



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

What's New / What's Cool in 2013

Major Projects Scheduled for 2013

Light Stations

- Major lighthouse preservation efforts for Michigan, Devils, Outer, Sand, and Long Islands will be done this year. Work will begin late spring and is expected to be completed in 2013. However, it may extend into early 2014. The work includes extensive interior and exterior repairs, and re-opening of the historic clearings around several of the lights. Temporary closures will be needed at:
 - Michigan Island light station and dock
 - Devils Island light station
 - Outer Island light station and dock
 - Long Island light station and dock
 - Sand Island light station

Closures will be posted at: <http://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/current-closures.htm>

More details on this project are available at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/APIS>.

- The privies at the Outer Island and Sand Island light stations will be replaced.
- Long Island light station – removal of vegetation near the building to increase air circulation and mold/moisture mitigation at the Keeper's Quarters Triplex will continue in 2013.

Dock and Marina Work

- Dredging will be done, as needed, at Little Sand Bay and Stockton Presque Isle.
- Little Sand Bay Marina – 5 finger piers will be built and the main dock lowered beginning in 2013. Two finger piers will be completed by mid-summer and the remaining piers completed by the beginning of the 2014 visitor season. The finger pier closest to the shore will be made ADA accessible. During 2014, the main dock will be lowered.

Other Infrastructure Projects

- In 2012, a new campsite was established on Long Island and the Outer and Ironwood Island campsites relocated.
- A group site will be established on Rocky Island (previously sites 6 and 7) in time for the visitor season.
- Vault toilet replacement: Rocky Island (new group site) and York Island campsite.
- Installation of stump privies is planned for the following remote individual campsites: Rocky Island 1 and 3, Michigan Island 1, Manitou Island 1, and hopefully at the Mainland campsite.

Sustainability and Climate Change

- A new interactive kiosk was added to the “Changing Climate...Changing Cultures” exhibit at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in April 2013. The touchscreen kiosk features a curriculum called “Gikinoo’wizhiwe Onji Waaban (Guiding for Tomorrow), or G’WOW, that integrates climate science with place-based evidence of how climate change is affecting the natural resources used by the Ojibwe. The kiosk was developed with a grant from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program..
- The park received a *Parks Climate Challenge* grant from the National Park Foundation for the second consecutive year that will fund a four-day teacher workshop at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center July 15-18 to train teachers to integrate climate science with place-based evidence of how climate change is affecting natural resources and the cultures that depend on them. Teachers will be encouraged to develop service learning projects for their classes related to impacts of climate change, particularly relating to the Apostle Islands region.
- An exhibit focusing on the impacts of climate change in the Apostle Islands will be featured in the Stockton Island Visitor Center this summer.
- The park is working toward converting propane water heaters with solar water heaters and the use of propane powered push mowers and weed eaters.

Park Plans

- The park's Wildlife Management Plan for Harvestable Species is being updated and is scheduled for public review this summer. The planning team includes Park, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Tribal representatives.
- A plan for Sand Island is being developed. The plan's primary focus is on improving campsites, trails and docking for visitors. This plan is scheduled for public review this winter.



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Wildlife and Natural Resources

- Park staff and partners, with the help of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding, continue to reduce deer numbers on Sand and York Islands to protect Canada yew, implementing the park's Harvestable Wildlife Management Plan. The park protects some of the last areas where Canada yew can be seen on a landscape scale. Efforts have been very successful and Canada yew is beginning to recover. Venison from culled deer is donated to the Red Cliff tribe. Browse and pellet surveys will be done to monitor the effectiveness of management actions.
- A Northland College study to determine changes in the distribution and abundance of Canada yew throughout the park will be conducted this year.
- The Great Lakes I&M Network of the NPS will be conducting eagle surveys, monitoring water quality, and beginning to work on amphibian monitoring in the park.
- The GLRI is assisting the park with invasive species management. Funding is being provided for a biological technician to survey and control invasive plant species and for an invasive species interpreter to help communicate the threat of invasive species. A series of different media has been developed to help communicate the threat that invasive species present to the Great Lakes ecosystems, including posters, banner stands, and portable exhibits. Special efforts will be made to control pigweed, an invasive species that was recently found on Long and Michigan Islands.

Partnership Activities

- In 2013, *Island School*, an environmental education program for regional 5th and 6th graders, hosted nearly 120 students from five schools, including the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in 2013. The Friends of the Apostle Islands provided a generous transportation grant that made it possible for many of these students to attend Island School.
- The park received a *Park Stewards* grant from the National Park Foundation to fund the Apostle Islands Experiential Learning Partnership with the Bayfield School for a third year. Teacher Rick Erickson will continue to develop a series of service learning projects for Bayfield students directly relating to the Apostle Islands. In 2013, students helped build boardwalk on the Lakeshore Trail and removed downed branches and small trees from island trails. Erickson also led a teacher workshop in April featuring demonstrations of a "Lighthouse Physics Science Mentors" kit and an introduction to Lake Superior place-based lessons based on student research. Original student research will continue to be part of the partnership with students using trail cameras to census carnivore populations in the park. Boardwalk materials were provided by money from the *Park Stewards* grant and a grant from the National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation (<http://www.nplsf.org>).
- The US Coast Guard Auxiliary will provide volunteers to contact paddlers at Meyers Beach and at Little Sand Bay on Fridays and Saturdays this summer to discuss equipment and procedures to facilitate safe paddling in the park.
- Piping plover monitors will once again be stationed out at Long Island to monitor and protect piping plovers, as well as provide information to visitors. The monitors will work closely with the NPS, but will be Bad River employees, funded through the Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program. This project is only possible through a partnership with the Wisconsin DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bad River Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, and the Johnson Foundation.
- The Real-time Wave Observation System (RTWOS) at the Mainland Sea Caves will continue to provide wave heights and wave pictures this season via the internet at: <http://wavesatseacaves.cee.wisc.edu/index.htm>. Installation of a digital display at Meyers Beach to allow visitors to check conditions before they paddle to the caves is planned for this summer. RTWOS is being developed by the University of Wisconsin and UW Sea Grant. Friends of the Apostle Islands has been an important supporter and contributor to this project.
- The Friends and the NPS will be partnering to restore the historic Raspberry Island Boathouse, the structure that greets visitors as they arrive at the park's showcase light station. Friends have raised their share of the project (\$52,000). NPS is scheduled to have funding for our portion (\$155,000) and hope to initiate work on the foundation in 2014.
- The spectacular photos of the Milky Way over the Outer, Raspberry, Sand, and Devils Island lighthouses by Mark Weller and John Rummel have been a fundraising success for the Friends. This year's construction will preclude an expedition to photograph Michigan Island, but the Friends will issue a previously unreleased photo from the original Outer Island shoot in late summer. For more information on the photos, membership, or other opportunities to contribute, go to <http://www.friendsoftheapostleislands.org/>.



Outer Island Light