and often wondered about the inside of these
<b>Idea Author</b>	ed G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0

<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	If you're referring to the Batteries, you'll probably get your opportunity to visit them.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Capture Memories of the Past
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I was stationed at Fort Monroe for three years. I would spend one hour there capturing photos, of scenes from my past, to share with my grandchildren.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Zakiyyah W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Spending an hour at Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Of course the hour would include a walk-through the Casemate Museum. This would be followed by an optional Park Service chitney/small transport vehicle ride to the other sites at the fort, such as the housing areas, church, fortifications, Chamberlain, etc. A walking tour would also be possible, if time within the hour constraint allowed it. A picnic would be another activity in one of the open areas or beach. It would be a worthwhile venture for an hour, afternoon, or weekend. Fort Monroe is a dynamic, inspiring historical facility.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Lawrence S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Indeed, it would be a most difficult decision to determine where, on Fort Monroe, and how you'd spend one hour.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Yes, there is so much to do at Ft. Monroe!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	one hour on Fortress Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	In the Casemate of course! Then go by all the buildings I had worked in for old times sake!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Beverly P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	PEACE
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I would sit under the wonderful old trees and rest in peace.
<b>Idea Author</b>	MARTHA H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	I would enjoy sitting under the trees, but hope I am not at that time resting in peace.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Visit the coast artillery fortificaions.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	When my father was an instructor at the Coast Artillery School in the late 1930s an annual target practice was held with the 10 inch disappearing guns. This was a big event for the post and the surrounding communities. Bleachers were set up for spectators. After the firing, the targets that were towed out in the bay were bought in close so the holes in them we were visable. My father often had the duty of safety officer requiring him to stand on the platform by the gun tube to see if it was clear to fire. He could'nt hear for days after that. At Fort Casey on Pudget Sound, WA, similar emplacements have been restored with guns obtained in the Philippines. The post is a state park.
<b>Idea Author</b>	John M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Entertain the Dog
<b>Idea Detail</b>	If I had one hour at Fort Monroe, I would take my dog for a walk on Dog Beach (if it was open). Next would be a ball throwing session inside the moat on the parade field.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Darlene G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	By bringing a plastic bag to clean up after the dog!   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	We always walk prepared. :)   By Darlene G
<b>Comment 3</b>	There was a bag station and trash can at dog beach. When it was barricaded the bag stand was removed. No matter how many people keep saying it was not a dog beach It got the reputation as being one because of the bag stand and everyone took their dogs there.   By charlotte B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Casement Museum
<b>Idea Detail</b>	If I had only one hour I would spend it in the Casement Museum. The atmosphere together with the displays transports me in time and in one stop I am filled with an understanding of what Ft. Monroe means and has meant to our country.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Jill D
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Thanks for these thoughts. This morning the publication National Parks Traveler posted the story "Discriminating Explorer: Fort Monroe National Monument—Hub Of A Classic Historic Harbor Tour" at <a href="http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2012/08/discriminating-explorer-fort-monroe-national-monument%E2%80%94hub-classic-historic-harbor-tour10317">http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2012/08/discriminating-explorer-fort-monroe-national-monument%E2%80%94hub-classic-historic-harbor-tour10317</a> .The article focuses a good bit on the museum.    By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	One Hour to One Day

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>One Hour - Visit the Existing Casemate Museum after passing through Gate 1. Excellent examples of authentic American history.</p> <p>One Day - The remaining 5 hours should be spent viewing and touching the fantastic seascapes, monuments, architecture. Climb and walk a portion of the ramparts. View the expert positioning of this great fortress and Fort Wool in their defense of the great Hampton Roads harbor. Appreciate the personnel who manned this strategic position over the years, many of them who later gave their lives in the defense of this great country throughout the world.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Here is the way to take a visit. Would add that walking out away from the fort and then looking back at it in an open vista would solidify the historic nature of the site. The perception would make the past more vibrant, alive, and communicate its importance in history   By Kenneth R
<b>Comment 2</b>	Thank you for this fine entry!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Explore the history
<b>Idea Detail</b>	This is the only USA fort I know of that is as intact; complete with a moat, the history of the battle of the ironclads, the notable persons who lived or visited here...keep as much of the fort and the housing intact...the hotel has been there and provides for tourists...where are the reenactors that I see at other historic places....this could compete with Jamestown and Williamsburg if the property were preserved....some of the housing has been sold...keep what is left and develop it for the future..
<b>Idea Author</b>	toni L
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	The FMA and NPS are still planning and assessing. Once plans are complete and in place I think you will see all kinds of users and groups enjoying the resources of Fort Monroe. I agree we can compete with other historic and Natural areas with proper planning and promotion.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	an hour is not enough
<b>Idea Detail</b>	First off why limit it to an hour? There is so much to see and do. If I had been there recently and had explored the inside of the moat, then I would then visit the redoubts, or the beach.
<b>Idea Author</b>	John W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Take my g'kids on pony rides offered by the Buffalo Riders
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Buffalo Riders of Hampton Roads honor the history of the Buffalo Soldiers (9th and 10th Cavalry) and the Black Cowboys and Cowgirls of the Old West. The Buffalo Soldiers were United States Colored Troops, and the USCT were made possible because of General Butler's decision at Ft. Monroe to declare escapees from slavery "contraband of war".
<b>Idea Author</b>	Anita H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Interesting suggestion.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Show Me the (Operating/Management) Money
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>As I recall, National Parks admission is practically free and we already have about 396 National Parks in the U.S. If you have kept up with the news, the Parks System is deep in the red and the U.S. is about 16.5 trillion in debt. Look at Virginia's financial deficits to include its grid locked transportation system. Where will the money come from to maintain and operate Fort Monroe? Please do not say the taxpayer.</p> <p>"The past is often prelude to the future". A good example for this would be the Forts Casemate Museum. It has been in existence for around 50 years with free admission. The Fort has also been open to our citizens for touring by foot or auto except during national crisis. Where are the lines of tourists waiting to get in? I have been to the Fort with visiting guests on numerous occasions and have seen very few tourists in the museum or the Fort. Has anyone taken the time to keep attendance records? Are these records accurate? How many visitors were local school children shipped in to learn local history?</p> <p>Don't get me wrong, I appreciate our country's history as much or more than anyone, but, let's be realistic about it. It takes a lot of money to operate and maintain historical sites. There must be a steady stream of funding and a lot of thought for a project as proposed.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	17
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>If we need money for infrastructure (which, by the way, includes parks and open space, stormwater and sewage systems, railroads and libraries, not just subsidized highways) and public pensions, let's raise taxes (and employee contributions perhaps, in case of pensions), which is how civilization responds to public needs (Va's low gas tax has not been raised since 1987 and every year inflation erodes its value).</p> <p>And no one is talking about "sitting on" the resource, but instead maximizing its value and contribution by making it as special as it can be by preserving 300 acres of natural lands abutting built up historic area.   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	If we need money for infrastructure (which, by the way, includes parks and open space, stormwater and sewage systems, railroads and libraries, not just subsidized highways) and public pensions, let's raise taxes (and employee contributions perhaps, in case of pensions), which is how civilization responds to public needs (Va's low gas tax has not been raised since 1987 and every year inflation erodes its value).   By mark P
<b>Comment 3</b>	If we need money for infrastructure (which, by the way, includes parks and open space, stormwater and sewage systems, railroads and libraries, not just subsidized highways), let's raise taxes, which is how civilization responds to public needs (Va's low gas tax has not been raised since 1987 and every year inflation erodes its value).   By mark P

<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>What would be the point? What is the grand plan if you just give out parcels for random development? Why have a national park at all? If these ideas are so great, why have they not been implemented at other, more appropriate local areas? If development generates positive cash flow only because the property itself was free to begin with, that is very shortsighted. You suggest a casino - have you factored in the additional costs of security? The impacts of increased traffic? The nuisance this would cause to adjacent neighborhoods? Good grief!</p> <p>This isn't intended to be personal criticism so I hope it isn't taken that way. The point is that a holistic planning vision hasn't been developed yet that reflects the concerns of not only the FMA. This property has inherent historic value that has not been adequately addressed, as evidenced by the many comments and concerns about the loss of that valuable aspect of the property.   By Susan W</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>There is little doubt that well planned and advertised attractions of all types generate money. This is especially the case when a National Park Service area is involved. The money needed to manage and protect FM will come in the future. Be positive!   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>Well said Luis !   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>How do you say it in Estonian?   By Scott B</p>
<b>Comment 8</b>	<p>Really... how does any of this fit the topic: "Share how you would spend one hour at Fort Monroe"?   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 9</b>	<p>If we are going to remain a great nation and thrive in future, we must continue to believe some things are worth spending public money on. One of the problems at University of Virginia is that the state contributes but \$8600 per student per year to Mr. Jefferson's university -- in contrast cash strapped Michigan contributes over \$17,000 per student per year to the University of Michigan, while neighboring North Carolina contributes over \$26,000 per student per year to UNC. We need to be efficient and spend public money carefully, but we should be willing to pay for what is worth paying for.</p> <p>  By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 10</b>	<p>You're right! It's pretty sad that Virginia doesn't seem to value education as much as N.C. --and for all the talk about Virginia's historical heritage, the state government/legislators don't seem willing to put their money where their mouths are. I think most Virginians would appreciate the need to maintain our historic sites for future generations.   By Susan B</p>
<b>Comment 11</b>	<p>National parks generate business. Green space, authenticity and character multiply a region's attractiveness to enterprises needed for Tidewater's international aspirations. True, the world doesn't yet know Fort Monroe much. But it knows the Historic Triangle and Virginia Beach. "Show me the money"? Even if you care only about money enrichment -- even if you overlook recreational, historic and environmental enrichment -- the money lies in the advice of the Virginian Pilot on the left and Tom Gear on the right: unify the split national monument by expanding it to include the unwisely omitted (<a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a>) bayfront land. "Show me the money"? We won't see the real benefits if we merely make a Kiln Creek or a gated Kingsmill out of the site that served as one of America's major tourist draws ca. 1900 -- the site also of what Ed Ayers calls (last paragraph at <a href="http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/">http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Richmond-Chief-Stirs/127879/</a>) the greatest moment in American history.   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 12</b>	<p>I disagree with Mr. Ayers' "greatest moment in American history". How about the church in Richmond where Patrick Henry said, "Give me liberty or give me death"?   By Tom B</p>
<b>Comment 13</b>	<p>You are correct! And this is the site of several of the very greatest episodes in American history!!!   By Jean S</p>
<b>Comment 14</b>	<p>What a dismal, and short-sighted concept this is! The property value at Fort Monroe is priceless... because it is not developed.</p> <p>  By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 15</b>	<p>Virginia needs capital for infrastructure now, not later! Do you truly believe that the local and State will benefit from the serious gridlock experienced at our tunnels and bridges? Hours and hours of time is now wasted as the Tidewater area joins the top ten worst metropolitan areas (traffic) in the nation. Tourists and commercial interests will avoid our areas until the problem is resolved. Are you ready for \$5.00 tolls to transit these tunnels and bridges? Add the States underfunded pensions and healthcare to the deficit. Do you still want to sit on your "priceless" resource?   By Tom B</p>
<b>Comment 16</b>	<p>You're right--and anyway, how is turning Ft. Monroe over to developers going to generate capital for the state to fix our roads?   By Susan B</p>
<b>Comment 17</b>	<p>What a dismal, and short-sighted concept! The property value at Fort Monroe is priceless... because it is not developed.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	<p>Pent up Demand for Public Beaches</p>
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Why are the three "lifeguarded" beaches", East of the Fort, sparsely used by the public? Several preservationist contributors to this site have often referred to the publics pent up demand for and the lack of natural beaches on the peninsula. Seems that the Paradise Beach Club is doing a great business for the short time that it has been here, in spite of its admission charge. Could it be that the Forts early visitors prefer developed recreational property to undeveloped "vistas"? FM Authority, please use this as evidence in your pursuit of the "sustainability" goal for the Fort Monroe Master Plan. "Vistas" and "Viewsheds" alone will not pay the bills.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	<p>Tom B</p>
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	<p>1</p>
<b>Number of Points</b>	<p>0</p>
<b>Number of Comments</b>	<p>7</p>
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>In a response below, Tom B7--author of the idea above--asserts a claim that his views on Fort Monroe's future represent thousands of Americans. That's false. Tom is known in this forum for expressing contempt for the reality that Fort Monroe is a national treasure. Readers can check via <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/user/15955">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/user/15955</a> for the tallies of public votes for his fifteen idea postings. Most have received zero. His highest is 3, and in that one he's not calling for ruining a national treasure. In stark contrast, readers can also check the vote tally for the very popular idea--opposed by Tom--under the heading "Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres" (<a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a>). Tom doesn't want unification. And he publicly advocated leveling 75% of the moated citadel so as to save, he says, on maintenance costs.</p> <p>  By Steve C</p>

<b>Comment 2</b>	(Continuing my comment that begins "In a response below, Tom B7 ...") Now, some will say, but Steve, you're only citing numbers from this online forum. That's true. But it's also true that scores of people have jumped through hoops to sign up so that they could support ideas like the one I cited above on unification. What that tells me is that it was correct in recent years to interpret the Hampton Citizens Initiative on Fort Monroe as proving that public sentiment is strongly in favor of sensible, far-sighted, national-level treatment of this precious place. People were clamoring to sign. I say again: We have never had a real public debate, a fair debate uncontrolled and unframed by the overdevelopment interests. It's not too late. But it won't happen, because Virginia's leaders know how profoundly wrong Tom is about the public, even if Tom can't see it himself.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	In a response below, Tom B7--author of the idea above--asserts a claim that his views on Fort Monroe's future represent thousands of Americans. That's false. Tom is known in this forum for expressing contempt for the reality that Fort Monroe is a national treasure. Readers can check via <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/user/15955">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/user/15955</a> for the tallies of public votes for his fifteen idea postings. Most have received zero. His highest is 3, and in that one he's not calling for ruining a national treasure. Readers can also check the vote tally for the idea "Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres" ( <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> ). Tom energetically opposes that one. And he publicly advocated leveling 75% of the moated citadel so as to save, he says, on maintenance costs.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 4</b>	The FMA is still in the process of assesment and planning. This is also the case for the NPS. Thus far, I have seen no effort to really reach out and draw in recreational users. The Paradise Club has marketed itself and is enjoying the benefit of doing so. I hope that once things settle down for the FMA, much more reaching out to the public and the nation will be seen. Judging from the popularity of the concerts, advertising will bring people to the Fort for all types of uses.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 5</b>	Ron W; Do not confuse absence of interest with the lack of advertising. The most successful businesses often become so by public "word of mouth" and E-mail communication only. So far, I believe that the lofty goals espoused by your group of 15 or so individuals do not reflect the desires of the thousands of general public taxpayers. You cannot be successful with only a "one trick pony" (history, culture, and viewsheds). At least give the Natl. Monument a chance to succeed. We must also provide our visitors with an all season attraction. In lieu of creating new "vistas" in the N. Wherry Qtr, save 40 acres(with adequate Fort separation) for Virginias first Resort/Casino. Too many dollars are already flowing to several out of state casinos.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 6</b>	Tom B7, I have to ask that given the quote below from your post, that if there are thousands, where are their comments and the seconds to their comments in this forum? We have seen high levels of support for our way of thinking in petition drives, public meetings, national interest groups, and in the media.  "So far, I believe that the lofty goals espoused by your group of 15 or so individuals do not reflect the desires of the thousands of general public taxpayers."  Most of us in the group of 15 or so, want to see a viable economic outcome from the presence of Fort Monroe National Monument and from appropriate adaptive restoration of the historic buildings. We differ on where development should take place and how the land should be respected and used. I hope appropriate planning will bring all of us all together.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 7</b>	I know of no preservationist who wants anything but extensive -- and public-revenue-generating -- use of Fort Monroe's beaches. Beach-recreation development can be made fully compatible with the viewsheds and vistas for which Tom B7, who called for filling in the moat and leveling the citadel's ramparts, has such contempt (along with his contempt for the proposition that Fort Monroe is a national treasure). And I know of plenty of frustration with the limited lack of public access to Tidewater shorefronts. Seek a parking place on Sunday at Buckroe or Virginia Beach, or consult the Trust for Public Land study that a Fort Monroe Authority commissioner tried to suppress. As to Fort Monroe's beach-use rates at the moment, who would expect the word to spread fast enough to revolutionize those in the first summer?   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	Reopen the dog beach.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I live in Norfolk and my dog used to love to go to the dog beach. She could run without a leash and play with the other dogs. It was the only place around that she could do that.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Bill R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Highest and Best Use of the Fort Monroe Moat
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Reduce future Federal costs of maintaining the proposed Federal Monument/Park by reducing the size of the Forts footprint. Future generations can get an accurate idea of Fortress Monroe by preserving about a fifth of the walled structure and moat and leveling the remainder. Use the rampart remnants to fill the moat. Enlarge the Casemate Museum to include a scale model of the entire original Fort. State of the art visual displays would fulfill the the tourists need to appreciate the original fort while undoubtedly saving the citizens millions of dollars in the structural maintenance of ramparts that are now 200 years old. About 50 new acres could be made available to sell or use as we see fit for low maintenance recreational or commercial use while still retaining a fifth of the actual ramparts and moat. Keep in mind the value of this currently unused acreage. Please forward this idea to the federal parks dept. coordinator. Let us be realistic about using this valuable gift. Thanks!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Not sure whether this comment is tongue in cheek. If he is serious, I most strongly disagree.   By mark P

<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>The draw of Williamsburg is that it has gone to great lengths in recreating 18th Century Williamsburg. More than just a few buildings and a scale model inside a museum, Williamsburg is a place for visitors to walk through and to view in real life scenes what our American ancestors would have seen. New development within the viewscapes of Fort Monroe would destroy the sense of place that is so important.</p> <p>We have heard of developers who cut down all the trees and then named the streets of their subdivisions oak, maple, pine, magnolia, etc. The uniqueness of Fort Monroe must be preserved or we will inherit just another waterfront neighborhood. The Wherry Quarter and South Waterfront area need to be added to Fort Monroe National Monument.</p> <p>  By Adrian W</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>Certainly not a concept worthy of the vast and and invaluable stories in which Cape Comfort/Fort Algernon/Fort Monroe was so germinally integral to the world. And, certainly a concept which is contemptuous of our descendants. What a disgraceful and ignoble gesture this would be for the history books!   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>With you 100% on this one!!!   By Jean S</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	<p>Fort Monroe - Historical, Cultural, Recreational, Sustainable</p>
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Plenty has been said about the historical/cultural aspects of Fort Monroe, but what about recreation and sustainability? Do not forget, we are competing with hundreds of attractions located between Wash. D.C. and the Outer Banks. I know that it would be asking for a lot, but do we want return "customers"? What about "off season" customers? We cannot afford a "one trick pony" as it seems that we are now moving towards. We must offer diverse entertainment if we want repeat business.</p> <p>Lets face it, the Fort may provide a days activity. What do we offer for a second day, and what do we offer for the nine months which are considered "off season"? Although many Mindmixer respondents sound as if they would spend the greater part of their lives at the Fort if they could, I do believe that they are exaggerating somewhat. Personally, after a couple of visits my contemporaries and I would seek other vistas.</p> <p>Granted, the U.S. economy may not be ripe for this but in about 5 years when it may be, we must sell about 50 acres of the Wherry sector to private developers to build Virginias first resort/casino. What would we gain in doing this? Recreation and sustainability with unlimited return business. Tourists and repeat visitors for twelve months of the year. Jobs for hundreds of citizens, income and property taxes as well as historical and cultural benefits available for everyone.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	<p>Tom B</p>
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	<p>0</p>
<b>Number of Points</b>	<p>0</p>
<b>Number of Comments</b>	<p>10</p>
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Luis; The "one trick pony" that I reference in both my original idea and in my comment is not "development" as you note in your last comment. The "one trick pony" clearly refers to the National Monument/Parks only existing attraction, the moated Fort. I noticed that you choose to ignore the fact that tourism is very seasonal. Kind of chilly walking the beaches and ramparts during the Winter months. Check with Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, and Nags Head on this point when you get a chance. How will you cover payroll costs and retain employees during the "off season"? Your "one horse pony" concept will not work... We need revenue year around.   By Tom B</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>A followon comment. To Catherine W; My recent Idea does not involve "trashing" any part of the original Fort. To Luis O; My idea is not connected to "Mcmansion, Condominiums, Race Track Concepts, and, who are you to comment on what I appreciate or not? And to Ron W., I do not seek your presumptive "blessing" and never will. In light of our countries recent "pay as you go" philosophy, I feel that adding a large," all season", money making element, will satisfy our stated goal of "Sustainability". And with the "partial season" beaches and Fort, it will give us the synergy needed to complete the entire package. If you really think about it, you will soon see that there is a large need for revenue. Try not to exhibit tunnel vision. Keep an open mind. This is the only way you can make the Plan work. A one trick pony will not work!   By Tom B</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>This is a public opinion website, so why can not I comment? I did not state that your idea was connected to the others mentioned, but that it would be an appropriate fit with them. We are trying to avoid the vicious, never-resolved cycle of unneeded residential development... that's why we are looking to a more broadly satisfying and more permanently stable design for Fort Monroe. You are absolutely correct, development, "the one-trick pony", will not work, as history has repeatedly shown. Drive around. in just a 15-mile radius, and you will see hundreds of colossal development failures, promulgated in the past 25 years, alone. All to the detriment of the tax-payer! Let's get out of the tunnel and think big, for a change.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>Louis, I have no problem with thinking big, except where it will impact the possibility of more open space for public recreation within the existing National Monument designation. I also have no problem with the idea of a casino, but not in the WQ. If the public demands a Casino, it should be placed outside the fort along with other new development related to tourism needs of the area. I can totally see it making a financial impact in downtown Hampton. Or in BUCK Roe, beach ;-)  By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>I will not bless this idea with a comment!   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>My sentiments, as well. I fits with the Mcmansion/condominiums concept; and would be the perfect complement to the racetrack concept. It is sad that there are persons that can not appreciate a good thing for what it is... not what it isn't.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>This isn't thinking outside of the box. This is just short-sighted trashing of a national historical treasure. What do we want to be preserved in a thousand years -- a CASINO?   By Catherine W</p>
<b>Comment 8</b>	<p>My sentiments, as well.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 9</b>	<p>My sentiments, as well. I fits with the McMansion/condominiums concept; and would be the perfect complement to the racetrack concept. It is sad that there are persons that can not appreciate a good thing for what it is... not what it isn't.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 10</b>	<p>My sentiments, as well. This fits with the Mcmansion/condominiums concept; and would be the perfect complement to the racetrack concept. It is sad that there are persons that can not appreciate a good thing for what it is... not what it isn't.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Topic Name</b>	<p><i>Creative ideas for Batteries Irwin and Parrott</i></p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	<p>transfer to National Monument</p>

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The two batteries along with the Wherry Quarter should be transferred to Fort Monroe National Monument in order to unify and extend it.</p> <p>The NPS brand is a powerful one, and the FMA should make the most of it for the economic and cultural good of the region as well as for the richness of the visitor's experience--goals which are intertwined. (I wonder, by the way, if the low usage thus far of the re-opened website has to do with Sasaki's devaluing of some of the participants' ideas--the predominant ones, in fact--at the last public meeting. People may not be inclined to comment if they feel that their views, though popular with other website users, will be dismissed as representing only a small number of participants. By this logic, of course, all the views should be ignored. But Sasaki doesn't seem to be following its own logic.) P.S. It's come to my attention that the parenthetical remark above was used without my knowledge in an e-mail criticizing Hampton city government and indicating that the whole planning process is a sham. Neither of these opinions is mine. Without Hampton and in particular Mayor Molly Ward's efforts, we wouldn't have the very real National Monument to complete; and if I believed this planning process wasn't valid, I wouldn't be</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	17
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	12
<b>Comment 1</b>	I would improve this idea by using a more accurate reference to geographical features. There are two "Point" Comforts on the lower Chesapeake Bay. You refer to "Cape" Comfort being at the entrance of Hampton Roads. It in fact is Old Point Comfort. The other one is at the mouth of Mobjack Bay . Its geographical label is New Point Comfort. And Mark P3, you are technically correct for this time of year, Wherry Qtr is "green". Come Winter it will turn "brown",in most places. A thank you is not required.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree with Susan B4, the batteries need to be included as part of the Fort Monroe National Monument!   By Larry S
<b>Comment 3</b>	I agree with Susan B4, the batteries need to be included with the fort!   By Larry S
<b>Comment 4</b>	Nobly stated, Scott. Thank you for your closing remarks. We should be accepting of every endeavour, from every quarter that will help make Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe the most widely appreciated, environmentally and architecturally preserved, unified, accessible and historically integrated site in the country.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	I agree that Sasaki has biased the public input from this site. There was tremendous amount of support for an open preserved WQ and for adding it to the National Monument. Sasaki, needs to relook at the input from the public.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>I believe my separate idea of a joint NPS-FMA welcome center in Battery Parrott and fully restoring Battery Irwin in partnership with the Coast Defense Study Group are entirely compatible with NPS taking ownership of this South Waterfront property, as suggested here. And I share Scott's concern Sasaki recent comments re makeup and response on this website devalues Mindmixer input, maybe because Sasaki is inclined to reject public demand for a grand Fort Monroe expanding the National Monument to include green Wherry and the South Waterfront.</p> <p>  By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	Good points--we need to keep emphasizing the public demand for a grand, unified Fort Monroe National Park, and including the batteries as joint welcome centers/study centers would help make the NPS and FMA more closely tied (and working) together.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 8</b>	If the batteries were made a part of the National Park, they would make great places for interpretations of the military history of the fort, including coastal defenses and naval significance from the 1600's to the Second World War. They were important, too, for training U.S.Army Coastal Artillery officers (my father came to Ft. Monroe in the 1920's as a VPI cadet and trained at the batteries.)   By Susan B
<b>Comment 9</b>	Thank you for this valuable addition.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 10</b>	I agree!   By Susan W
<b>Comment 11</b>	Kids who lived at Ft. Monroe loved to explore and play on and around these monuments to history even though they could not really comprehend what in the world their purpose was. Why not make them a part of the broader family destination by re-creating why they are there and ensuring that they are an integral part of the National Monument?   By Marcia M
<b>Comment 12</b>	Good idea, Susan! The Batteries Irwin and Parrott are as historically significant as the moated fortress, the light house, or the Wherry, etc. They are particularly integral to the military history of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe... a history that made Hampton Roads, as we know it, possible.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Viewing spots
<b>Idea Detail</b>	These batteries (with a little renovation) would make great viewing posts for bird-watching, ship watching, and just generally enjoying the views of the bay and the shoreline!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	17
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Have nightly talks or campfires like the NPS does to guide the viewing.   By Anne P
<b>Comment 2</b>	Nice idea!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	excellent idea   By Virginia M
<b>Comment 4</b>	Very good! Have you ever watched the giant ravens on the batteries? They are quite impressive. I think the batteries are also great for exploration... and there is history to be learned and appreciated here, as well.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	My bird-watching brother-in-law says this area is a prime bird-watching place--he says people would come from all over to see migratory birds and sea birds, not to mention the ravens!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 6</b>	another excellent idea   By Virginia M
<b>Idea Title</b>	Unified Welcome Center and Restored Endicott Battery
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I suggest serious consideration be given to renovating Battery Parrott as a "welcome center" for Fort Monroe, jointly managed by NPS and FMA. This is a big battery with a parking lot just to the north. It is well located to serve as an entry point to both the moated fortress (including Quarters 1) and Chesapeake Bay and, if the Wherry is preserved (as it must be, that is what citizens want), as an entry point to green space and natural Fort Monroe. Also it is not hard to find and visitors in cars could easily be directed to it, upon entry to Fort Monroe. Battery Irwin is fairly well-preserved already and, in partnership with the Coast Defense Study Group, should be fully restored and interpreted.
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1

<b>Comment 1</b>	Great idea--and practical, too!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Make the Batteries Accessible
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Batteries should be repaired, where needed, and could be incorporated into the administration of the Casemate Museum. Having a more immediately recognizable appeal as an historic site, than the bunkers on Yorktown Battlefield, these would be excellent draws for tourism. They are great sites for family exploration. There is important national history to be told here.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	13
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Thank you, Larry S6, Bob S5, and Susan B4 for your worthy suggestions and addenda. The Batteries will be a marvelous historic feature for Fort Monroe National Historic Park.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Adding to Bob S4's idea, the other battery can be restored to represent its use during the Civil War with replicas or photos of the weapons used for defense.   By Larry S
<b>Comment 3</b>	One battery should be completed restored to WWII condition including at least one of each type of weapon originally emplaced at that battery with models or pictures of the weapons emplaced at the other batteries.   By bob S
<b>Comment 4</b>	Yes! The coastal protection history needs to be part of the story told at Ft. Monroe (and I think the batteries would be especially well placed within the national park as part of the NPS interpretive mission).   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Renovate
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Renovate the batteries so that people can explore and climb on them.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Interpretive presentations and re-enactments would also be welcomed. There is much history in those batteries!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	History of the Coast Artillery Corps and Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Batteries Irwin and Parrot are critical to explaining the history of Fort Monroe as a military post and the home of the Coast Artillery Corps. They deserve proper preservation and interpretation as part of this history from 1900 through the end of WWII and as two of a very small number of coast artillery batteries that are still armed anywhere in the United States. I would prefer these batteries to be part of the National Park.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Andy B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great idea--and I also believe they should be part of the National Park for effective historical interpretation and displays.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	A Place for Artists--Painters, Photographers
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Wouldn't at least one of the batteries make a great place for artists to set up their easels or their tripods for painting or photograph-taking? It would be nice to have a designated "artists' place" as part of the Ft. Monroe experience--and the beautiful views from the batteries would give those artists something to paint or photograph.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	The ever-changing sea and sky have always been strong influences to the artist's eye.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	I am not an artist, but wouldn't painting or photographing the same view scape over and over again get dreary after a short while? Whats wrong with giving our artists the freedom of choice to use scenes of choice throughout the entire 550 acres?   By Tom B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Of course the whole of Ft. Monroe is a great place for artists as well as other visitors! I wasn't suggesting that anyone be restricted to painting or photographing or visiting only on the refurbished batteries--I just thought a special designated artists' place might be a "creative idea" (as requested in the topic heading) as a use for one of the batteries. I don't understand the argumentative tone.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Annual Music Festival on the grounds
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Produce an annual music festival modeled after the very successful (58 years and still going strong) Newport Jazz Festival at Fort Adams State Park in RI. The Newport Jazz Festival is also held on a historic military setting at water's edge. Done right such an event could draw tens of thousands of people and lots of tourist dollars to the local Phoebus & Buckroe business community as well as promote the historical significance of Fort Monroe to audiences that may never have heard of it.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Steve B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	Some type of music festival may be worthwhile. I would suggest caution on too large a scale that may damage or trash the historic features of this place.   By Virginia M
<b>Comment 2</b>	Great idea--bring on the music and theater and arts festivals--and even public lecture series!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Event-based activities like this are a great idea if you want to draw crowds to Ft Monroe. As an example, every year the July 4th activities drew massive crowds, as does the Hampton regatta. By unifying the property as a whole national park, it provides open spaces where more of these type activities could be conducted and truly be self supporting. The entrance gate is already set up that would facilitate this type of operation. Take advantage of existing assets - no need for wholesale development/redevelopment of all the open space. Minimizes risky capital outlays and provides a means for near term revenue generation.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 4</b>	An annual Jazz Festival at Fort Monroe would be a great series, and would bring a new level of prestige to the site!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	I like this idea! The Hampton "Jazz" Festival has absolutely no jazz in it. Fort Monroe could be the venue to present real, artistic-quality music; rather than pop music. Jazz festivals around the world draw huge crowds that spend lots of money; and they are, generally, comprised of well-behaved adults.   By Luis O

<b>Comment 6</b>	I like this idea! The Hampton "Jazz" Festival has absolutely no jazz in it. Fort Monroe could be the venue to present real, artistic-quality music; rather than pop music.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 7</b>	Just wanted to add that I'm not recommending a "jazz" festival per se but rather a music festival that would appeal to a large audience....it could be that our region would be more suited to presenting bluegrass, folk, blues, or other music styles, or a variety of music styles.   By Steve B
<b>Idea Title</b>	tours
<b>Idea Detail</b>	give us tours inside and out of these
<b>Idea Author</b>	ed G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Over the past 5 decades, I have spent many happy hours exploring the Batteries. They are very interesting from a variety of perspectives. I would welcome the opportunity to share this experience with others.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	over the past 5 decades, I have spent many happy hours exploring the Batteries. They are very interesting from a variety of perspectives. I would welcome the opportunity to share this experience with others.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Renovate and make safe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	It would be nice to renovate the batteries and make them safe to explore-railings, new stairs, etc.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Phyllis N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes!   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Battery Bistro and Museum with Live Shipping Traffic Info
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Hang-on, Hang- on... this concept is something similiar to what I have seen in Florida, only it was an old "bunker" near the WPB airport.</p> <p>When you parked your vehicle... there was camo- netting, and all of the equipment (an old Army Jeep) and "accessories" that would be found at an active Army battery... so just walking from your car to the "entrance" set the stage... the staging set-the-scene... WWI AND WW II.</p> <p>Once through the old metal metal door, you were in the world of a movie-set, geared for those eras.... and it was all "legit" ... Small Airplane replicas hung from the ceiling, as did other items that fit the period. The lighting was Army rustic, the walls were not pretty, but informed you with old photos, and items from the day....</p> <p>The restaurant area was all the way in the back.... with windows to the airfield/runway of "PBI".... ( In Ft. Monroe's Batteries- that would be windows to the Bay/water.)</p> <p>At the dining tables were vintage radios, or head-sets that air-crews would have worn. As the various airline departures and arrivals were announced... " This In-coming Delta flight is from Boston " ..... or, "this departing Southwest is headed for San</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Rhonda W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Interesting, but I think the batteries better serve illustrating the coastal defense mission of Fort Monroe and this country in earlier times.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>A combination of ideas seems to be worthy of consideration. Beginning with a coffee shop or small bistro with covered outdoor or sunroom type seating with views of the bay would be a great start...potentially even using the upper story. That could be combined with historic displays of the coastal artillery batteries and the starting port for historic walking tours in that area. I also like the idea of a welcome center, but I think the batteries are too far from the main fort for that purpose. Plus, there are probably several larger, and more appropriately located buildings for use as a National Park Service welcome center.</p> <p>I'd also caution about thoughts of returning everything to the NPS. Maintenance of the extensive facilities at Fort Monroe are going to be very expensive in the coming years and without some commercially derived income from well designed and appropriate projects, NPS will not be able to cover the whole bill.   By Glenn B</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	I don't believe the Batteries have the capacity for this type of usage, but tying in historical accuracy, recreation, and the shipping traffic in Hampton Roads is a good idea!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	Interesting concept.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Create Additional Museum Space and locate the Slave Museum there
<b>Idea Detail</b>	An attempt should be made to locate the Slave Museum in renovated battery spaces. Fredericksburg is the wrong place while the Fort's historical significance as the beginning of the end of slavery in America, its proximity to the National Cemetery, resting place for USCT soldiers, Hampton University and its Emancipation Oak would establish a location for pilgrimages from around the globe and strengthen all of the historical assets in the region. It would be tantamount to the economic value of the Vietnam Veterans Wall in DC or the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. Freedom's Fortress, Point Comfort and sites in Williamsburg, Jamestown, Norfolk, Hampton along with beaches, Busch Gardens and festivals makes for an attractive tourism package for the region.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Bruce W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Good points about all the other connections to African-American history in this area!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	I like the idea of establishing the slave museum at Fort Monroe, but do not think the batteries are the right place to do so. There are many other buildings that could be adaptively reused for a museum. The batteries are the remnants of the coastal defense part of the Fort Monroe storey and should be used to illustrate it.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 3</b>	I agree, Ron. We have a unique opportunity to have all the layers of history re-told in their authentic settings. Let's remember the batteries for what they represent, and the Wherry for what it represents.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	This makes perfectly good sense.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	Maybe a monument to the first self-emancipating slaves in the Wherry, where their encampment was, would be appropriate, with a low-elevation re-enactment site, that would not obstruct the views from the fortress.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 6</b>	Good idea, Luis--it would help keep most of the Wherry Quarter green and historical and could be linked to the National Monument for interpretation.   By Susan B

<b>Idea Title</b>	commercial use of Batteries Irwin & Parrott
<b>Idea Detail</b>	We could have speciality stores, such as wine shops and antique stores. A pub and a coffee house would be good uses.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Lawrence S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	There is enough commercialization in the world, lets focus on maintaining historical accuracy.   By Larry S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Maybe some hospitality venue could be included, or, better yet, located nearby; but we can not afford to compromise either the structural integrity, or the historical significance of the Batteries.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I agree with Luis!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Just looking at the old Batteries,small rooms, no windows, etc. surely would cause anyone with a tendency towards claustrophobia reason to pause before entering. I for one could not enter the facility. In addition, to those suggesting "visitor/welcome center" usage, aren't those facilities usually positioned close to a large areas entry point?   By Tom B
<b>Comment 5</b>	I agree with Tom B7... the old MP Headquarters near the main gate would be more suitable for a visitors' rest stop/information center/bicycle rental depot, etc... The Batteries would be more ideal for historical presentations and exploration.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 6</b>	Maybe some hospitality venue could be included, or, better yet, located nearb; but we can not afford to compromise either the structural integrity, or the historical significance of the Batteries.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 7</b>	Maybe some hospitality venue could be included, or located nearby, but we can not afford to compromise neither the structural integrity, nor historical significance of the Batteries.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Level These Eyesores
<b>Idea Detail</b>	This would provide great "fill" for the moats when the ramparts are leveled to create more useable land and save on future maintenance costs.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tom B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	16
<b>Comment 1</b>	Note Tom would not only level the historic Endicott batteries but, as i read it, the ramparts of Fort Monroe itself, and then fill in the moat. He must be just having fun with us.   By mark P
<b>Comment 2</b>	Tom B7 wrote the main posting, above, two months before he wrote his August 30 comment (bottom of this thread column) explaining, in apparent earnest, that we really only need 25% of the moated citadel, so important would be the maintenance savings. Mark said "silly talk" back then and says "just having fun with us" today. That sounds right for this posting. Here it looks like maybe Tom is a Performance Satirist, exploiting the forum for the sake of his art. But elsewhere there's little suggestion that he secretly disbelieves his calls for sacrificing a national treasure. Elsewhere it doesn't look like satire or art or deep irony. A little sarcasm here and there, but other than that, just expressions of the shortsighted, costly parochialism that got us into this whole misframed mess back in 2005.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	Note Tom would not only level the historic Endicott batteries but the ramparts of Fort Monroe itself, and then fill in the moat. He must be just having fun with us.   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	This is absurd. OTOH, they are in poor shape. There apparently was a movement some time ago to make them look better, but the battery signs are now weatherbeaten and, at least in one case, missing. It's strange, but one of the batteries on the Eastern Shore received recently at least the barrel of a 16" gun like what was once there. There is a breechblock sitting in one of the revetments on top of, I believe, Battery Church. Having walkways, railings and steps restored, perhaps one of the rooms for plotting restored would be good.   By Gene M
<b>Comment 5</b>	Silly talk about leveling the citadel's ramparts and filling the moat to get more condo space illustrates, yet again, Tom B7's contempt for the reality that Ft Monroe is a national treasure. Too bad, too, because there's actually an argument for removing these concrete bunkers. It's true that coastal artillery is the military reason for Fort Monroe's existence. But it's not true that all dimensions of history are equally important. The fact that Poe was at Ft Monroe, or that Davis was confined there, is important. But neither illuminates the meaning of America itself, whereas the quarter-millennium-long history of American slavery profoundly does. And that history not only started at Ft Monroe in 1619, it ended there just after Fort Sumter in 1861, in the greatest moment in American history, as Ed Ayers has called it. Those bunkers got added later. Yes, the detailed history of coastal artillery matters. But there's an argument for removal. Tom, though, just offers silly talk about it.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 6</b>	I would improve this idea by having a good laugh then FORGETTING it!   By Richard S
<b>Comment 7</b>	Preserve, not destroy!   By Larry S
<b>Comment 8</b>	Preserve not destroy!   By Larry S
<b>Comment 9</b>	Now THAT would be an expensive proposition! No one can accuse you of being a visionary.  Concur with Mark P3, this is silly talk - and has no place in considered discussion. Perhaps you think this is all a joke? Maybe we should consider all your comments in this light?   By Susan W
<b>Comment 10</b>	Yes, I would think his comment clearly shows a lack of appreciation and understanding of historic resources. Therefore other comments by Tom B7, are probably also a bit off target.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 11</b>	Please, Susan W2... No slams! Ha Ha!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 12</b>	Ha ha--very funny!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 13</b>	You have got to be kidding!   By Ron W
<b>Comment 14</b>	This is silly talk.   By mark P
<b>Comment 15</b>	Horrors! How can you even suggest levelling the moat, ramparts, and batteries?? Have you no sense of the historical significance of this place?   By Susan B
<b>Comment 16</b>	SusanB4; You don't need an entire, huge Fortress /Moat ,as an exemplar. Wouldn't about 25% serve the purpose. I suggest the key features be preserved; Main Gate, Casemate, etc.. My sole purpose, as mentioned, was to save the taxpayers money. Add a full scale model of the entire Fort to the Casemate to impress visitors. You don't need land sales or condos. You still would save "tons of money" on maintenance alone. Anything else would be gravy.   By Tom B
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>How can Fort Monroe accommodate institutions that would contribute to quality of life?</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	STEAM Academy
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe is an ideal place for the Virginia STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Applied Math)Academy. The facilities support housing and class room environment. The historical setting would be a great compliment to the program.

<b>Idea Author</b>	mike C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	16
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Good idea. Please refer to the idea "Climate lab to study climate change at Fort Monroe". Having students at Fort Monroe is definitely an asset.   By Tyla M
<b>Comment 2</b>	Make sure STEAM pays fair value for historic buildings it uses, to avoid planners arguing they need to develop Wherry Quarter or South Waterfront because Historic Village/North Gate do not cover FMA costs for the lands it manages.   By mark P
<b>Comment 3</b>	Make sure that fair market-value RENTS are assessed to all new entities.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	Make sure that fair market-value RENTS are assessed to all new entities. We cannot afford to sell our structural legacy!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	I agree with Jean S3--RENTING renovated historical buildings would be best, if at all possible!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Chautauqua summer festival of speakers and performances
<b>Idea Detail</b>	In addition to an Arts Academy and STEAM, both great ideas, I'd like to see an independent Chautauqua festival every summer where local folks and visitors from all over could hear stimulating talks on every conceivable subject and see high-quality live music and perhaps theatrical performances (maybe in conjunction with the excellent American Theater in Phoebus). Some of the historic buildings could serve as resorts or dorms to house overnight visitors, and an open, green Wherry Quarter could become a kind of London Hyde Park for speakers, bluegrass bands, food kiosks, etc. For more on the original, still thriving Chautauqua, see the fascinating one-hour PBS documentary "Chautauqua: An American Narrative" at <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wned/chautauqua-american-narrative/video.php">http://www.pbs.org/wned/chautauqua-american-narrative/video.php</a> As presented in the video, Chautauqua is a historic and recreational (lake boating, walking and running) site, where the old--open air lecture halls, people chatting face to face, a slower pace, closeness to nature--fuses with the new: lectures on every conceivable subject of contemporary interest, and workshops in and performances of both traditional and modern expressions of art (painting, opera, theater, pottery, etc). There is also a
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	14
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	What a great idea--and I'm sure the American Theatre in Phoebus, as well as other local theater groups and college theater departments, would have some great ideas/contributions to make. This region (the colleges, historical societies, conservation groups, and so forth) also has some really interesting speakers who could give seminars, lectures, etc. as part of the Chatauqua-like festival!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Science festival on Chesapeake Bay
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Cambridge Science Festival, now in its sixth year, is the prototype of science festivals around the world. Its more general purpose could be adapted to Fort Monroe's proximity to the Bay to focus on the natural history of the Bay and the effects of pollution on it. This would be a great way to educate people especially in the Bay watershed area about the effects of run-off pollution; and an open-space Wherry Quarter would make a great setting for a festival. For an article on science festivals, see: <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/10/science/mits-john-durant-a-cheerleader-for-science.html?_r=1&amp;ref=science">http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/10/science/mits-john-durant-a-cheerleader-for-science.html?_r=1&amp;ref=science</a>  And here's an excerpt: "A science festival has more in common with a film, art or food festival. Festivals aim to bring in tourism dollars, introduce people to scientists and demystify science in an era when researchers and large sectors of the public diverge on major policy issues like climate change, vaccines and embryonic stem cell research.  "People are living with tensions between what they think about science in one area and what they believe in another," Dr. Durant said. Science festivals help bridge those gaps. "We shouldn't just be trying to shove science down people's throats. It never works and it's very uncongenial."  Each science festival capitalizes on regional strengths, expertise and creativity. But their underlying idea is the same: Bring as many people as possible into contact with science.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Not in the Wherry Quarter... that's for other aspects of our history and for enjoyment of the natural environment. There are many, many sites on Ft. Monroe that would be suitable for science festivals. Other people on here are talking about this, too.    By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Not in the Wherry Quarter... that's for other aspects of our history and for enjoyment of the natural environment. There are many, many sites on Ft. Monroe that would be fitting for science festivals. Other people on here are talking about this, too.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	I suggest that the idea of an open Wherry Quarter, which I very much want to see, is to provide recreational space for the enjoyment of people in a natural environment. Appropriate use of open areas in parks that are designated for recreation, as is FM, are gatherings of all types. Festivals are very appropriate non-resource damaging events which will bring many dollars to the area. Dollars are important to a sustainable FM.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 4</b>	I like the idea of a science festival but feel Fort Monroe planners need to go well beyond that idea by creating a large open space in the Wherry Quarter area for festivals, art shows, and etc. Such events would bring thousands to the Fort and surrounding town. With the intense development of virtually all bayfront lands, open space at Fort Monroe will become very valuable to the region and to the people of this country.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Post Theatre & other sites for performance.

<b>Idea Detail</b>	The performing arts could be well served in the Post Theatre (with possible renovation/re-design) and on Continental Park. Films (historical by day, presented by the Casemate Museum; and classic by evening) could be shown in the theatre, and small-ensemble dance, theatre and music performances could be given there (with admission fees). We have several local symphony orchestras that would love to perform in Continental Park, or on the Parade Field within the moat. Of course, having witnessed the Continental Army/TRADOC Band performances for 49 years, I would always welcome their return to present a concert.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	I would like to see nice films like the ones at Yorktown, that would add to the visitors' understanding of the great significance of Ft. Monroe.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Yes, good idea--the NPS films at Williamsburg and Jamestown could be models. I still remember seeing the (old) Williamsburg one when I first visited as a 10-year old (very memorable--it starred Jack Lord, who was the star of the first "Hawaii Five-O" series!). There are a lot of actors in the area who would love to make such a film!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	What a great opportunity Ft. Monroe offers for arts and culture to be presented in a beautiful natural and historic setting!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 4</b>	I'm with you, Susan. I would gladly pay to attend some great arts activities and concerts at Ft. Monroe!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Myriad of Symposia and Festivals
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I could envision several, regularly-scheduled festivals and symposia for history, literature, visual arts, performing arts, technology, medicine and sciences occurring in numerous indoor and outdoor venues throughout Fort Monroe. These could be fee-assessed, internally-operated events; or rent-generating events, originated and presented by external entities.  With the close proximity of several great institutions of higher learning: Old Dominion University, Hampton University, College of William and Mary, Norfolk State and several fine community colleges; Fort Monroe has the potential to be an ideal site for collaborative academic endeavours, in many fields of study.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	As an event planner and Fort Monroe resident, I would love to have the opportunity to do events at Fort Monroe. It could also assist in revenue generation for the Fort. An in-depth set of event policies/guidelines/restrictions would be key to making sure to protect the interests of the Fort and its residents. Such a document would assist any event planners in understanding what is expected. Such requirements may consist of an application process, the proposal, pre and post events meetings, submission of logistical plans, resident notification, insurance requirements, etc..   By Jeannie W
<b>Comment 2</b>	It's good to have people with skills and knowledge who are willing make positive things happen!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Ft Monroe as an important part of the Capt. John Smith Trail
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Ft. Monroe could be an important stop on the Capt. John Smith Historic Water Trails--and certainly the coastline should be kept natural to reflect what John Smith and his explorers would have seen.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Susan B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I agree. Related to this idea is "Capt. John Smith Trail and the National Park Service". Linking up with this historic and educational trail will be a benefit for Fort Monroe, will bring in recreational opportunities for boaters, namely with canoes and kayaks, and will preserve the natural beauty. Signage will depict a scene of 400 years ago, and it would be a memorable experience to boaters and visitors to restore the habitat to match the way things may have looked at that time.   By Tyla M
<b>Comment 2</b>	This would add to the living history concept of Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	I agree! We shouldn't cheat history or future generations out of the best we can leave to them. What was good enough for Capt. John Smith, should be good enough for all time. Let's leave the beaches clean and unobstructed, like they should be!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Institutions
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The FMA can attract groups like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Capt. John Smith Trail HQ by donating free utilities, land, or even a structure in return for long term rental agreements. Such donations may well make it possible to motivate these and other visitor friendly groups. Such groups and appropriate exhibits could become significant visitor attractions.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Foundations etc would need to bring something to the table that contributes to the Fort Monroe experience. Just having an office presence and a sign would not cut it. In addition to exhibits, maybe also requiring they conduct interpretive or nature tours and educational programs would be appropriate.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 2</b>	Excellent points!   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Capt. John Smith Trail and the National Park Service
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe should definitely establish a link to the Capt. John Smith water trail. When John Smith explored the Chesapeake region in 1607-1609, he encountered American Indians who had lived in the region for thousands of years. In 2006, the first national water trail was created, named the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Signs and markers trace Smith's routes and depict life 400 years ago, highlighting the history and culture of the various American Indian tribes throughout the states of Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. This would be an opportunity to study and chronicle the history of the Kicotan Indians who inhabited our area. Covering 3,000 miles, the trail provides for a variety of recreational and tourism opportunities, in particular for boaters with kayaks or canoes. Websites provide detailed information on access points for boaters, places of interest for visitors, along with maps.  At a local Sierra Club program in November, 2011, we heard John Davy of the National Park Service talk about the work he has done on this trail. Along with Mr. Davy, we are fortunate to have NPS Fort Monroe Superintendent Kirsten Talken-Spaulling and

<b>Idea Author</b>	Tyla M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Ideas like this just excite me more and more about the greatness of what Fort Monroe National Historic Park will soon be experienced!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Excellent, Tyla M... this is really worth sharing!! As a favourite haunt of the Kikotan, and an important landing site for Capt. Smith, Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe will certainly add to the living history aspect of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. This also enhances the experiential value of visiting Fort Monroe. Thanks for the information.    By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	Thanks for emphasizing this connection, Tyla. Fort Monroe could become the anchor park to the NPS's Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, and the Star-Spangled Banner and Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trails, which would further enhance its significance.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 4</b>	Excellent, Tyla M... this is really worth sharing!! As a favourite haunt of the Kikotan, and an important landing site for Capt. Smith, Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe will certainly add to the living history aspect of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Thanks for the information.    By Luis O
<b>Comment 5</b>	Excellent, Tyla M... this is really worth sharing!! As a favourite haunt of the Kikotan, and an important site to Capt. Smith, Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe will certainly add to the living history aspect of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Casemate Museum and Expansion of Scope, and Fort Wool
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The ideological and physical scope of the Casemate Museum should be expanded:</p> <p>A.) 1.) to properly acknowledge the presence of the indigenous inhabitants of Cape Comfort - most prominently, the Kicotan Tribe; and to celebrate the natural history of the site</p> <p>2.) to properly acknowledge the beginning of slavery, with the arrival of West Africans in continental North America, and the beginning of the end of slavery in USA, during the War between the States</p> <p>3.) to properly celebrate the foundation of international trade in North America, originating from Hampton Roads Harbour, as early as 1616</p> <p>4.) to properly celebrate the full defense, military and maritime history of the Virginia Colony, beginning from 1607</p> <p>B.) We should extol Cape Comfort/Fort Algernon/Fort Monroe as the HOME of our nation. Everything else that was established, prior to 1610, by the early settlers, either failed or exists only in re-constructed facsimile. Fort Monroe served from 1608, as a manned out-post, until 2011 as TRADOC Headquarters. We need to celebrate the 402+ years of continuous manned defense. Some type of military presence should be maintained to preserve this legacy, which is unique in the Western Hemisphere.</p> <p>C.) Further exhibits, beyond the confines of the existing museum, and monumental structures and plaques could be established throughout Fort Monroe to emphasize the above-listed firsts of historical interest. Walking tours (maybe with a fee assessed) could be initiated for tourism.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	All these features would be very attractive to visitors to Ft. Monroe!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	The idea of ferry visits to Fort Wool is great. I would add Norfolk's waterfront as a starting point. Perhaps a ferry from Norfolk, to Fort Monroe, and Fort Wool would be attractive to many.   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Arts Academy
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>While I'm totally in favor of the STEAM Academy concept, we are now seeing a resurgence of an emphasis on promoting the arts and creative learning in our country. It would be wonderful to combine the arts into STEAM, but if that's not possible, having an academy that focuses on the arts and creative thinking in general could help put Fort Monroe on the map as a leader fostering innovation for the future.</p> <p>"Innovation is what America has always been about..." - President Obama; State of the Union.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Kathy H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	P.S. The Obama quote is not an original thought, but it is a truth.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Perhaps Hampton University would be interested in establishing a partnership - give their degree seeking students opportunities to show work and perform, to teach skills at workshops, gain experience with organizing local showings and performances. And it could provide a recruiting venue for the university.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 3</b>	Good idea... and there's Old Dominion, Thomas Nelson, Tidewater, Norfolk State...   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Climate lab to study climate change at Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The threat of climate change is happening and happening even faster in the Hampton Roads area, as we see stronger storms, along with storm surge and flooding. One reason for the acceleration locally is due to the combination of sea level rise along with land subsidence. So, we all want Fort Monroe to be around by next century. A proposal is to house at Fort Monroe a laboratory for students to study first hand the occurrence of sea level rise, land subsidence, and other topics. These could include studies of air quality, water quality, marine life, birds and wildlife, flooding, all specific to Fort Monroe and Hampton Roads.</p> <p>There are already excellent programs and studies at the Hampton Roads universities, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and more, who are addressing the important topic of climate change. A lab at Fort Monroe would work with these established programs and professors.</p> <p>Finally, it would be ideal for the lab to be in a retrofitted building that is LEED certified for energy efficiency, at or close to net zero in use of fossil fuels. This could be a model for the remainder of Fort Monroe to move toward a energy-sustainable level.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tyla M

<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	This would be extremely beneficial for Hampton, as our wetlands have been over-built, and our dry land mass is shrinking from both poor engineering practices and natural causes.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	This would be extremely beneficial for Hampton, as our wetland are being over-built, and our dry land mass is shrinking from both poor engineering practices and natural causes.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 3</b>	And the Chesapeake Conservancy, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and other conservation groups could contribute/ be a part of these studies.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 4</b>	This approach is with the NPS' mission of education. With rising seas, this Climate lab can also give first hand instruction on mitigation methods which will be required at Ft Monroe to protect the park.   By Glen B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Adapt Historic Buildings for use by Museums and Schools
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Fort Monroe has a campus-like setting with historic structures suitable for dormitory and classroom buildings. Students who come here will have the opportunity to increase their appreciation of history and the Chesapeake Bay along with their studies in the classroom.  The participation of a variety of museums at Fort Monroe will be mutually beneficial. The history of the Contrabands needs to be given a prominent place at Fort Monroe.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	All good thoughts.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Multiple Leisure Venues
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The former Officers' Club, NCO Club, YMCA, Bowling Alley, Post Theatre, fishing pier, fitness center and other leisure entities should remain in federal ownership, with operation of such to be contracted, for rent, to private enterprise. These should be accessible to residents, locals and extended-stay visitors alike, and would provide further avenues of tax generation.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great!!! Use what is there--and make money, to boot!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Small Hotel
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There needs to be a small hotel 50-75 rooms for people to stay when they come to visit the National Monument, visit their children at the STEAM ACADEMY, attend weddings, walk the beach, etc. The design would complement current structures.
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	6
<b>Comment 1</b>	Yes, a small hotel is a good plan. I would add that the hotel should be LEED certified in its construction, and can include a green roof, rain barrels, energy efficient appliances, solar panels, and a garden where tasty vegetables can be grown and used in hotel's healthy meal preparations. In fact, all construction or reconfiguration of buildings should require energy efficient measures.   By Tyla M
<b>Comment 2</b>	Don't design a hotel--reconfigure existing buildings to be leased for an inn/hotel.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Yes!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 4</b>	A friend of mine suggests a resort hotel in the old barracks building facing the parade ground inside the fortress It's the right size for such a hotel, and with the facade restored it would be lovely. Also, it would be in a good location for visitors who want to explore the fortress and go from there.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 5</b>	Excellent addendum!   By Luis O
<b>Comment 6</b>	This sounds like a really good idea, especially if the Chamberlin can't be re-converted to a hotel!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Higher Education and Research on the Fort
<b>Idea Detail</b>	An institute for the allied areas of economic studies, international law, diplomacy, military history, and admiralty could be established, as a tuition-based enterprise.  Hampton Roads was the harbour of the first colonies where international trade, involving the Western Hemisphere, originated, as early as 1616. These would be historically appropriate areas of study, being that Cape Comfort/Fort Algernon/Fort Monroe was the defender of the harbour, allowing commerce to freely flourish.  Many of the existing office structures could be re-fitted to serve as a campus for this type of venture. This would, most probably, draw scholars from around the globe, and would provide added learning opportunities for visitors.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I agree! I think this is an interesting and important fact about our history, and intellectual pursuits are always an enhancement.    By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	I agree! Intellectual pursuits are always an enhancement.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Medical Services on the Fort
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The existing hospital structure (infirmary) should be re-fitted to serve as a first-response medical facility for all new and existing entities on Fort Monroe, as well as for visitors and extended-stay guests. It could also serve in conjunction with the Hampton VA Medical Center and the local hospitals and universities as a medical treatment, training and research facility.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3

<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	This seems like an essential need and a good re-use of property.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Accommodations on the Fort
<b>Idea Detail</b>	An hotel or hostel complex (of an inn-type style) could be fashioned from existing unoccupied structures, making Fort Monroe conducive as a destination for conventions, business workshops and retreats, weddings, reunions, and the like; which would be great income-generating events. The extended-stay visitor could find all that would be needed within the confines of the Fort, or they could extend their leisure scope to Phoebus, Buckroe, downtown... Several of the existing structures within the Moat might well serve this need.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Perfect! An ideal addition for big tourism.   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Celebrate the foundation of our capitalist republic
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>In studying the works of the great political economists and social philosophers (Franklin, Paine, Smith, Quesnay, Voltaire, Locke, van Groot, Jefferson, Hobbes, Montesquieu, Rousseau...) and understanding the uniquely critical position of Cape Comfort (Fort Monroe) at the onset of colonial American international trade; I am inevitably led to the conclusion that this aspect prime importance to our nation's economic history is occluded. Our government is a republic, based on capitalism, which began nearly four centuries ago in Hampton Roads Harbour. That form of governmental policy is what led us to sever political dependency on England, and was a major factor in the defense of national unity during the War between the States.</p> <p>Cape Comfort, from as early as 1608, was manned as a defensive post to guard trade entering and leaving Hampton Roads Harbour from the Jamestown, Hampton, Norfolk and Newport News settlements. Cape Comfort served well in our formative years. Our economic history begins here.</p> <p>A republic, founded on capitalism should celebrate its origins. Among other features, I would love to see the establishment of an institute for economic studies at Fort Monroe, which would draw scholars from around the world to develop political and economic philosophy; and draw tourists, to learn about the very foundations of the greatest capitalist republic in the history of</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	You sure seem to know alot about Ft. Monroe history. This is probably more than the average reader can appreciate, but I like it. This could bring more glory to oue beloved fort!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Explore Possibilities with the Wounded Warrior Project/other
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Has FMA conducted outreach to the Wounded Warrior Project or other non-profit organizations to see what possibilities exists to use FM's existing infrastructure; recreational areas, beaches etc - offer incentives as say "a regional center" - satellite campus - or program provider, perhaps in conjunction with the nearby VA...</p> <p>examples:  "Wounded Warrior Project continues to grow and expand at Germany's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) and Ramstein Air Base. LRMC"....  Project Odyssey – an outdoor rehabilitative retreat program created by Wounded Warrior Project to support warriors in their recovery from combat stress.  WWP TRACK program – the first education center in the nation designed specifically for wounded warriors....[TRACK is} a one-year program based in Jacksonville, Florida and San Antonio, Texas, TRACK is divided into academic and vocational phases. Academic classes are provided by local colleges and credit can be applied toward a bachelor's or associate's degree, or a vocational certificate.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Russell G
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I think that's a great idea. I would hope to always see soldiers on Ft Monroe. I think they would be a group of people who would appreciate and love the Fort. And would treat it with respect.   By Jennifer S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Why would this be needed? Don't the Veterans' Affairs Department and the GI Bill make provision for any veteran's concerns?   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	With a large Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and several institution of higher learning in close proximity, this may work well.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Research, Service and Accomodations in Existing Structures
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>1.) An institute for the allied areas of economic studies, international law, diplomacy, military history, and admiralty could be established, as a tuition-based enterprise.</p> <p>Hampton Roads was the harbour of the first colonies where international trade, involving the Western Hemisphere, originated. These would be historically appropriate areas of study, as Cape Comfort/Fort Algernon/Fort Monroe was the defender of the harbour, allowing commerce to freely flourish.</p> <p>Many of the existing office structures could be re-fitted to serve as a campus for this type of venture. This would draw scholars from around the globe, and would provide added learning opportunities for visitors.</p> <p>2.) The existing hospital structure (infirmary) should be re-fitted to serve all the new and existing entities on Fort Monroe. It could also serve in conjunction with the Hampton VA Medical Center and the local universities as a medical treatment, training and research facility.</p> <p>3.) An hotel or hostel complex could be fashioned from existing unoccupied structures, making Fort Monroe conducive as a destination for conventions, business workshops, retreats, and the like; which would be great income-generating events. The</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O

<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Adaptive reuse
<b>Idea Detail</b>	If it is not cost prohibitive the MP building would make a fine small hotel.
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	I rather favor a welcoming/visitor center for this structure.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	1Stop for building permits new & adaptive use construction.
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Adaptive use and new constuction both face the same multiple sets of sometimes conflicting zoning and cosntruction regulation, city, state, National Park, Chesapeake Bay restrictions, etc.  The pemit process needs to be simlified to one stop for all requirements. One application process for all permits.
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Let the NPS worry about this. They will know best how to treat with the historic buildings and with the natural environment.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Good response, Jean S3.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Optimum Health Center for Veterans and Their Families and Others
<b>Idea Detail</b>	This Optimum Health Center would include recreation, whole foods,holistic healing such as counseling, massage, reflexology, acupuncture, and hypnotherapy. Hypnotherapy deals with health issues and stress through guided imagery, relaxation therapy, stress management and self hypnosis.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Barbara S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Virginia has been awarded a large sum of money for Veteran Care and it will be used near the Veterans Administration in Hampton. I say what is closer to the Veterans Administration than Fort Monroe. Fort Monroe has the empty buildings, recreation buildings, housing. It would be perfect for the veterans. And the Fort Monroe Authority would benefit financially.   By Barbara S
<b>Comment 2</b>	Isn't there already a V.A. Hospital nearby? Perhaps these activities could be done (or are already being done?) there. I suppose patients could be brought to Ft. Monroe National park for outings?   By Susan B
<b>Comment 3</b>	Sorry, I don't quite get this one.   By Jean S
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>Complementary activities for Phoebus and Buckroe</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Bike Trails
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Varous marked bike trails of different measured lengths. One from Phoebus to Buckroe not using any road surface but along the water front. Start in Pheobus across the bridge along the marina, seawall/beach past the Paridise Beach Club to Buckroe.  One from Phoebus across the bridge, along the marina, seawall/beach to the begining of the North Beach Fort Monroe National Monument, cross to Mill Creek along Stillwell Dr return to Phoebus. Stay as close to the water as possible and use roads only to cross from the beach to Mill Creek.
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	16
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Allow paths to be wide enough to comfortably accommodate pedestrian traffic. Perhaps take vehicular traffic off Stilwell Rd. Also consider closing Muglar Bridge to vehicular traffic (excluding carts or tram transport to the fort) and routing all car entry through Mercury Blvd. Encourage use of parking facilities outside Ft Monroe and taking other transport accommodations onto the installation (such as significantly higher entrance fees to bring a car onto the fort).   By Susan W
<b>Comment 2</b>	Buckoe offers fishing, the beach, some shops, and a residential area. Phoebus has shops, restaurants, the production theater (arts), and a residential area. Fort Monroe has the casemate museum, the beach, and residences.  Lanes reserved for bikes & pedestrians would benefit all these areas. Other complements would be non-destinations that attract the wander: Bistro-style eateries, benches, dog-friendly beaches, public fishing piers, plenty of public trash containers, and a small movie theater (1-screen) with matinee showings. And maybe a shuttle (something fun, like a trolley) between Phoebus & the beaches for the families with small children.   By Rebecca C
<b>Comment 3</b>	There is already a theatre on Fort Monroe, and there are fishing piers. But all of your suggestions would be enhancements for the casual visitor or tourist.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	We actually need a new bicycle/pedestrian only bridge, at least 10' wide, separate from but paralleling the Mugler Bridge, to allow safe and easy access for bicyclists and pedestrians between Phoebus and Fort Monroe. On November 1, 2012, applications to Virginia DOT for SAFTEA-LU grants for transportation enhancements like bike paths are due -- hopefully FMA and Hampton will join in such an application for this key feature for linking Phoebus physically and economically to Fort Monroe.   By mark P
<b>Comment 5</b>	Sounds like a great idea!   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Portal
<b>Idea Detail</b>	They can serve as the location for hotels and resort function to keep inappropriate development off Fort Monroe. Phoebus is already a quaint small town which can provide much for visitors to the area with proper planning and development.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ron W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	15
<b>Number of Points</b>	0

<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Great idea--Ft. Monroe National Park needs to be park-like, and Phoebus could be rejuvenated by providing housing, restaurants, shops, and entertainment for those who come to visit the fort. The American Theatre already in Phoebus could help lead the way for Phoebus to be a cultural and economic advantage for Hampton and gateway to Ft. Monroe National Park!   By Susan B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Yes... We need not replicate functions on Fort Monroe, which would make Phoebus obsolete. Phoebus can become host to the visitors of Fort Monroe.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	What is good for Phoebus & Hampton already exists at FM
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Today's Daily Press reports President Harvey's group, Hampton First's vision for revitalizing downtown Hampton includes opening the waterfront to the public, relocating buildings, and developing an aquatic theme. Strange, but isn't this vision of an open public waterfront and no development exactly what Fort Monroe already has and what citizens are requesting for Fort Monroe's Wherry Quarter and its waterfront. The aquatic theme activities would come naturally when these areas are incorporated into NPS holdings and become part of the National Monument. Since Hampton First and the FMA share the same design firm, Sasaka Assoc, it should not be difficult for them to carry out Hampton First's plan for downtown Hampton while recognizing that in order to revitalize historic Fort Monroe, the Wherry Quarter and its waterfront also must be kept open for public use and free from development until it can be incorporated into NPS holdings. Any revitalization of downtown Hampton, Phoebus or Buckroe will be enhanced only if Fort Monroe's historic Wherry Quarter and waterfront are incorporated into the National Monument, which is the only real jewel for Hampton, the region and our great nation.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Sandra C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	14
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	Thank you, Sandra C! Why does Hampton First feel the need to open-up the waterfront?... unneeded and non-conductive development. What are we earnestly trying to prevent at Wherry and the Fort Monroe bay front?... unneeded and non-conductive development.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 2</b>	Hampton City Harbor is too small for further development. This is not Annapolis or Baltimore. The only way. president Harvey's idea could possibly succeed would be for him to donate Hampton University's waterfront to the City. Even then you could never run a regatta in the river unless you are talking "model boats".   By Tom B
<b>Comment 3</b>	You are correct, Tom. The waterfront is certainly way too small for the Air & Space Center and the two parking garages--none of which has any real value in downtown Hampton.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 4</b>	Why does Hampton First feel the need to open-up the waterfront?... unneeded and non-conductive development. What are we earnestly trying to prevent at Wherry and the bay front?... unneeded and non-conductive development.   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Extend Capital Trail (East Coast Greenway) to Phoebus and Fort
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Capital Trail between downtown Richmond and Jamestown is headed toward completion in next couple years. It is an off-road 10' path that has already helped create a nice restaurant in Charles City (Court House Grill) and I am sure more business will come (communities along other long distance bike paths have boomed, particularly those along the Great Allegheny Passage between Cumberland, MD and Pittsburgh). The Capital Trail is a designated part of the East Coast Greenway (Historic Coastal Route), an even bigger project that would run from Calais, ME to Key West and is in place in many places, particularly the Northeast and Florida.  It seems to me the most natural route for the Capital Trail and the East Coast Greenway beyond Jamestown would be to Fort Monroe, thence (someday) by ferry to Norfolk and beyond to the 8 mile Dismal Swamp Canal Trail in Chesapeake (existing) and North Carolina. The Trail could easily extend from Jamestown to Yorktown along the Colonial Parkway corridor, then to Tabb through Colonial NHP and Newport News Park. Then it would get trickier but I could see it paralleling Rt 134 (Hampton Hwy) - Magruder Blvd, corridor, and then either along Armistead or LaSalle corridor to East Mercury Boulevard, which could take it to
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	If ferry service from Fort Monroe to Norfolk and Portsmouth is established it would greatly add to the idea of the Greenway.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	What a great unifying concept the East Coast Greenway is. Ft. Monroe, as the oldest existing site dating from English colonial times, should be a major destination on the trail.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Great idea. Hard to improve it!   By Ron W
<b>Idea Title</b>	Much of Phoebus History is that of Cape Comfort/Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Historically, the founding of town of Phoebus was directly related to the establishment of the moated fortress by the U. S. Army, which began in 1830. The first homesteads were primarily those of the artisans and labourers involved in the massive construction project. After the War Between the States, a new infusion of homesteaders, the self-emancipated slaves, further enriched the town. As we place appropriate monuments and tourist information plaques, there should also be appropriate recognition in Phoebus of the direct historical relationships between it and Fort Monroe. Historic trails and tours of Fort Monroe should include Phoebus, and Strawberry Banks, now under the stewardship of Hampton University; as this was an early landing site of John Smith, after finding safe nautical haven at Cape Comfort in 1607.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	It's a great idea to connect the identities of Phoebus and Fort Monroe, culturally and economically. Hope the city council is listening.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Good entry--show that the local social and economic importance of Fort Monroe stretched beyond the physical bounds of Cape Comfort!!!   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Great idea! Enhance Ft. Monroe and Phoebus at the same time.   By Susan B
<b>Idea Title</b>	Canoe and Kayak from Phoebus to Buckroe

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The park at the end of Mellon St just before the Muglar bridge should have a place to launch kayaks and canoes into Mill Creek and the Fort Monroe National Monument north beach would also have a place to launch and land them.</p> <p>Both can be used to explore Mill Creek and the natural landscape or fish.</p> <p>A boat landing area in Phoebus would also be a place where sailors anchored between Fort Monroe and the 64 bridge could dinghy in to pick up supplies in Pheobus.</p> <p>If the park is large it could be a farmers market once a week as well as an area to fish and launch canoes/kayaks.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	12
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Phoebus and Buckroe are Primed and Ready
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Requisite dining, retail and travel accommodations can be found in Phoebus and Buckroe (or additional entities can augment the current stock); which will only enhance the visitors' experience as they tour Fort Monroe National Historic Park (without the non-conducive, commercialistic clutter that would detract from the total historic park experience). I could imagine an hotel on the now vacant Maida lot on Mallory Street. In the park, carefully selected independent eateries and complementary shops could be strategically situated in leased space in some of the existing structures.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Luis O
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	Maybe the Hampton city officials will point Sasaki, who is also working for them, in this direction, and away from development in Wherry.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 2</b>	You said it! Phoebus began a good clean-up about 20 years ago, with new lighting, street repair, new sidewalks and landscaping. Hundreds of homes are being renovated, and someone is renovating the commercial properties on Mellen Street--and getting them occupied!! What a great entry to Fort Monroe National Historic Park! With Buckroe, there's the park and places around it that can also be filled with retail opportunities to make it another adjacent entryway.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 3</b>	Good points, Jean... Thank you.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 4</b>	And maybe there could be tours of Ft. Monroe originating in Phoebus--maybe golf cart tours or electric trams that wouldn't add to the pollution or traffic congestion in the national park.   By Susan B
<b>Comment 5</b>	Capital suggestion, Susan!! Anything to keep Ft. Monroe pristine and natural is good!!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Extension of walking path from Buckroe Beach
<b>Idea Detail</b>	An extension of the walking/bike path from the fishing pier down the existing road to a bridge across the wet lands to the Dog Beach Road to the existing walking path on the sea wall of FM would be a house plus.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Robert H
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	I would like to see a walking and bike path to Buckroe. It could be the beginning of a bike path from FM on up the coast. I also think there should be an emergency vehicle access point created to Buckroe. This should be blocked to general use by motorists, but available for evacuations and emergency vehicle access and egress.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 2</b>	Not sure if there are national park security issues with opening a second access point.   By Susan W
<b>Comment 3</b>	You may be right about this security issue, but a gated bridge would help solve this.   By Robert H
<b>Comment 4</b>	Phoebus already has easy access to Ft. Monroe, by foot. It would only make Ft. Monroe more inviting to create walk paths from Buckroe! This would further connect our beautiful historic and environmental hub with the residential and commercial communities.   By Jean S
<b>Comment 5</b>	Phoebus already has easy access to Ft. Monroe, by foot. It would only make Ft. Monroe more inviting to create walk paths from Buckroe!   By Jean S
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fishing
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Rather than trying to prohibit fishing on the water at the foot of Mellon street, Muglar Bridge and Mellon causeway to Fort Monore, the area should be made safe for fishing and it should be encouraged by a walkway outside both side railing on the bridge. Currently signs say no fishing from the bridge but it is not enforced. This will remove the need to police the activity and would be a feature to attract people to Phoebus.
<b>Idea Author</b>	James N
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	It's a great idea finally to let people in a bayside city have lots of places to fish. People who don't own waterfront land are so cut off from so much of the waterfront that we take it as normal. Bu it should not be normal. Yes indeed, the area should be made safe for people to fish. Thanks for saying so.   By Steve C
<b>Comment 2</b>	Public fishing piers at Fort Monroe and by Mellon St may be a better option. Fishing from the existing bridges is unsafe and/or creates a right-of-way issue with pedestrians. With all the frivolous lawsuits out there, allowing fishermen on a walkway outside the safety railings would not be in the best interest of the city either...   By Rebecca C
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>I don't think the added walkway would be necessary. Down in Florida people are always fishing off the sides of the bridges. Both sides have a sidewalk just lower the speed of the cars.</p> <p>Also get rid of the stay off the rocks signs and let people fish there. Will somebody slip and fall and hurt themselves - I'm sure they will. Somebody fall of their bikes but don't close the road.   By John H</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fort Monroe Fishing Pier
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Build fishing pier at Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Author</b>	Elizabeth E
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2

<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Thus far, fishing piers have been sites for some of those using these piers- to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leave trash, plastic from "bait" ....</li> <li>2. Leave Beer Cans, Plastic containers</li> <li>3. Excess / or fouled fishing line</li> <li>4. Using the "area" as a rest-room, instead of using a Port-a-Poddy</li> </ol> <p>For any of the available residential properties, that may be difficult to "rent"... please consider the following: Combine the opportunity to present ONLY HIGH QUALITY antiques- in an actual home setting, &amp; create a Vitorian Era home, with the appropriate vintage items in their expected place in a home. Another home could be a Colonial Period, Cival War, WWI, WWII, Imagine the home in the Era of Feista-Ware- etc. Antiques have been a draw, and the "PBS - ROAD-SHOW" series has made this market even more visable to the public. This may also double as a site for a winter-time Afternoon Tea with lecture on that Period, an evening Wine Tasting with Living History Presentation.TICKETS = REVENUE!   By Rhonda W</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	Another one? Which site would you propose?   By Luis O
<b>Idea Title</b>	Local Area Enhancement
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The Fortress opens unlimited opportunity to celebrate the African American experience in the areas surrounding it. Lodging there can be the hub of celebration of African American Freedom and the roots of those who made early inroads into the advancement of equality. Local communities should interpret their connections to and establishment by the Fort through out its history, utilizing the space and draw of its significance in the Black Story in America.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Roberta J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Bikepath from Yorktown to Phoebus and Then Fort Monroe
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The Capital Trail between downtown Richmond and Jamestown is headed toward completion in next couple years. It is an off-road 10' path that it has already helped create a nice restaurant in Charles City (Court House Grill) and I am sure more business will come. The Capital Trail is a designated part of the East Coast Greenway, an even bigger project that would run from Calais, ME to Key West and is in place in many places, particularly the Northeast.</p> <p>It seems to me the most natural route for the Capital Trail and the East Coast Greenway beyond Jamestown would be to Fort Monroe, thence (someday) by ferry to Norfolk. The Trail could easily extend from Jamestown to Yorktown along Colonial Parkway corridor, then to Tabb through Colonial NHP and Newport News Park. Then it would get trickier but I could see it paralleling Rt 134(Hampton Hwy) - Magruder Blvd, corridor, and then either along Armistead or LaSalle corridor to East Mercury, which could take it to Phoebus and Fort Monroe.</p> <p>We would need off road 10' or wider bike path bridge constructed parallel to Mugler Bridge between Phoebus and Fort Monroe.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Topic Name (Instant Poll)</b>	<b><i>Crescent Park Features</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Historic structures (i.e. batteries)
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	11
<b>Idea Title</b>	Amphitheater / outdoor performance spaces
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Idea Title</b>	Public facilities (i.e. bathrooms, showers, etc.)
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	8
<b>Idea Title</b>	Scenic overlooks / viewing areas
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Idea Title</b>	Nature trails
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Idea Title</b>	Natural landscape spaces (i.e. meadows)
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Idea Title</b>	Picnic areas
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Idea Title</b>	Passive/informal recreation spaces (i.e. lawns, quads)
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Idea Title</b>	Ferry terminal
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Idea Title</b>	Museums / learning centers
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Idea Title</b>	Botanical gardens / Conservatory
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Idea Title</b>	Visitor center
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Idea Title</b>	Environmental education
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Idea Title</b>	Cafe or other food venues
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Idea Title</b>	Statues & monuments
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Idea Title</b>	Boat launch
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Idea Title</b>	Multipurpose playfields (i.e. soccer)
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Comments</b>	
<b>Number of Comments</b>	12

<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>A VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL</p> <p>Festival boosts local economy by \$9.2M</p> <p>A \$44,000 study said the annual event also contributed \$17.3 million statewide</p> <p>BY LYDIA WHEELER</p> <p>lydia.wheeler@insidebiz.com</p> <p>The 2012 Virginia Arts Festival contributed \$9.2 million to the local economy and \$17.3 million statewide in direct and indirect expenditures, according to a study released last week.</p> <p>The nonprofit festival organization paid Tourism Economics, an Oxford Economics company with offices in Wayne, Pa., \$44,000 to complete the economic and fiscal impact study of the annual spring performing arts festival after its 16th season last year.</p> <p>The report says the arts festival directly and indirectly generated more than \$1.1 million in local and state taxes, including nearly \$490,000 in sales and lodging tax revenue, and supported some 231 jobs statewide.</p> <p>Of the approximate 58,000 patrons of the 2012 festival, 27 percent were out-of-town, overnight gs   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>This can be an extraordinary venue for any event. The Virginia Arts Festival makes perfect sense. The Newport Jazz Festival, world renowned, was set on the waterfront under the shadow of Fort Adams (the second largest stone fort in the United States).   By Louis G</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>Today's (11.9.12) Virginia Pilot has a well worded editorial supporting the idea of an open preserved Wherry Quarter. Well done Virginia Pilot!   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>Why only a crescent? Overwhelmingly the evidence from the MindMixer website and a recent survey of 1,356 people show that a crescent is not enough. The Wherry Quarter and the Fort Monroe waterfront rightly belong to the American people forever. Please see <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/">http://fortmonroecitizens.org/</a> for survey details and more reasons to save Fort Monroe from unwanted, unneeded and detrimental development.   By Adrian W</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>This Crescent Park is a poor, unworthy substitute for preserving all 55 acres of the heart of the Wherry Quarter, plus the South Waterfront, and adding them to the National Monument. It is sad if not disgraceful that FMA's planners are playing small ball with a national treasure, failing to enhance a National Monument and instead treating this vital land as no more than a tool to beef up FMA's near term revenue stream. The highest and best use of this land is being ignored.   By mark P</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>"Disgraceful" indeed. The dishonestly misframed process for post-Army Fort Monroe has been rigged from the start in 2005 by back-room insiders so as to transfer the heart of this national *public* treasure's landscape mainly to local *private* profit. Now that America really is finally about to lose Fort Monroe forever--as clearly shown by the relentless disingenuousness of the Sasaki consultants--it's important for people to speak truth to power, as Mark Perreault has done here. Mark is president of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park. Some of us disagree with some of what that small, public-excluding group does, but everyone knows they've tried hard to work within the dishonestly rigged system. Are you listening, Cathy Lewis of WHRV? Are you listening, Rob Nieweg at the National Trust for Historic Preservation? Will you two and your crucial organizations now finally use your stature to make unification the issue among the powerful that it has long been among everyone else?   By Steve C</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>I would, actually, make a strong link between the bay- and harbor-sides to Mill Creek, to include Wherry and Batteries, Irwin and Parrott.   By Luis O</p>
<b>Comment 8</b>	<p>I also agree that the crescent park is a good centerpiece but not good enough without unification of the park, including the whole WQ. This is a national treasure that must not be lost.   By Gwyn W</p>
<b>Comment 9</b>	<p>Ditto! Preserve this treasure, all of it!   By Virginia M</p>
<b>Comment 10</b>	<p>The idea of the crescent is good, but not enough. Make all of the WQ a park like setting and join it with the existing National Monument. When existing buildings reach their service life, they should be torn down and not replaced.   By Ron W</p>
<b>Comment 11</b>	<p>I agree that the crescent park is a good idea, but only if it's linked to a substantial Wherry parkland, 50 or so acres from Mill Creek shoreline to Chesapeake Bay shoreline. We need to see implemented the broadest, most progressive vision for Fort Monroe, something that will serve citizens for generations. For more on this issue, please go to <a href="http://fortmonroecitizens.org/">fortmonroecitizens.org</a>.   By Scott B</p>
<b>Comment 12</b>	<p>Yes, of course, the crescent park is great--if, that is, you accept Virginia's leaders' indefensible misframing of post-Army Ft Monroe mainly as an overly privatized community bringing the region only limited financial and other enrichment. But if, like almost everyone else, you see Ft Monroe mainly as a public national treasure that could also transform the region's attractiveness, quality of life, prosperity and world competitiveness, then maybe you favor unifying the fake, split national monument/park. For a concise picture of that one central overriding issue (that this crescent park idea shows our leaders evading), please see the citizen posting that dominated voting in an earlier discussion: "Please unify nat'l monument by including missing bayfront acres," <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> . Thanks. Steven T. Corneliussen, <a href="http://www.FortMonroeNationalPark.org/">http://www.FortMonroeNationalPark.org/</a>   By Steve C</p>
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>Tourism Supported Economic Development</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Visitor Accommodations
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Visitors to FOMO will enhance their experience by staying overnight in historic, restored accommodations, whether individual houses, or apartment buildings. This business opportunity should be run as a concession contract or an historic lease, with the successful bidder responsible for restoration and maintenance.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Destry J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	9
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	12

<b>Comment 1</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Declare the buildings next to the Casemate Museum as National Historic Landmarks to preserve the architecture and maintain building codes.</li> <li>2. Allow the option of private ownership as well as restricted commercial usages: bed and breakfast inns, restaurants, libraries, museums, boutiques, and gift shops.</li> <li>3. Build a central lodge with mini-suites away from the fort, perhaps near the campgrounds.</li> <li>4. Also locate it next to a sporting goods store. The store could rent out the boats, sell and lease sporting equipment, sell tours, operate a miniature golf course, driving range, and batting cage, fishing licenses, and sell light snacks, propane tanks, and logs for campfires and fireplaces. Tours and cruises would depart from the sporting goods store. and also stop at the information center. The sporting goods store would also rent out the boats and the rustic and furnished cabins. See Shenandoah National Park and Claytor Lake State Park and First Landing Seashore State Park for examples of cabins.</li> <li>5. Decide whether to expand the national monument into a national park or whether we should have a national monument with adjacent state parks and forests and recreation areas.</li> <li>6. Owners probably do worry about being displaced should this become a national park. This is why I also made the suggestion of</li> </ol>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Declare the homes in the fort as national historic monuments. This would at least preserve the historic architecture even if they are privately owned. Also it would allow owners to convert their homes into boutiques, museums, bed and breakfast inns, and restaurants, playhouses, libraries, and gift shops within restricted guidelines.   By Elisa R</li> </ol>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First declare the buildings inside the fort as national historic landmarks. Then they could individually owned or converted into bed and breakfast inns, restaurants, boutiques, playhouses, museums, reading rooms, and gift shops.</li> <li>2. Owners could have the option to have their homes maintained and leased to large groups of visitors by a central contractor should they desire this.</li> <li>3. A central lodge could be built in another part of the park or perhaps an adjacent state park or forest. It would have standard rooms and mini-suites. Also there will be rustic cabins as well as furnished mini-suites. Shenandoah National Park and Claytor Lake State Park provide examples of lodges, mini-suites and furnished waterfront cabins.</li> <li>4. A sporting goods store would be built next to the lodge. It would have a snack bar with a miniature golf course, driving range, and batting cage. The sporting goods store would sell equipment, lease boats, and sell tickets for tours and cruises. They would also sell fishing licenses. The sporting goods store would have public restrooms. It would also have some picnic tables outdoors. It could also sell film. The sporting goods center would be located near the waterfront.</li> </ol> <p>  By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Declare the buildings inside the fort itself as National Historic Landmarks. This would maintain the historic building codes.</li> <li>2. Allow for their owners to develop them commercially within guidelines: gift shops, boutiques, museums, restaurants, and bed and breakfast inns.</li> <li>3. Build a separate lodge with standard rooms and luxurious mini-suites. See Shenandoah National Park for options of lodges and rustic cabins. Also look at Claytor Lake for examples of waterfront furnished cabins.</li> <li>3. Divide the park into different areas as suggested by others. If there are zoning and funding issues, we could have one national monument surrounded by adjacent state parks and forests or recreation areas.</li> <li>4. The sporting goods store could have a snack shop with restrooms. It could also have a miniature golf course, driving range, and batting cage too. The sporting goods store should be near the waterfront. It could be in charge of maintaining and leasing small boats and selling tickets for private cruises.</li> <li>4. The lodge, sporting goods shop, visitor center, and tours should be handled by one contractor. Homes might have the option to have the option to live in their homes or have the contractor maintain and lease them. Large groups might be able to rent a few of these homes for large gatherings.</li> </ol> <p>  By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Declare the homes inside the fort as national historic landmarks. This would maintain the historic building codes. It would allow for ownership of the homes. It could also allow owners to use their property commercially for bed and breakfast inns, libraries, restaurants, boutiques, playhouses, and gift shops.</li> <li>2. Have a central lodge with mini-suites set in a different area of the park outside the fort. The lodge could offer standard rooms as well as mini-suites with various luxuries at different prices.</li> <li>3. Divide the park for different uses or create more than one park, recreation area or forest. The more developed part would be the park. The natural part could be used for nature lovers and outdoor recreation. I do prefer the National Park; however, I do see the advantages also for having a national monument, national historic landmarks within the fort, and then adjacent state parks and forests. Owners don't want to be displaced.</li> </ol> <p>  By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>First, declare the houses inside the fort as national historic landmarks. This would preserve the architectural building codes. Second, allow for uses such as bed and breakfast inns, boutiques, restaurants, museums, historic playhouses, libraries, and gift shops, etc..</p> <p>Third, build a separate lodge in a different area of the park. See Shenandoah National Park and Claytor Lake State Park for ideas about rustic and furnished cabins and mini-suites. Definitely have tent and rv sites and a sporting goods store with boat rentals, fishing bait and tackle and fishing licenses and other sporting equipment.</p> <p>Third, have a snack shop as part of the sporting goods store with restrooms. It could also have a miniature golf course, driving range, and batting cage.</p> <p>Fourth, divide the park into different sections for different uses and/or consider state parks and forests. Owners may be concerned about being displaced from their homes. I have provided some solutions to address those concerns.   By Elisa R</p>

<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>I would declare the buildings national historic landmarks to maintain the architectural building codes. This would still allow the owners the options for individual houses, bed and breakfast inns, museums, restaurants, historic playhouses, libraries, etc..</p> <p>The central lodge could be located in a different area of the park, perhaps near the waterfront. It could also offer standard rooms as well as mini-suites with luxurious amenities. In the woods, they may have small rustic cabins. Shenandoah National Park has a lodges with standard rooms and mini-suites. Claytor Lake State Park does have furnished cabins.</p> <p>Many parks, whether they are national parks, recreation areas, or forests do offer accommodations for their visitors. I too think it would be easier to have everything managed by the National Park Service. I know there is concern about individuals about losing their property. This is also where we have other options. We could use a combination of national monuments, as well as national and state parks, recreation areas, and forests. Part of the park could be developed for tourism and the other areas could be preserved for nature lovers and outdoor recreation.</p> <p>I am going to add a snack bar with a miniature golf course and a batting cage. That could be in a different section of the park.</p> <p>I do think that the visitor center, tours, sporting goods store and lodge should be handled by one contractor. I have no objection to an admission fee. The gift shops could be managed under one contractor or an individual proprietor.</p> <p>  By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 8</b>	<p>First, I would declare the buildings inside the fort as national historic landmarks. This would require that the owners maintain specific historic building codes. This would open the homes for usages such as bed and breakfast inns, small playhouses, restaurants, museums, and libraries.</p> <p>A central lodge would be maintained by one contractor. The same is true for the sporting goods store, gift shop, visitor information center, tours nature house, etc.. A central lodge could be located in a different section of the park.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 9</b>	<p>First, the buildings inside the fort should be declared national historic landmarks. This would require a contractor or individual owners to follow the maintenance of specific historic building codes. I grew up in a very historic city. They do have bed and breakfast inns, museums, libraries and restaurants. A small playhouse could provide some entertainment.. The proprietors would have the option to manage their own proprietors or have them leased by one contractor. I do think a central lodge should be managed by a contractor. The lodge might be located in a different part of the park. The lodge could provide standard to luxurious accommodations at different prices. Shenandoah National Park has lodges with standard rooms and mini-suites in different price ranges. Claytor Lake State Park has furnished cabins. First Landing Seashore State Park has rustic cabins.</p> <p>There are different categories too. There are national parks, recreation areas, and forests.. Also states manage their own parks and forests. Therefore it would be possible to keep the developed area a national or state park whereas declaring the woodlands a national or state forest ideal for restricted development for nature lovers. A lot depends on what people want to do with the park as well as zoning and funding issues.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 10</b>	<p>I think that the buildings inside the fort should be declared national historic landmarks. This would require their owners to maintain the properties according to specified guidelines. It would allow for bed and breakfast inns, libraries, restaurants, historic playhouses, maybe a historic film studio, and museums. The lodge could also offer standard to luxurious options including honeymoon suites. The lodge, sporting goods store, visitor information center, and tours should be managed by one contractor.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 11</b>	<p>Buildings within the fort should be declared national historic landmarks. This would require that they maintain the homes with historical architectural building codes. It would still allow for uses such as bed and breakfast inns, museums, historic playhouses, libraries, and restaurants. Those could be owned by individuals or families. They could decide whether they want to rent individual rooms and/or suites for family. Many lodges also have more than one option ranging from standard rooms to quarters with various luxurious including honeymoon suites. I know some parks do have entire homes which can be rented by groups and managed by real estate companies. My feeling is that the owners should have the option to manage their own properties or to allow a contractor to lease them provided the property is maintained by historic guidelines. Owners probably do worry about being displaced. This might be a workable compromise. Other services should be under one contract though.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 12</b>	<p>Given the historic setting and opportunity for leisure activities, as well as the residential housing stock available, this could be marketed to families looking to share vacation/reunions.   By Seth M</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	<p>make fort monroe a destination</p>
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>There needs to be a place to stay for families when they visit fort monroe. A small hotel with a restaurant open year round that is family friendly.</p> <p>We could easily reopen the airport so tourists with planes and money to spend could stop on their way from new york to florida. There is grant money from the faa for fixing up the airport.</p> <p>We need to resume the concerts and the fireworks that they had when it was an active fort. We also need some gift and boutique shops to draw in tourists.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	<p>Lawrence S</p>
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	<p>8</p>
<b>Number of Points</b>	<p>0</p>
<b>Number of Comments</b>	<p>4</p>
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Without a second major tourist attraction Fort Monroe remains a "one trick pony". And this "pony" will lose its attraction even further during the six months when the beaches, trails, and ramparts become down right uncomfortable weather wise. Let us face reality, tourists don't hang around very long during cool, sometimes blustery weather. Where will operating revenue come from during the off season? If you don't believe me question the vendors of Williamsburg, Virginia Beach, and Yorktown. Besides, warm, pleasant weather is only one to two days South. Even the cruise ships take their clients to warmer climes while accompanied by on board entertainment, and luxurious surroundings. Our only hope for year 'round revenue is to provide visiting tourists with what they want. They might even get some "beach time" if they are lucky. Otherwise entertaining shows, and luck at the table will have to do. Build a reasonable Resort/Casino and they will come   By Tom B</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Many national and state parks have lodges. I support this idea. In addition to a lodge which offers a variety of lodging and meal options, I would convert a few of those beautiful federal style homes into bed and breakfast inns. Another person suggested campgrounds with tent and RV hookups. I wonder if we could add cabins. Should they tear down enlisted housing altogether or perhaps give these units a facelift and incorporate them as minisuites into a lodge. - Elisa   By Elisa R</p>

<b>Comment 3</b>	Good but airport is part of National Monument and not covered by this state planning process.   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	I would use the Norfolk Waterside Marketplace as a Port Authority Terminal for the Southside. It already has a food court, restrooms, and shops. All it needs is a travel agency. It's a place which could be served by public city buses and commercial coach tour buses as well as sightseeing cruises. There should be a train station within a short walking distance. I think we can find a place very close to the Portsmouth Waterside to create another terminal which serves Newport News, Hampton, and Williamsburg and other rural communities. If we establish two major port authorities, the local airports and Half Moon Terminal can provide complimentary shuttle service from one point to another. Smaller airports might be willing to also provide shuttle services too.   By Elisa R
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Interpretative Mission of the Wherry Quarter [Part 1]
<b>Idea Detail</b>	At present we are at a stage of creation of Fort Monroe National Monument that Colonial National Monument (the name was changed by Congress to Colonial National Historic Park in 1936) was in the early 1930's. The text below is very interesting:  "In 1933, the park issued its first 'Outline of Development,' which restated the mission and guiding principles behind park programs. The document recognized the 'broad mandate' of the park to preserve and restore the colonial character of the region 'to commemorate and interpret the Colonial and Revolutionary periods in the development of the Nation.' <sup>44</sup> The plan articulated the primacy of the cultural landscape of Tidewater Virginia which would provide visitors a 'visualization of the past.' The outline argued that the restoration of the area would be based upon documentary and archeological investigation to insure 'strict accuracy.' When information was lacking, the park was to portray 'the spirit of the period.' <sup>45</sup> The 'Outline of Development,' identified four individual areas within the Colonial National Monument--Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown, and the Colonial Parkway--that were part of the park's interpretive mission. Jamestown, the site of the first permanent English settlement in America, was to chronicle the early colonial period, although the island had problems of limited access and few above-ground remains. Williamsburg proved more problematic since its relationship to Colonial was unclear. Consequently, the Park Service left the interpretation of the colonial capital to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Yorktown's primary mission was to commemorate the siege of October 1781 and the subsequent victory of the American Revolution. ..." [Continued in Part 2]
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Interpretative Mission of the Wherry Quarter [Part 3]
<b>Idea Detail</b>	[Continued from Part 2]  CONCLUSION: There may have been people calling for development along the Colonial Parkway when it was first proposed. Indeed the land along the James and York Rivers could have become the sites of several upscale developments. Think of what we as a people would have lost if that had happened.  Any development of the Wherry Quarter or South Waterfront land so close to Freedom's Fortress will be a detriment to the historical value of the fortress and will diminish its attractiveness to potential visitors.  Just as the Colonial Parkway was determined to be an important part of the interpretative mission of Colonial National Monument, the Wherry Quarter has an interpretative mission as the connection between the two present portions of Fort Monroe National Monument. That mission can best be served by including the Wherry Quarter and the South Waterfront Area in Fort Monroe National Monument.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	Where were all these advocates for open, green, waterfront spaces, prior to BRAC. I have been in the area for 33 years enjoying the water, the history, the diversified population as well as its proximity to other super attractions. Having been in the USAF for over 24 years I could have chosen any location for retirement and my second career. I walked Fort Monroe with my family from end to end many times. My family and I relished visiting almost all of the well kept parks of the Tidewater area. We purchased what we felt was our perfect boat, a 1966 Hatteras motoryacht many years ago, restoring it as we went from the sounds of North Carolina through the intracoastal waterway, Erie Canal, and Ontario Canada to Georgian Bay and back, stopping at every interesting community as we went. I say to all of the unhappy Wherry Qtr advocates lacking waterfront views, greenspace, history and culture, go out into the world to find what you seek. I hope the glass turns out to be "half full".   By Tom B
<b>Comment 2</b>	agree. there is no room for development/condo-ization in the Ft Monroe area. You don't see a Walmart and apartments wedged in anywhere on Shenandoah's Skyline Dr. I don't see how anyone who truly cares about preserving Ft Monroe can agree to dividing the spaces for any reason...except for greed of course.   By R M
<b>Comment 3</b>	I'd like to see the regions discussed in the Master Plan and posts included to become a National Park in the future, especially since it's already a National Monument. One has to drive west to Shenandoah National Park or the Cumberland Gap or through the national forests along US 250. Another option would be to protect that land by having it declared part of the Virginia State Park System next to Fort Monroe. In Tennessee, they have Island Between the Lakes which is a national recreation area and Barclay Lake State Park. I don't want this region to become a massive commercial development project either.   By Elisa R
<b>Idea Title</b>	Motorcoach tours
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Motorcoach tour companies are always looking for new attractions and destinations, and FOMO would be a great one. Commercial entrance fees would provide modest income, and could be augmented with fee-based, step-on interpretive guide services upon arrival in the park.

<b>Idea Author</b>	Destry J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	7
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	There should be a separate entrance and parking lot for the coach buses.   By Elisa R
<b>Idea Title</b>	Use your imagination
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The ways of generating tourism revenue would seem to be limited only by the imagination of the planners. Parking fees, mini-bus tours, kayak rentals, headphones for self-guided tours, lease income on tourist-oriented retail, restaurant, and other such facilities, Fort Monroe books and mementoes sold at museum gift shops, Chautauqua-like summer conferences, special events like bike and foot races, and especially big open-space concerts and other events in Wherry, like the ones at Pocahontas State Park--see the link below. Also, annual passes for locals at a modest fee to encourage regular, repeat visitation. The more appealing Fort Monroe is to the public, the more income it will generate in this way, which is one reason for turning Wherry into parkland.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I especially second the idea of turning Wherry into parkland. There is already a lot of development on the island, so further residential and commercial should probably be focused on re-development there. Having green space with public access to the water will start to draw traffic once there are more amenities.   By Seth M
<b>Comment 2</b>	I would offer an all inclusive admission/tour package which includes all hidden fees. I would also offer a flat family rate to encourage family vacations.   By Elisa R
<b>Idea Title</b>	A Fort Monroe "Connector" -- Learn from the Colonial Parkway
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>In order to maximize the value of Fort Monroe National Monument to the American people, The Wherry Quarter and the South Waterfront Area should be included in the park. Those who advocate only a "connector" should examine more closely what a proper connector would look like.</p> <p>During the 1930's the Colonial Parkway was established to connect the historic sites of Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown. This well designed connector was far more than an ordinary roadway or a narrow corridor. Sufficient right-of-way was purchased and other measures were taken then and in succeeding years to protect the viewsheds of this parkway. The National Park Service determined that a proper connector between these three sites was important enough to create a more than 23 mile parkway. How can we afford to do less for a less than one mile "connector" between the two parts of Fort Monroe National Monument?</p> <p>Following the Colonial Parkway example, a connector between the two parts of Fort Monroe National Monument would have a wide right-of-way and viewshed protection that would in effect extend to both Mill Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. Anything less than this would be a compromise and a selling short of the potential of a truly unified Fort Monroe National Monument.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I seconded this idea, but I might add that the "connectors" are already in place. Check your maps to see the existing paved roadways. Great views to the East and West, except for the few Batteries which can be easily eliminated.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Amen. Great comparison. Worthy wisdom. Thanks, Adrian.   By Steve C
<b>Idea Title</b>	The Interpretative Mission of the Wherry Quarter [Part 2]
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>[Continued from Part 1]</p> <p>... Secondary consideration was given to the geological history of the Yorktown Cliffs, the role of Yorktown as a colonial port and the Civil War. In fact, the majority of earthworks which surrounded Yorktown were rebuilt during the Civil War on top of Revolutionary-era fortifications. As early as 1931, the park decided to integrate the colonial roads surrounding Yorktown into the park's road system to provide a way for visitors to experience the cultural and natural resources of the battlefield.<sup>46</sup></p> <p>The parkway was to serve a somewhat different role to tie the three areas together as, 'a single coherent reservation.' Its function as a unifying factor transcends mere considerations of transportation. Its location and design should contribute, as far as practicable, to the general commemorative purposes of the Monument.<sup>47</sup>"</p> <p>Footnotes:  44Robinson, "Outline of Development," 12 July 1933, file 600.03.4. Colonial National Historical Park collection.  45, Outline of Development, 1933, " 44. The work of the park in the 1930s was extremely innovative for its time, and influenced the course of historic preservation in America. Certainly, much of this work was an extension of the restoration of colonial Williamsburg, which was in its sixth year by 1933. According to Charles Peterson, architects for both the park and</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Adrian W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0

<b>Idea Title</b>	Repeat Local Visitation - The Key to Economic Sustainability
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>As anyone who has lived in the core of Hampton Roads knows, there are very few large green spaces to turn to for recreation and serenity on a Sunday afternoon. And there are none that are along the beautiful Chesapeake Bay and have historical attractions and the possibility of restaurants, entertainment and culture immediately proximate to natural waterfront lands. The draw of a truly splendid grand public place at Fort Monroe will be huge for the 1.7 million Hampton Roads residents, and the opportunity for generating revenue from that visitation equally great. To be that place, the 50 or 55 acres between the National Monument's North Beach and the fortress, from the Bay to Mill Creek, along with Batteries Irwin and Parrott, need to be preserved and ultimately added to the National Monument. A developed or even partially developed heart of the Wherry Quarter will deny Hampton Roads the appeal of natural lands integrated with historic properties and amenities, mediocritize Fort Monroe, and diminish local visitation revenue opportunities by making Fort Monroe a place you visit once every few years rather than go there again and again.</p> <p>The grand Fort Monroe will also increase outside the area tourism and revenue therefrom and significantly heighten the value of</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	16
<b>Comment 1</b>	Casinos may be the best way to lower image of region, disrespect Fort Monroe history and involve citizens in yet more sedentary, socially wasteful activity.   By mark P
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>The Sasaki, Dec. 2012, Update Briefing provides 3 possible plans for Ft. Monroes future use.</p> <p>The most costly (to the Virginia taxpayer) of the 3 results from isolating the Wherry Qtr from any development to improve the view, to and from a small segment of the Fort's rampart. It would result in an annual deficit to the Fort's Operating Budget of about 3 million dollars. Who will pay for this deficit? The State of Virginia (you and I). In my opinion, the Fort, Moat, and Museum, with a narrow land buffer around it, is a great, federally funded, historic attraction, that with its shoreline location can "stand alone". Will it draw repeat tourists? How many times did you visit the Lincoln Memorial? On the contrary, a second attraction would draw from Virginia and adjacent States. Use about 40 acres of Wherry, and when the economy improves, build a tasteful "grand" Resort/Casino to eliminate the Winter doldrums, draw repeat visitors, and eliminate the millions in operating deficits   By Tom B</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	See <a href="http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf">http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_va_hamptonroads_parkdeficit.pdf</a> for facts, especially re shoreline public open space deficit. On a more general level, is Tom really claiming that Hampton Roads is regarded nationally as a center for green, active recreation comparable to a Seattle, Boulder or even a New York or DC (if so, where are our knowledge based industries) ? And if not, do we not do our best to move in their direction, rather than continue to privatize our best land in our traditional transfer it to the affluent way.   By mark P
<b>Comment 4</b>	Mark P3; Thank you for referring to the 1.7 million population of Hampton Roads which can be called upon in summertime to visit Fort Monroe with its waterfront and "green space". What about all the other waterfront and green space in Hampton Roads? Beginning with the 36 parks of our closest neighbor, Newport News, which also has the largest park East of the Mississippi (around 5000 acres), and, Hampton, featuring the beaches of Grandview Nature Preserve, with its hundreds of Chesapeake Bay waterfront acres, as well as Buckroe Beach, Why do the preservationists repeatedly misrepresent Hampton Roads as to lacking waterfront access and no open spaces? You must use the Wherry Qtr as an revenue generating asset which will address the multimillion shortfall that has recently been projected by Sasaki. What a great place for a Resort/ Casino as an "all season" attraction. I invite you to also visit Va Beach, Williamsburg, and Yorktown this Winter season and you will see what I mean.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 5</b>	The Chamberlin and private beach club can provide catering for large banquets and conferences. The federal buildings inside the fort can be restored and converted to lodging facilities for tourists with a variety of restaurants at different price ranges. Shuttles and horse drawn carriages can transport the tourists from one area to another part of the park. There should be public restrooms with lockers and showers, picnic facilities, and a playground for children at the beach.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 6</b>	I think that if there is lodging within the fort itself, it should be in the form of bed and breakfast inns. Another lodge with standard rooms and mini-suites might be closer to the campgrounds, sporting goods store, and nature center. Renovations can become very expensive in a historical district. I think that having restaurants, libraries or reading rooms, museums, boutiques, and even a small local historic community theater might provide the owners with means for a second income should they feel inclined. I am not necessarily against renters; however, if homes are used for renters, the homes must still be historically preserved within the fort. A lodge in a different section of the park or forest would not be under the same historic preservation regulations; however, it should blend with the scenery and have attractive landscaping, possibly even a garden. I also think that if we have nature centers, sporting goods stores, and other restaurants they should blend in.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 7</b>	The Chamberlin and private beach club can cater to larger banquets and conferences. The federal buildings within the fort can be restored and converted to lodging with a variety of restaurants offering meals at different price ranges. Shuttles and horse drawn carriages can be used to transport visitors from one part of the park to another. There should be restrooms with lockers and showers, picnic facilities, and a playground for children at the beach.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 8</b>	Use the Chamberlin and private beach club for banquet s and conferences also. Convert and restore the federal buildings inside the fort into guestrooms and a variety of smaller restaurant options to accommodate many budgets. The beach should have public restrooms with lockers and showers, picnic facilities. Shuttles and horse drawn carriages can be used to transport tourists from one part of the park to another.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 9</b>	Centralize the banquet and conference facilities at the Chamberlin and private country club. The federal style homes inside the fort can be restored and converted to guest lodging with a variety of restaurant options. Shuttles and horse drawn carriages can transport visitors from the lodges to the other parts of the park. The beach should have restrooms with lockers and showers, picnic facilities, and a playground for children.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 10</b>	Centralize the banquet and conference facilities at the Chamberlin Hotel and private beach club. Create lodging by restoring and converting the Georgian Revival Federal Homes into lodging facilities with a variety of smaller restrooms to suit different budgets.   By Elisa R

<b>Comment 11</b>	Centralize the banquet and conference facilities at the existing Chamberline hotel and private beach club. Restore the Georgian Revival Federal Homes inside the fort and convert them into lodging with a variety of smaller restaurant options to suit the budgets of the visitors. Shuttles and horse-drawn carriages can be used to transport the tourists from the lodging facilities to the other parts of the park. At the beach, there should be restrooms, showers and lockers, picnic facilities, and a playground for children.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 12</b>	The banquet and conference facilities can be centralized at the Chamberlin Hotel and the private beach club at Fort Monroe. The beautiful Georgian Revival Federal Homes could be restored and converted into lodging and smaller restaurants to accommodate the   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 13</b>	The banquets and conference facilities could be centralized at the Chamberlin Hotel and private beach club. The Georgian Revival Federal Style homes could be converted into lodging accommodations and museums for tourists with restaurants to offer a variety of meal options at different budgets. A shuttle and horse-drawn carriage can transport patrons from one part of the park to another. At the beach, they can have a playground, picnic facilities, and restrooms. At the beach, add public restrooms, lockers, and showers, picnic facilities, and a playground for young children.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 14</b>	There are facilities for banquets and conferences at the Chamberlin Hotel and private beach club already. I don't see why they need a new conference center. I would convert the Georgian Revival Federal Style Homes into lodging accommodations with interior decor characteristic of that time period. Each building could have a smaller restaurant so that a variety of menu options existed to accommodate the budgets of many tourists.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 15</b>	They are in the process of raising the enlisted living house quarters. I reconsidered my idea about the remodeled mini-suites on the beach because it may cost more to remodel old units with modern wiring and plumbing than it's worth.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 16</b>	At one point, I had mentioned that I thought it might be nice to have mini-suites for families along the beach; however, after I thought about it, I realized it's probably easier to tear down the enlisted housing. This is already in process anyway. I would centralize the banquet and conference facilities at the Chamberlin Hotel and the private beach club. The Georgian Revival Federal Style homes can be converted into guest quarters with a variety of smaller restaurant options inside the fort. A shuttle and even horse drawn carriage could provide transportation for the guests to the other areas of the naturally preserved park. Add picnic facilities and a children's playground at the beach.   By Elisa R
<b>Idea Title</b>	The heart of Fort Monroe's tourism potential
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The main part of the Wherry Quarter, 50-55 acres from shoreline to shoreline between the two parts of the National Monument, is the heart of Fort Monroe's tourism potential. Converting it into a park will enhance the appeal of the entire property and thus increase the revenue from tourism (which can be generated in a variety of ways, limited only by the imagination of the planners). It will also make the entire region more attractive to businesses. But developing or partially developing this section of Wherry will undermine Fort Monroe's natural beauty and historic ambience--the very qualities that draw tourists. No visitor will want to stand on the north battlements of the old fortress and gaze upon a new subdivision, or leave the fortress and walk past a new subdivision. For the cultural and economic well-being of the region, the FMA must make a Wherry Park a top priority. New houses in Wherry will produce short-term revenue. But a Wherry Park, through its contribution to the Fort Monroe experience, will generate revenue forever. To get a sense of what a Wherry Park might look like, and the appealing contrast it would offer to the fortress, historic village, and any new construction in the North Gate and West Wherry areas, please see the accompanying
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	3
<b>Comment 1</b>	I respectfully disagree with Scott B6. The Wherry Qtr will never be the potential "heart", but because of location synergy, could provide a major draw for Ft. Monroe tourists. The moated Fort/Museum is, and will always be, the main market attraction. What we need badly is another tourist draw, that is not seasonal, to provide the revenue to survive the six month "off season". Potentially this would cover the current estimated annual multi million dollar deficit which is a concern of the Ft. Monroe Authority. A tasteful Resort/ Casino could do it. Lets give Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and Dover a helping hand when the economy improves. In spite of your wishes, Fort Monroe and the beaches cannot do it alone. Nor can all the preservationists in Virginia do it with their greenspace and views.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 2</b>	There is no question that an open and green Wherry Quarter will benefit future generations which is something the Commonwealth and the FMA should consider as it ponders alternatives for the land. There may be some income to be had by use of existing buildings during their service life, and even more if additional development is accomplished. But, at what cost to the region, the state, and the American public. I hope the FMA planners are going to do an honest analysis of the financial realities of all possible alternatives. Even if the analysis shows it will take more years to put the FMA on solid footing because the Wherry Quarter is made green and open, it will be worth it in the long run.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 3</b>	not allowing any subdivisions on Fort Monore   By Kenneth T
<b>Idea Title</b>	Wherry Park
<b>Idea Detail</b>	I'm resubmitting a photo-shopped aerial view of Fort Monroe cropped to emphasize the contribution of a Wherry Park to the overall public quality of the property--and to suggest what a completed National Monument might look like. It would be beautiful! Also, the hospitality structure in Sasaki's plan B (a park) has been relocated to the western side of the fortress to allow for the eventual inclusion of 50 or so continuous acres of Wherry in the Monument.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Economic sustainability

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>There probably should be a minimal charge to enter.</p> <p>Concession stands located at strategic areas.</p> <p>Converting the current club into a restaurant</p> <p>Guided tours of both the moated fort and museum itself and the entire Ft Monroe area.</p> <p>Scheduling of musical and other events at open places within the park.</p> <p>Provisions made for parking.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	David R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	5
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Gift shop bicycle rentals kayak, row and pedal boat rentals, trams or shuttles for transportation and guided tours bed and breakfast inns various museums (Harpers Ferry National Park has several museums and restaurants. Mount Vernon is also very well developed.) Information and visitor center Public ferries, privately owned cruises from Hampton Roads communities nature trails public restrooms with showers and lockers at the beach Historical movies and documentaries (Harper's Ferry has been used in films) historical based Theatrical productions (Fort Story did this during the summers. Also Appomattox has costumed guides who tell the story using the regional accent of that time period. Harbor fest Patriotic concert and fireworks for the Fourth of July Gardens with gazebos outdoor recreation picnic tables and shelters outdoor bandstand with benches for concerts (similar to 24th Street, Virginia Beach) Nature trails Affordable lodging options Nature Center Art shows   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>Add camping with grassy tent sites, RV sites, and rustic cabins. Some even like furnished cabins but I'm trying to keep the options affordable. Mini-suites and furnished cabins are included under the motel.</p> <p>I think it might be fun to have a snack bar with a miniature golf course and batting cage.</p> <p>This was an Army base prior to closure. Therefore they already have the facilities for so many ideas that previously had been operated by MWR. The question is whether they would be part of a National Park or perhaps a state park or forest. That would depend on zoning and funding.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<p>I'm going to add camping facilities such as spacious grassy tent and rv sites as well as rustic cabins. I'll also recommend that the sites be lit well enough so that campers can easily find their way from their sites to the restrooms at night. They might use small garden lights along the pathway and lighted numbers. Each site would also have a picnic table and grill. Some national and state parks also have rustic log cabins with basic amenities in addition to furnished mini-suites and cabins: Claytor Lake State Park and Shenandoah National Park.</p> <p>Fish and tackle and licenses could be sold at the same place which rents boats, including canoes and sporting equipment.</p> <p>I would also add a small snack bar with a miniature golf course, driving range</p> <p>Fishing and boating often go together although some do fish from the piers also. Fishing licenses could be sold at the same place that rents the boats and equipment.</p> <p>I mentioned a bandstand. Actually I'd want several rows of benches at the bandstand so people wouldn't have to sit down on the grass. They would have the option to bring their own patio chairs.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 4</b>	Generally good ideas. Not sure what is intended by "Converting the current club into a restaurant"   By mark P
<b>Comment 5</b>	These all sound like feasible and viable ideas to me. Not sure about the miniature golf course .... not sure what that has to do with a moated fort. Cheers, DLR   By David R
<b>Idea Title</b>	Longer-Term Ideas, Plus Continued Public Support
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Hampton Roads is a region in decline (dropped from 30th SMSA in population in 1990 to 37th now, the Navy is transferring ships out of region, military budget facing significant reduction, jobs in region declining, and the region is not nationally regarded as an attractive region to relocate businesses to), and desperately needs a singularly attractive place to improve its appeal and alter its image. Rather than mediacritize Fort Monroe out of some small ball, pay for the place right now sort of vision, we need a longer term view. This involves a combination of continued public transitional funding a la Presidio and patience, to get us to time when unified and operating National Monument is in place and more remunerative businesses (e.g., first class lodging, conference facilities in historic area or North Gate) can be located on Fort Monroe. To ruin the strategic Wherry Quarter in the name of near term revenue generation is not only awful for Fort Monroe but bad for Hampton Roads and Virginia. Fortunately a national boom is near at hand (e.g., US domestic oil and gas boom of historic proportions and DC political deal will fuel huge economic boom) which will allow US to fund a first rate national monument at Fort Monroe (including taking over more costs from Va.) and Va. to</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P

<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	10
<b>Comment 1</b>	Casinos may be the best way to lower the image of the region, disrespect Fort Monroe's history and potential as a place to enjoy and appreciate natural beauty, open space and wildlife, and involve citizens in yet more sedentary, socially wasteful activity.   By mark P
<b>Comment 2</b>	Well said Mark!   By Ron W
<b>Comment 3</b>	The Dec.13 Board meeting was very informative, particularly in confronting the realities facing the planners and the decision makers. One thing which is key to decision making and was not discussed or even mentioned was the impact of climatology. Keep in mind, we are not in the tropics but the temperate zone. There is a period of about 5 or 6 months when our beaches are quite uncomfortable and tourists must travel further South to enjoy themselves. Our attractions, from VA Beach to Williamsburg, have only a fraction of the tourists that visit in summer. We must seek attractions that draw people all the year long to benefit Fort Monroe and the area. The perfect location for a Resort/Casino would be 40 acres of Wherry. We presently lose thousands of customers from our area to places like Vegas, Atlantic City, or Dover. My wife and I travel to these locations upon occasion for all sorts of entertainment. This could be the economic self sustaining "silver bullet" that we need.   By Tom B
<b>Comment 4</b>	There are other ways to fund the gap as presented by the planners, non as harmful to the region as a casino/resort. Lots of places for that along our already developed shoreline. The WQ is the ONLY opportunity for a large natural area and large outdoor events such as art shows, music, and other large group outdoor activities.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 5</b>	I prefer the option of expanding Fort Monroe into a national park; however, I realize that there are disagreements about zoning and funding. There are national parks and forests which have various lodging options. This is also true for state parks and forests. The question is funding. I think many ideas could still be implemented either way.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 6</b>	I, myself, do prefer expanding Fort Monroe from a national monument into a national park. There are national and state parks which do have lodges. Also there are national and state forests which have rustic unfurnished cabins and modern cabins.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 7</b>	My first preference would be that Fort Monroe is preserved not only as a national monument, but expanded into a national park. I am aware that there are disagreements about zoning. I think, while I prefer one idea over another, there is room to consider the possibility of national monuments, parks, forests as well as state parks and forests.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 8</b>	I, myself prefer the development of Fort Mnoroe into a national park; however, I do realize that should there be disagreement about zoning issues, it might be possible also to have a national monument or park and a state park each with different purposes. You mentioned the lodging. There are national and state parks which have lodges.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 9</b>	I also would prefer to have Fort Monroe developed as a national park; however, I believe that many good ideas could be included whether we have one national park or a national monument and a state park. There are national and state parks which have lodges.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 10</b>	I prefer the solution to make Fort Monroe into a national park myself; however, should there be disagreements with zoning issues and funding, the surrounding areas could also be protected as a state park. There are national and state parks which have lodging facilities. Many ideas could be incorporated either way.   By Elisa R
<b>Idea Title</b>	Sustainability
<b>Idea Detail</b>	A small fee for entrance; camping space; hotel, cottages, current houses for short term rent; gift shop that is Fort Monroe and area based merchandise; boat fees; locker/shower fees.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Virginia M
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	I like the idea of a camping space. The entry fee would be a deterrent, probably better to have money-generating concessions and the fees suggested.   By Seth M
<b>Comment 2</b>	I include camping in outdoor recreation and affordable lodging options. This would include tent sites on grass, RV sites, and possibly even rustic log cabins. There can be various options as Shenandoah National Park has mini-suites as part of their lodge. Also Claytor Lake State Park in Virginia has very nice furnished cabins. I think there should be a variety of options in lodging including a motel as well as a historic bed and breakfast inn. Also there can be sports and recreational activities. I list that under outdoor recreation. I have listed a number of activities that I liked from other suggestions by others too.   By Elisa R
<b>Idea Title</b>	Tourism Hub
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Taking advantage of the central location of Ft Monroe within Hampton Roads could allow Fort Monroe to become TOURIST CENTRAL for locals and visitors. A bus service (for a nominal fee) providing access to Williamsburg, Yorktown, Jamestown, Va. Beach, Norfolk and Eastern Shore departing in the morning and returning around 4:00pm just in time for a good meal, shopping and evening of live music provided at the gazebo. During festival season this bus service can get people there without having to drive in this crazy transportaion road grid of Hampton Roads. Getting people to go to Fort Monroe will bring the money, charging absorborent fees will not. Obviously new shops for dining, drinking and dancing with abundant live music will energize this Tourist Central location. Crafts, farmer's market, music, fish market, local flavors will attract the regulars. Thanks and make it great!
<b>Idea Author</b>	Tony P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Elisa R. I would try to make Fort Monroe a National Park by incorporating the monument with nearby parks. My focus would be on maintaining its historical importance to this region. I have been to other national and state parks, monuments, and forests. We can include extra ammenities; however, the most important must be connecting Fort Monroe to the Norfolk and Portsmouth Waterside as hubs and then to the Virginia Beach Boardwalk at Rudee Inlet. Other communities can create their own hubs.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 2</b>	Elisa R. I wouldn't make it into a hub though, just a national park. I would add transportation alternatives to connect it to the other Hampton Roads Communitiesspecially the Norfolk and Portsmouth Watersides and Rudee inlet in Virginia Beach.   By Elisa R
<b>Idea Title</b>	Historic Diamond

<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Fort Monroe's connection with Virginia History cannot be ignored. Just as Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown are all integral parts in the beginnings of Virginia as a colony and a state, so is Point Comfort home to so many American beginnings as well. From Colonial America and Fort Algernoune, to Revolutionary America and Washington's forces sailing around Ft. George to trap Cornwallis, to America's Civil War and Butler's emancipation by asylum, Fort Monroe is the story of freedom, of American beginnings, of American victory, and of American heritage.</p> <p>Lobby for the inclusion of Fort Monroe (as Point Comfort, Fort Algernoune, Fort George, AND Fort Monroe) into the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, whose mission is, "To develop and maintain national and international awareness of the important role played by Virginia in the creation of the United States through operations and programs...and related research and educational activities; and to actively direct private sector efforts to increase tourism in the areas in which the Foundation has its museums."</p> <p>A simple expansion of our current Historic Triangle to include Virginia's "gateway to freedom" will give our current Fort Monroe the historic legitimacy it deserves, and open up new opportunities for economic expansion.</p> <p>A history of Virginia from its beginnings to the present is within walking distance at this barrier spit. But this does not mean it should be preserved all in its current state -- nor even portions of it returned to its original natural greenery. We can make Wherry the site of Colonial Heritage, with Ft. Algernoune as its centerpiece; make Crescent Park the site Revolutionary Heritage, with</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Andrew S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>Thanks for this idea and thanks especially for the intriguing illustration. For years some of us had called this basic idea the "Historic Quadrangle." Maybe Andrew S25 is the person who introduced a better name, Historic Diamond, at a public meeting last year. In any case, that's the name I gratefully switched to when I submitted the idea "Peninsula's Historic Diamond: full story of America's founding " in May 2012. I hope people will also read and consider that brief writeup in this discussion forum. It has some differences with what appears here, and they might merit attention. Please find that writeup at <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-do-you-think-the-peninsula-is-a-great-region/peninsula-s-historic-diamond-full-story-of-america-s-founding">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-do-you-think-the-peninsula-is-a-great-region/peninsula-s-historic-diamond-full-story-of-america-s-founding</a></p> <p>Thanks. Steven T. Corneliusen, <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a>   By Steve C</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Commercial economic development at FM
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>We heard from a regional commercial real estate appraiser that Fort Monroe commercial rates are way too high to attract businesses to locate at Fort Monroe. Also there needs to be business incentives offered by Fort Monroe to be competitive with Hampton Roads commercial real estate. If this is true and commercial development is part of the "master plan", why is the leasing agency pricing itself outside of the current market and not offering short term incentives for long term gains?</p> <p>If the State of Virginia "owns" the land, why cannot they offer attractive incentives for private businesses to relocate to Fort Monroe?</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ed E
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Camping
<b>Idea Detail</b>	To produce revenue, expand the campground. Allow a private company such as you now have for the Colonies to develop a much larger RV Campground. It is the only available RV site with the options available at Ft. Monroe. Work with the Good Sam Club to add the site to their RV Club. Charge a reasonable rate - lower than the really expensive rates over in VA Beach and closer to Williamsburg.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Roberta J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	7
<b>Comment 1</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create natural barriers to make the recreational vehicle and cabin sites seem more secluded. Also do not overcrowd camping sights, especially during the peak season and holidays. This diminishes the entire experience of camping which is to enjoy the outdoors.</li> <li>2. Create natural barriers between the nature house, sporting goods store, and lodge. Separate these somewhat from the campgrounds.</li> <li>3. Noise curfews at 11:00 p.m.</li> <li>4. Well lit trails and well marked campsites. Use garden lamps.</li> <li>5. Picnic tables and grills at the campsites.</li> <li>6. Group activities provided by the sports store. Individuals and families may not be able to afford the exposure to certain sports and/or rentals on their own. Also provide instruction and education.</li> <li>7. Keep costs reasonable.   By Elisa R</li> </ol>
<b>Comment 2</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create privacy within the RV and cabin sites using natural barriers like trees and hedges. Don't overcrowd with tents either.</li> <li>2. Provide picnic tables and grills at the campsites.</li> <li>3. Separate the lodge and nature house using natural barriers. Allow campers and vacationers at the campgrounds and lodge usage of common facilities.</li> <li>4. An additional function of a sporting goods store might be to provide group activities and instructions in addition to the general functions most already assume. Sometimes individuals and families cannot afford certain types of sports or outdoor recreation and thereby miss out on exposure these experiences due to their costs. Definitely keep costs reasonable so families can enjoy themselves.</li> <li>5. Light trails and sites well using the garden lights.   By Elisa R</li> </ol>
<b>Comment 3</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creating some privacy within the various campsites by using natural barriers such as trees and hedges. This is especially true for RV and cabin sites. Don't overcrowd tent sites either, especially during peak season and holidays.</li> <li>2. Separate the lodge and nature house by using natural barriers.</li> <li>3. The sporting goods store might also offer group activities for both the campers and vacationers at the lodge. Individuals and families may not be able to afford certain outdoor activities on their own. Also instruction helps.   By Elisa R</li> </ol>

<b>Comment 4</b>	<p>1. Landscape the sites using natural barriers such as trees and hedges to create some seclusion, especially with the recreational vehicles and cabins. Don't overcrowd tents either.</p> <p>2. Isolate the lodge using natural barriers and landscaping even if it's near the campground.</p> <p>3. The Nature Center should be close to the campground.</p> <p>4. The sporting goods store could also offer group activities to those staying in the lodge as well as the campers. This might provide an introduction to sports and recreation that individuals and families may not be able to afford on their own.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 5</b>	<p>1. Create grassy tent sites as opposed to gravel.</p> <p>2. Seclude the RV and cabin sites by using natural barriers like trees and hedges. People camp to be close to nature. I have seen campgrounds try to squeeze as many people as possible into sites. This overcrowding, especially around holidays, totally di   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 6</b>	<p>Camping is an activity that brings individuals and families close to nature in respect to lodging and also outdoor sports and recreation. Some campgrounds squeeze as many campers into a small space as possible for revenue. If they do add camping, I'm hoping that they will isolate each site using natural barriers like trees and hedges for allow for more privacy. There should be adequate lighting so that the vacationers can see the trails and find their sites at night as well as the restrooms.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Comment 7</b>	<p>Camping is an activity which is designed for those who love nature. I hope that if they do add campgrounds, each site will be somewhat isolated by using natural barriers such as trees, hedges, gardens, etc... One problem that sometimes occurs, especially around major holidays is that in order to gain the most revenue, the sites are packed to the extent that they are too close together and block out the scenery entirely. I definitely feel that the nature house should be in the area by the campground. I also feel that there should be a sporting goods store. I would separate the lodge from the camp sites and landscape it in a way that makes it blend in with nature also. If the sites are too close, they also become too noisy. Many state parks have evening curfews to keep the noise under control.</p> <p>Some campgrounds do arrange group activities for the vacationers as well as rentals for sites and equipment and fishing licenses. This might give vacationers new experiences.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Public and private ferries and cruises
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I definitely think it would draw more visitors if there was a ferry which left from the Norfolk and Portsmouth Watersides for Fort Monroe. This would run primarily during the peak tourist season from April 1st - October 30th annually, weather permitting, of course. I understand that there is a cruise which leaves Fort Monroe for another fort. People don't know about the other fort and Fort Monroe is a relatively new National Monument which has the potential to be a national park. I think if we expect people to take a cruise to Fort Monroe, they need to be able to depart from piers which attract lots of visitors which already exist at the Norfolk and Portsmouth Watersides. There is a marina at the Rudee Inlet which is very close to the Virginia Beach Boardwalk and within walking distance to the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The other big attraction in Virginia Beach is the Virginia Aquarium which also has a cruise on Owl Creek as well as ample parking. Ferries and private cruises could connect these places in ways that coach buses, trains, trucks, campers, and cars can't. People enjoy being out on boats.</p> <p>i think it would be nice to have a privately owned cruise, perhaps a riverboat similar to the Gateway Three River Cruises in Pittsburgh or the General Jackson in Nashville. The private cruise would have a banquet dining room on the first deck to feature</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Elisa R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Public and private cruises
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I would add not only coach buses, but definitely a regularly scheduled HRT ferry from the Norfolk and Portsmouth Watersides. I think it would be nice to have a private riverboat cruise with a narrated tour, dinner, and entertainment with a theme of Hampton Roads and Fort Monroe. It might have semi-formal gourmet banquet facilities on the first deck, casual inexpensive buffet on the second deck, and an outdoor observation deck with a light snack bar and souvenir shop. I have been on the Gateway Three Rivers Cruise in Pittsburgh as well as the General Jackson in Nashville and the Elizabeth River Ferry, American Rover, Carrie B, and Spirit of Norfolk locally. Actually I think it would be great to have ferries from some of the other Hampton Roads Communities also, but at least one. Keep it very affordable so everyone can enjoy this treasure.</p> <p>I think it would be great in the future to have a local steam engine locomotive ride since the new museum will open in Portsmouth this November.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Elisa R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Dog Park, Licenses, Gym
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>These are a little more small-scale than most ideas here, but I think they could help Ft Monroe economically. A dog park would work great in Ft Monroe. FMA housing is very dog friendly, and even though I've only lived here for 2 weeks, I've already noticed a lot of people have dogs. I only know of one dog park in Hampton, at Sandy Bottom Nature Park. A dog park on Ft Monroe could be free to residents, and require a yearly membership from non-residents (much like Sandy Bottom). Another thought I had is to have a Ft Monroe state license plate made, which would raise money for the FMA, or for the upkeep of the park. I'm not certain of the status of the old gym, on Ruckman Road, but that could also be re-opened and become an income generator.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Doug A
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	4
<b>Comment 1</b>	<p>I would definitely add a minted coin and postage stamp for collectors. Also add a gift shop which sells post cards, books, photographs, paintings, garments, and other novelties. Also I would allow for the film industry to shoot movies and historic documentaries as long as they stay within the theme of the park.   By Elisa R</p>

<b>Comment 2</b>	Add minted coins and postage stamps for collector's items. Also I understand how it might be nice to have a dog trail. People like to take their dogs on walks and play games with them. Many parks accommodate dogs. Allow filming at Fort Monroe. Historic movies and documentaries have been made at Harper's Ferry. There is a community within the fort. I think whatever is done should be restricted to keep within the theme of the park though irregardless of whether it's commercial or for public enjoyment.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 3</b>	I could understand how a designated dog trails could enhance the park. I also like your idea about the license plates. People also collect minted coins and postage stamps. I would definitely add a gift shop with books, post cards, garments, mugs, etc...   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 4</b>	I like your idea of the Fort Monroe License Plate. I agree with you that this could be an excellent way to raise funds. I'll add minted coins and postage stamps to your list as many collect those also. I would love to see a gift shop where one could buy souvenirs of the fort such as plates, post cards, books, DVDs, garments, mugs, etc..  Open Fort Monroe for films. I know that Harper's Ferry has been used for on-site filming. This could bring some extra revenue to operate the expenses of the park. Inside the fort, there is a small community with beautiful homes and churches. I do think though that there should be strict guidelines for commercial and residential propositions so that the historic significance of the park is maintained as well as its natural beauty and recreational resources. I think there is a way to balance ideas to provide extras while still maintaining the original goal. I've visited Harper's Ferry, and Mt. Ver   By Elisa R
<b>Idea Title</b>	Legacy time for the FMA
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Surely, developers would focus their attention on North Gate and the 20 or so southwest acres of Wherry IF the Wherry land between the two parts of the National Monument were officially designated a park space in perpetuity. Residential development in these other areas could generate a lot of revenue, and quickly--that is, if developers weren't put off by the proposed veterans' nursing facility.  Also, the state should apply the barometer of statewide economic health to Fort Monroe. Even if the FMA did not get much revenue from tourism, Hampton would benefit, and the boost to Hampton's economy would benefit the Commonwealth. It is to the state's advantage, in other words, to invest in Fort Monroe, making it a truly beautiful place for visitors. If the state can secure \$41 million for the construction of a Yorktown Victory Center through the sale of bonds, it can make a similar investment in improving Fort Monroe's infrastructure and reclaiming Wherry as park space--and do so for the same reason: the overall benefit, both cultural and economic, to the state and its citizens. The FMA should be advocating for even more funding than it's getting now. Fort Monroe isn't just another BRAC property; it's a national historic treasure and a potentially extraordinary urban park.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Scott B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	revenue generators
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Historic events reenactments, fireworks with food vendors, camping facilities, boat excursion tour pier (with excursion boats, of course and ferries). The rehab housing for our vets is a great idea! They deserve the peace and safety of the Fort. Also do everything we can to get that Scrap school on the Fort...I think that's the 'name' of the science, math school looking for a home. Also, make sure the marina is well maintained.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Pat W
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Train replica or tram amusement ride
<b>Idea Detail</b>	People love trains and enjoy scenic rides. A feasibility study would have to be done in respect to old trains and railroads. However, even if we couldn't use an authentic steam engine locomotive, we could look at amusement theme parks which have scenic tram rides connecting one part of a park to another. I've visited Disneyworld in Orlando Florida. I enjoyed their train ride as well as the river boat on Lake Buena Vista. I have also seen such rides at Six Flags Great Adventure In New Jersey. I think this could be done keeping within the theme of the time period too.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Elisa R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Water-taxi service from downtown Hampton
<b>Idea Detail</b>	A recent story in the Daily Press provided an update on Dr. Harvey's ideas for Hampton's downtown. One of the ideas mentioned was for a water-taxi between there and Old Point Comfort. That seems like a natural to me.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Albert S
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Repeat Local Visitation -- The Key to Financial Sustainability
<b>Idea Detail</b>	As anyone who has lived in the core of Hampton Roads knows, there are very few large green spaces to turn to for recreation and serenity on a Sunday afternoon. And there are none that are along the beautiful Chesapeake Bay and have historical attractions and the possibility of restaurants, entertainment and culture immediately proximate to natural waterfront lands. The draw of a truly splendid grand public place at Fort Monroe will be huge for the 1.7 million Hampton Roads residents, and the opportunity for generating revenue from that visitation equally great. To be that place, the 50 or 55 acres between the National Monument's North each and the fortress, from the Bay to Mill Creek, along with Batteries Irwin and Parrott, need to be preserved and ultimately added to the National Monument. A developed or even partially developed heart of the Wherry Quarter will deny Hampton Roads the appeal of natural lands integrated with historic properties and amenities, mediocritize Fort Monroe, and diminish local visitation revenue opportunities by making Fort Monroe a place you visit once every few years rather than go there again and again.  The grand Fort Monroe will also increase outside the area tourism and revenue therefrom and significantly heighten the value of

<b>Idea Author</b>	mark P
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Annual German-style Christmas Market
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Reference the 21 January MSNBC article on German Christmas markets at <a href="http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/12/21/16045939-germanys-latest-big-export-christmas-markets?lite">http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/12/21/16045939-germanys-latest-big-export-christmas-markets?lite</a></p> <p>Imagine thousands of people coming annually to a large scale German style Christmas market each November &amp; December with German and U.S Christmas crafts and decorations, as well as food and beverage gifts.</p> <p>Several locations across FT Monroe have sufficient space to support this Christmas market concept, including the fort's parade ground or in the open space across from the former Bay Breeze Club. The Christmas market could start small while still having sufficient space to expand if the concept catches on. This could be a boon for both economic development as well as tourism and the arts.</p> <p>This concept could potentially even support a year-round Käthe Wohlfahrt Christmas store.</p> <p>Also see <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_markets">en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_markets</a></p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Glenn B
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	1
<b>Comment 1</b>	Prevent this trivial, commercial marketing at an historic site. This does not honor or enhance such an important part of our heritage of freedom.   By Peter P
<b>Idea Title</b>	PSA - Black History is America's History
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I think that a prerequisite for receiving a substantial amount of tourism money is to challenge the basis for the American historic tourism model as it currently works. Sites related to the American enslaved, their struggles and rebellions, and their triumphs are often regarded by white Americans as being somehow for a specialized audience, an optional extra to the real meat of history, or at worst "pandering" to a different demographic. Fort Monroe's most critical and interesting event was the contraband escape at the beginning of the Civil War, an event that focuses on black heroism and action rather than white benevolence.</p> <p>I think a PSA explicitly acknowledging this would cause a bit of a stir, advertise the new national park, and challenge people's assumptions. One design could be that it includes an advertisement for the park, explaining the site's importance in the Civil War and the bravery of Frank Baker, James Townsend and Sheppard Mallory. In the middle of the advertisement it could be interrupted by an announcer or similar saying that most of the white audience has probably checked out at this point, thinking that the site isn't for them - then the rest of the PSA can be a discussion of what it does when the history of a large segment of the population does not "count" as history in the same way that Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation did.</p> <p>Given the Sesquicentennial of Emancipation in 2013, this would be important and timely.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Ellen C
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	The arts do provide a way for local members of the community to interpret history and share it with others . Some ideas included museums, reading rooms and libraries, restaurants and eateries, gift shops, boutiques and the community theater.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 2</b>	<p>It seems like you are concerned that this becomes so commercialized that the original historic purpose of the park is totally lost. You are concerned that it may become very expensive.</p> <p>I think there a number of ways to zone the park or parks should there be more than one.</p> <p>This is why, while I originally favored the idea of making this into a national park, I also considered another option which is to divide this into a national monument, historic district, and state park or forest. I have seen national and state parks divided into different sections too.</p> <p>this park should be for the public. I think the fees should be kept reasonable so that others are not excluded. I recognize that there are fees involved in reconstruction and maintenance.</p> <p>I also think there should be educational opportunities. These may include ideas like libraries, museums, information centers, nature houses, and even historic community playhouses. The arts can provide this interpretive media.   By Elisa R</p>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Rent Accomodations in the Historic Area
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Works for Williamsburg - why not here?
<b>Idea Author</b>	Roberta J
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Waterside Port Authorities
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Waterside Park-N-Ride Options might include a Visitor/Information Center at Fort Monroe, the Portsmouth Visitor Center, Marketplace at the Norfolk Waterside, a Virginia Beach Motel near Rudee Inlet with expanded service to the Virginia Aquarium, a marina on the Chesapeake Bay in Chesapeake, and the connector route serving Jamestown, Yorktown, and Jamestown and public ferries and privately operated cruises.</p> <p>Shuttle service at the Park-N-Ride Stations include local sightseeing buses which connect business clients, tourists, and residents to museums, restaurants, shops, the Hampton Coliseum, and Virginia Air Space Museum, as well as train and bus terminals. They can provide food, restrooms, travel agencies, gift shops, tourist information, and centralized computerized ticketing services.</p> <p>Ferries and privately operated boats would be available during the peak tourist season from April 1st through October 31st. I don't want Fort Monroe to be a hub in itself though. I have no objection to having some tourism; however, I think there need to be restrictions established to preserve its purpose as a historic monument and guidelines should be in place in respect to</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Elisa R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0

<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Promotion of tourism
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Often the first place a tourist visits is one's motel. As one walks into the lobby, one sees a few shelves with brochures of local attractions. This is also true for our state operated visitor centers at rest stops. Some times gift shops also have different gifts not only promoting each designation, but also local places of interest. I know that by the Virginia Beach Boardwalk, we have the Visitor's Guide and coupon books. I have read Hampton Roads Magazine from time to time. The Virginia Pilot also has information of this nature, especially on weekends. I also see this on television.</p> <p>Do I think Hampton Roads does enough? No.</p> <p>Another problem I see is transportation. We have many waterways connecting the various Hampton Roads communities. There are also plenty of marinas and piers. i'd like to see more park-n-ride stations that are designed to accommodate tourists and local residents. These stations should have public restrooms, food courts, and gift shops with shelves of brochures. Actually I think that if we had centralized ticket areas, tourists could buy tickets for trains, boats, coach tours, public transit, and special events at a few designated locations where crowds gather. I would like the area by Fort Monroe to be designated for at least one national monument although there is the potential for two or three parks, monouments, and forests designated for different uses and managed by different jurisdictions. Actually I still do hope it will become a National Park. i don't want good ideas to be scrapped</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Elisa R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	TV Programs
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>The restoration and maintenance of national historic districts and national landmarks can become a very expensive proposition as the owners are required to follow specific guidelines in respect to materials and methods. This is why I listed the various home improvement channels.</p> <p>Cable channels do attract different audiences. They cover different topics. This doesn't have to be a problem. It can be an asset for the writers, editors, producers, technical crew, and performers. It can be an asset for Hampton Roads. Remember, this comes from the perspective of the writers and editors and the mission for each channel.</p> <p>I do not want to have a situation where the park becomes exclusive in price to the very people who should benefit from it. This is where funding from various sources could actually keep costs reasonable whether it's a-la-carte or one admission package. Times are tight. I have taken vacations already where I had to change my plans due to unexpected admission fees or suggested donations, hidden fees, expensive menus, and tipping policies.</p> <p>I think we still have a treasure and hope that we develop this region as in a way that maintains the valuable contributions</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Elisa R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Auctions
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Auctions have often been used for fundraising and in some cases, have been come famous nationally and internationally. Some are silent and others are not. I think a few auctions per year might help generate revenue. These auctions could cater to different income levels.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Elisa R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Appraisers
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>I do watch the TV show where individuals bring in their treasures to be appraised. Restrictions would be included to address legitimate security concerns of recent tragedies. Nationally and internationally, art and fashion auctions have done quite well. Sometimes people have gems and don't even realize it. Other times they find what they have is not authentic or is unsellable.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	Elisa R
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Number of Points</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Topic Name (Instant Poll)</b>	<b>Your Community</b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Natural Features
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	6
<b>Idea Title</b>	Atmosphere / Character
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Idea Title</b>	Family Oriented
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	5
<b>Idea Title</b>	Location
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Idea Title</b>	Quiet Community
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	4
<b>Idea Title</b>	Safety
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	3
<b>Idea Title</b>	Active Lifestyle
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Idea Title</b>	Affordability
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Idea Title</b>	Community Pride

<b>Number of Seconds</b>	2
<b>Idea Title</b>	Climate
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Idea Title</b>	Creative Class
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Idea Title</b>	Friendly People
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Idea Title</b>	Higher Education
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Idea Title</b>	Job
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Idea Title</b>	Proximity to Work
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	1
<b>Idea Title</b>	Live Entertainment Venues
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Restaurants
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Schools
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Shopping
<b>Number of Seconds</b>	0
<b>Comments</b>	
<b>Number of Comments</b>	13
<b>Comment 1</b>	Fort Monroe should become a grand public place for the American people, that includes a community within it. The development mind-set that the master planner reveals in this question is a great disappointment. Apparently the planner believes Hampton Roads is not deserving of a grand public green landscape in its core, at the last place where such a place is achievable, and instead must litter its waterfront lands with development, as is the case all over the rest of the Hampton Roads waterfront. Perhaps the Boston Charles River waterfront should also be littered with development, diminishing Boston and Cambridge.   By mark P
<b>Comment 2</b>	"Disappointment" indeed. The dishonestly misframed process for post-Army Fort Monroe has been rigged from the start in 2005 by back-room insiders so as to transfer the heart of this national *public* treasure's landscape mainly to local *private* profit. Now that America really is finally about to lose Fort Monroe forever--as clearly shown by the relentless disingenuousness of the Sasaki consultants--it's important for people to speak truth to power, as Mark Perreault has done here. Mark is president of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park. Some of us disagree with some of what that small, public-excluding group does, but everyone knows they've tried hard to work within the dishonestly rigged system. Are you listening, Cathy Lewis of WHRV? Are you listening, Rob Nieweg at the National Trust for Historic Preservation? Will you two and your crucial organizations now finally use your stature to make unification the issue among the powerful that it has long been among everyone else?   By Steve C
<b>Comment 3</b>	If you are speaking regionally, then I am confused by your post. There are already parks with more greenspace than Fort Monroe could offer, and Newport News Park is the second largest municipal park in the entire United States. Chesapeake City Park alone has more contiguous greenspace than any configuration of Wherry/Crescent could pretend to offer. Mt. Trashmore could hold Wherry three times over if it wanted. If you want that sort of park in Hampton, or aren't satisfied with the views those other parks offer, then perhaps that would be more accurate than making the lamentation of a Lorax that Hampton Roads is overrun with asphalt and concrete, with a the last tree dying while watching the expansion of I-64.   By Andrew S
<b>Comment 4</b>	I object to the uncalled-for "Lorax" sarcasm in Andrew S25's belated reply to the Nov. 3 comment of Mark Perreault, who was justly present in the Oval Office when the president designated a national monument that, unfortunately, is a fake one. Andrew S25, where have you been for eight years? Are you aware of the Trust for Public Land study that compared Tidewater's _waterfront_ green space unfavorably with that of other major US coastal metropolitan regions? It's not at all clear why the Fort Monroe Authority has reopened but limited the discussion for a few days this winter. But if you want a discussion of why it's important to include the missing bayfront land in the national monument, just look around you. You could start at the entry that gained the most votes by far in any of the discussion rounds: <a href="http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres">http://ideas.fmauthority.com/fort-monroe-authority-describe-what-fort-monroe-means-to-you/please-unify-nat-l-monument-by-including-missing-bayfront-acres</a> Thanks. Steve Corneliusen   By Steve C
<b>Comment 5</b>	Hampton Roads is one large COMMUNITY. There are also many smaller communities located within Hampton Roads. Fort Monroe does not need to duplicate what's in any of these other smaller communities. First of all it is the location of Fort Monroe National Monument and every aspect of planning that takes place should keep that in mind. Fort Monroe belongs to the nation and even those who chose to live in the historic village and north gate areas should remember that. People who come here will find those areas of interest too. If we are wise we will keep any new development in those areas and devote the Wherry Quarter and the South Waterfront area to public use as part of Fort Monroe National Monument. That way there will be less potential for conflict between residents and visitors. Above all Fort Monroe is special for its uniqueness and any subdividing of this land will diminish that uniqueness and make it another waterfront community, making it less desirable for visitors.   By Adrian W
<b>Comment 6</b>	Live here because family moved here in 1962. If they were not here, I would leave.  Would prefer a city with far less Section-8 housing; much lower crime rate; fewer condos and apartment complexes; fewer shopping centers and chain eateries; more appreciation and preservation of history; more open, unspoilt and accessible public lands and waters; and an elevated level of cultural consciousness and intellect among the populace.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 7</b>	Live here because family moved here in 1962. If they were not here, I would leave.  Would prefer a city with far less Section-8 housing, much lower crime rate, less condos and apartment complexes, fewer shopping centers and chain eateries, more appreciation and preservation of history, more open and unspoilt public lands and waters, and an elevated level of cultural consciousness and intellect among the populace.    By Luis O

<b>Comment 8</b>	Live here because family moved here in 1962. If they were not here, I would leave.   By Luis O
<b>Comment 9</b>	pet friendly too!   By Jeannie W
<b>Comment 10</b>	I like low-rise cities with lots of natural landscaping.   By Elisa R
<b>Comment 11</b>	"YOUR COMMUNITY" should not be looked as just Fort Monroe. The "COMMUNITY" should be looked at as all of Hampton Roads and the nation. Hampton Roads needs the open space that can be created in what is known as the Wherry Quarter. There is no other open area in Hampton Roads that can equal what can be created with careful managed removal of existing structures and restoration of green space. Communities around the country are buying up old unused properties and returning them to green space for the benefit of their citizens. At Fort Monroe we have a opportunity for green space that few communities have.... the buildings are already owned by the FMA and at the end of their useful service life can be demolished and not replaced.   By Ron W
<b>Comment 12</b>	I enjoy walking and biking, and my area of Newport News has quiet, shady streets and a main street with a sidewalk, as well as nearness to Mariner's Museum Park, which is about the size of Fort Monroe (550 acres) with a 5-mile walking trail through woods around a lake, plus the Mariner's Museum and the Peninsula Art Museum. The park is used extensively, and it gives some idea of how appealing Fort Monroe could be to visitors when you add the Bay shoreline, various water activities, the beaches, picnic facilities, biking and walking trails, and open-space events--all in the context of Fort Monroe's extraordinary history, historic architecture, and the restaurant, retail, and other commercial offerings to visitors that should become part of the historic village and perhaps North Gate. But this optimal fusion of recreational space and other amenities will be lost if the Wherry Quarter becomes a private or only a semi-public area. Wherry should be parkland.   By Scott B
<b>Comment 13</b>	Newport News City Park, by the Mariner's Museum has inexpensive canoe, paddle and row boat rentals in addition to the above-mentioned nature trail and campgrounds and picnic facilities. We took my husband's in-laws to the Mariner Museum too.   By Elisa R
<b>Survey</b>	<b><i>Events, Programs &amp; Activities at Fort Monroe</i></b>
<b>Question</b>	<b><i>Of the events, programs, and activities you personally attended at Fort Monroe over the past year, what were your favorites? (select up to 5)</i></b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Casemate Museum Halloween Lantern Tours</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Establishment of the Fort Monroe National Monument Celebration</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Casemate Museum Christmas Tours</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Holly Days (Christmas tree lighting at Continental Park)</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Casemate Museum Valentine Tours</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Casemate Museum Military History Cinema Nights</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>NPS Ranger Led Tour (Fort Monroe in 1862)</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Chapel of the Centurion Easter Sunrise Service</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Angel and the Dying Unknown Sculpture at Continental Park</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Casemate Museum Civil War Living History Activity with NY 99th Volunteer Regiment</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Flag Raising Ceremony</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Adam Goodheart's Civil War Discussion</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>YMCA Day Camps</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>OpSail 2012 Virginia</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Music by the Bay Summer Concerts</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>NPS Trading Card Tours</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Civil War Mobile at Hampton Cup Regatta</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>1619 Arrival of First Africans to Virginia Commemoration</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Virginia Symphony</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Casemate Museum Defender of the Chesapeake Tour</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Outlook Beach</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Casemate Museum</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Wedding at Continental Park Bandstand</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Rented a Picnic Shelter</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Fished at Engineer's Pier</i></b>
<b>Votes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Entry</b>	<b><i>Dined at the Chamberlin</i></b>

Votes	0
Entry	<i>Rented a slip at the Old Point Comfort Marina</i>
Votes	0
Entry	<i>Boat Ramp at Old Point Comfort Marina</i>
Votes	0
Entry	<i>Dined at the Marina Café</i>
Votes	0
Entry	<i>Attended a Wedding or other Service at the Chapel of the Centurion</i>
Votes	0
Entry	<i>Visited Paradise Ocean Club</i>
Votes	2
Entry	<i>Stayed at the Paradise Ocean Club RV Park</i>
Votes	0
Entry	<i>Walked or Biked the Seawall</i>
Votes	3
Entry	<i>Walked the Fort Ramparts and/or Moat Walk</i>
Votes	2
Entry	<i>Fitness Trail</i>
Votes	0
Entry	<i>Soccer/Ball Fields, Tennis/Basketball Courts</i>
Votes	0
Entry	<i>Playgrounds/Park Benches and Picnic Tables</i>
Votes	0
Entry	<i>Mill Creek for Paddling and/or other Water Sports</i>
Votes	0
Entry	<i>Batteries Irwin and Parrott</i>
Votes	1
Entry	<i>Wildlife Observation Platform</i>
Votes	1
Question	<i>Would you have attended your favorite events, programs, and activities at Fort Monroe over the past year if there had been a fee charged by the Fort Monroe Authority?</i>
Entry	<i>Yes</i>
Votes	10
Entry	<i>No</i>
Votes	2
Entry	<i>Maybe (please explain?)</i>
Votes	3
Answer	<i>Better be really careful about this. Fort Monroe belongs to the public.</i>
Answer	<i>Depended on cost</i>
Answer	<i>depending on how much the fee is</i>
Comments	
Number of Comments	5
Comment 1	Fort Monroe is a perfect venue for Tidewater races. A lot of people pay good money to enter and run these races, and would jump at the opportunity to run along the beach, along the moat, or any other number of picturesque scenes on Fort Monroe. Everything from a 5k to a 13.1 (with a little repetition) is possible. Freedom Runs can bring in not only participants, but sponsors and vendors.   By Andrew S
Comment 2	The size of the fee, especially for children, may be the key. It needs to be high enough to generate real revenue but not so high to discourage visitation, especially for young families with kids. Some events are probably better to treat as donations rather than fees.   By mark P
Comment 3	Fees for event attendance is one way to earn money for operations and staffing. The better the event the more that can be charged. In particular, I think frequent large outdoor events of all types will attract many people over a year and generate significant income for the FMA. An open and green Wherry Quarter will be needed to support such events.   By Ron W
Comment 4	You didn't have down the Hampton boat races. Will you have had The 4 of July fireworks but Hampton can not handle that . And concerts a lot of people came to that . Just look at the activities that they have had at the new beach club .(officers club) I guess some should look at the summer activities that bring people to the fort .   By John W
Comment 5	It seems to me that the Fort Monroe Authority and National Park Service staffs are doing a great job of opening up most of Fort Monroe to public uses. I thought OpSail, for example, was simply grand. It's true that elsewhere in this online forum I have a lot to say about what I believe is the continued indefensible misframing of the whole question of post-Army Fort Monroe, which ought to be treated as a public national treasure primarily -- and only secondarily, and within limited borders, as a flourishing but mostly privatized village or community. In this topic category of "Events, Programs & Activities," though, I'd also like to say to the staffs: Thanks for all you do. Steven T. Corneliussen, <a href="http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/">http://www.fortmonroenationalpark.org/</a>   By Steve C