

Virgin Islands National Park

An Act To authorize the establishment of the Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes, approved August 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 940)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a portion of the Virgin Islands of the United States, containing outstanding scenic and other features of national significance, shall be established, as prescribed in section 2 hereof, as the "Virgin Islands National Park".

Virgin Islands National Park.

The national park shall be administered and preserved by the Secretary of the Interior in its natural condition for the public benefit and inspiration, in accordance with the laws governing the administration of the national parks (16 U.S.C. 1, and the following). (16 U.S.C. § 398.)

Administration.

39 Stat. 535.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized, subject to the following conditions and limitations, to proceed in such manner as he shall find to be necessary in the public interest to consummate the establishment of the Virgin Islands National Park:

Conditions and limitations.

(a) The acreage of the national park shall be limited to a total of not more than nine thousand five hundred acres of land area, such total to be comprised of not more than fifteen acres on the island of Saint Thomas, and not more than nine thousand four hundred and eighty-five additional acres to be comprised of portions of the island of Saint John and such small islands, rocks, and cays not in excess of five hundred acres in the general vicinity thereof as may be desirable for inclusion within the park;

(b) Tentative exterior boundary lines, to include land not in excess of the aforesaid acreage limitations, may be selected for the park in order to establish the particular areas in which land may be acquired pursuant to this Act, such tentative boundaries to be selected and adjusted as may be necessary by the Secretary of the Interior;

(c) The Secretary, on behalf of the United States, is authorized to accept donations of real and personal property within the areas selected for the park until such time as the aforesaid total of nine thousand five hundred acres shall have been acquired for the park by the United States, and he may also accept donations of funds for the purposes of this Act;

(d) Any Federal properties situated within the areas selected for the park upon agreement by the particular agency administering such properties that such properties should be made available for the park, may be transferred without further authorization to the Secretary by such agency for purposes of this Act;

(e) Establishment of the Virgin Islands National Park, in its initial phase, shall be and is hereby declared to be accomplished and effective for purposes of administration when a minimum acreage of not less than five thousand acres in Federal ownership for purposes of this Act shall have been acquired by the United States in specific areas containing such acquired lands to be designated by the Secretary; and

Publication
in F.R.

(f) Notice of the establishment of the park as authorized and prescribed by this Act shall be published in the Federal Register. (16 U.S.C. § 398a.)

Appropriation.

SEC. 3. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated from Federal funds a sum not in excess of \$60,000 for capital improvements for said Virgin Islands National Park, and a sum of not in excess of \$30,000 annually for the administration of the Virgin Islands National Park. (Repealed, 16 U.S.C. § 398b.)

An Act To amend the Act of August 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 940), providing for the establishment of the Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes, approved May 16, 1958 (72 Stat. 112)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act of August 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 940), entitled "An Act to authorize the establishment of the Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes" is hereby amended by striking section 3 therefrom. (16 U.S.C. § 398b.)

16 U.S.C. 398.

An Act To revise the boundaries of the Virgin Islands National Park, Saint John, Virgin Islands, and for other purposes, approved October 5, 1962 (76 Stat. 746)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in furtherance of the purposes of the Act of August 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 940), as amended, providing for the establishment of the Virgin Islands National Park, and in order to preserve for the benefit of the public significant coral gardens, marine life, and seascapes in the vicinity thereof, the boundaries of such park, subject to valid existing rights, are hereby revised to include the adjoining lands, submerged lands, and waters described as follows:

Virgin Islands
National
Park, Saint
John, V.I.
Boundary
revision.
16 U.S.C. 398.

NORTH OFFSHORE AREA

Beginning at the hereinafter lettered point A on the shore of Cruz Bay, a corner in the Virgin Islands National Park boundary, being also a corner of lot F, Cruz Bay, added to the park by order of designation signed June 29, 1960, by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Act of August 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 940), and published in the Federal Register of July 7, 1960, the said corner being the terminus of the course recited therein as "north 58 degrees 50 minutes west a distance of 20.0 feet, more or less, along Government land to a point;" for the third call in the metes and bounds description lot F, Cruz Bay.

25 F.R. 6408.

From the initial point A, distances in nautical miles, along direct courses between the hereinafter lettered points at geographic positions (latitudes north, longitudes west):

Northwestward approximately 0.13 mile to point B, latitude 18 degrees 20 minutes 08 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 47 minutes 43 seconds in Cruz Bay;

0.43 mile to point C, latitude 18 degrees 20 minutes 08 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 48 minutes 10 seconds in Pillsbury Sound;

1.99 miles to point F, latitude 18 degrees ²¹ 22 minutes 30 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 48 minutes 10 seconds in Windward Passage;

1.64 miles to point E, latitude 18 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 46 minutes 35 seconds in the Atlantic Ocean;

1.99 miles to point F, latitude 18 degrees 22 minutes 45 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 44 minutes 35 seconds in the Narrows;

3.18 miles to point G, latitude 18 degrees 22 minutes 00 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 41 minutes 20 seconds in Sir Francis Drake Channel;

1.04 miles to point H, latitude 18 degrees 21 minutes 10 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 40 minutes 40 seconds in Haulover Bay;

Southwestward approximately 0.22 mile to point I, a bound post on the shore of Haulover Bay marking a corner of the Virgin Islands National Park boundary as shown on drawing numbered NP-VI-7000 entitled "Acquisition Area Virgin Islands National Park", approved November 15, 1956, by the Acting Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 2, 1956, supra, being also the southeasterly corner of estate Haulover 5a and 5c east end quarter as delineated on the municipality of Saint Thomas and Saint John drawing PW file numbered 9-24-T51 dated October 26, 1950;

Thence running generally westward along the Virgin Islands National Park northerly boundary as it follows the northerly shore of the island of Saint John as shown on the said drawing numbered NP-VI-7000 and on drawing numbered NP-VI-7003 entitled "Land Ownership Cruz Bay Creek" depicting the boundary adjustment affected by the said order of designation to point A, the point of beginning.

The area described contains approximately 4,100 acres.

SOUTH OFFSHORE AREA

Beginning at the hereinafter lettered point L, a concrete bound post on the shore of Drunk Bay marking a northeasterly corner in the Virgin Islands National Park boundary as shown on the said drawing numbered NP-VI-7000, being also the northeasterly corner of parcel numbered 1, estate Concordia (A), as delineated on the Leo R. Sibilly, civil engineer, drawing file numbered C9-13-T55.

From the initial point L, distances in nautical miles, along direct courses between the hereinafter lettered points at geographic positions (latitudes north, longitudes west):

Eastward approximately 0.32 mile to point M, latitude 18 degrees 18 minutes 48 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 41 minutes 50 seconds in Sabbat Channel;

0.88 mile to point N, latitude 18 degrees 17 minutes 55 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 41 minutes 50 seconds in the Caribbean Sea;

0.40 mile to point O, latitude 18 degrees 17 minutes 55 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 42 minutes 15 seconds in the Caribbean Sea;

1.88 miles to point P, latitude 18 degrees 18 minutes 48 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 44 minutes 00 seconds in the Caribbean Sea;

1.74 miles to point Q, latitude 18 degrees 18 minutes 48 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 45 minutes 50 seconds in the Caribbean Sea;

0.45 mile to point R, latitude 18 degrees 19 minutes 15 seconds, longitude 64 degrees 45 minutes 50 seconds in Fish Bay;

Eastward approximately 0.08 mile to point S on the shore of Fish Bay, a corner in the present Virgin Islands National Park, as delineated on said drawing numbered NP-VI-7000, being the northwesterly corner of parcel numbered 2 estate Fish Bay, numbered 8 Reef Bay Quarter, and the terminus of the delineated course "south 78 degrees 52 minutes west distance 1,178.9 feet" as depicted on the Leo R. Sibilly, civil engineer, drawing file numbered G9-385-T56.

Thence running generally eastward along the present southerly park boundary as it follows the southerly shore of the island of Saint John as depicted on the said drawing numbered NP-VI-7000 to point L, the point of beginning.

The area described contains approximately 1,550 acres.

Lands, submerged lands, and waters added to the Virgin Islands National Park pursuant to this Act shall be subject to administration by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1-4), as amended and supplemented.

SEC. 2. Within the boundaries of Virgin Islands National Park as established and adjusted pursuant to the Act of August 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 940), and as revised by this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire lands, waters, and interests therein by purchase, exchange or donation or with donated funds.

Acquisition of
lands, etc.
16 U.S.C. 398.

SEC. 3. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorizing any limitation on customary uses of or access to the areas specified in section 1 for bathing and fishing (including setting out of fishpots and landing boats), subject to such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may find reasonable and necessary for protection of natural conditions and prevention of damage to marine life and formations.

SEC. 4. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, but not more than \$1,250,000, as are necessary to acquire lands pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

An Act to provide for increases in appropriation ceilings and boundary changes in certain units of the National Park System, to authorize appropriations for additional costs of land acquisition for the National Park System, and for other purposes. (88 Stat. 1445) (P.L. 93-477)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—ACQUISITION CEILING INCREASES

SEC. 101. The limitations on appropriations for the acquisition of lands and interests therein within units of the National Park System contained in the following Acts are amended as follows:

* * * * *

(10) Virgin Islands National Park, Virgin Islands: Section 4 of the Act of October 5, 1962 (76 Stat. 748; 16 U.S.C. 398f) is amended by changing "\$1,250,000" to "\$12,250,000".

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Approved October 26, 1974.

An Act to authorize appropriations for certain insular areas of the United States, and for other purposes. (92 Stat. 487) (P.L. 95-348)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

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VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

SEC. 7. (a)(1) The first paragraph of section 1 of the Act of October 5, 1962 (76 Stat. 746; 16 U.S.C. 398c), is amended by adding a comma after the words "adjoining lands, submerged lands, and waters" and inserting "and Hassel Island located in Saint Thomas Harbor and adjoining lands, submerged lands, and waters,".

(2) Such section 1 is further amended by inserting immediately before the last paragraph, the following:

"HASSEL ISLAND

"The area known as Hassel Island in Saint Thomas Harbor consisting of approximately 135 acres, together with such adjoining lands, submerged lands, and waters as the Secretary of the Interior deems appropriate, but the boundaries shall not, in any event, extend beyond 100 yards from the mean high water mark of the island."

(b) Section 2 of such Act is amended by—

(1) inserting "(a)" after "SEC. 2.";

(2) adding at the end of the first sentence the following: "In acquiring such lands, up to 6.6 acres, the Secretary may, when agreed upon by the landowner involved, defer payment or schedule payments over a period of ten years and pay interest on the unpaid balance at a rate not exceeding the current prevailing commercial rate.", and

(3) adding the following at the end thereof:

"(b) The Secretary is authorized and directed to the maximum extent feasible to employ and train residents of the Virgin Islands to develop, maintain, and administer the Virgin Islands National Park.

"(c) Subject to continued protection and use of Hassel Island for park and recreation purposes, and such other conditions as the Secretary may deem appropriate, the Territory of the Virgin Islands may, within, but not after, five years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, by duly enacted legislation acquire all interests of the United States in Hassel Island by reimbursing the United States in an amount equal to the amount actually expended by the United States for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands and for the costs of construction of permanent improvements, if any.

"(d)(1) Except for property deemed necessary by the Secretary of the Interior for visitor facilities or administration of the park, any owner or owners of improved property on Hassel Island on the date of its acquisition, may retain for themselves a right of use and occupancy of the property for noncommercial residential purposes for twenty-five years or, in lieu thereof, for a term ending at the death of the owner or the owner's spouse, whichever is later. The owner shall elect the term to be reserved. The Secretary shall pay to the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of such acquisition, less the fair market value on such date of the right retained by the owner. The authority of the Secretary to acquire the property commonly known as the Royal Mail (hotel) by condemnation shall be suspended for ten years from the date of enactment if such owner or owners agree, in writing, within ninety days after the enactment of this subsection to grant to the United States the right to purchase such property at a purchase price, mutually agreed upon by the Secretary and the landowner, which does not exceed the fixed value of said property on July 1, 1978.

"(2) As used in subsection (d)(1), 'improved property' means a single-family dwelling, the construction of which began before January 1, 1977, together with such lands as are in the same ownership and appurtenant buildings located thereon.

"(3) The Secretary may terminate a right of use and occupancy retained pursuant to subsection (d)(1) upon

or may be, exercised in a manner inconsistent with the purposes for which they were included within the park and upon tender to the holder of such right of the amount equal to the value of that portion of the right which remains unexpired on the date of termination."

(4) Section 3 is amended by inserting "(a)" immediately after "SEC. 3." and by adding the following new subsection at the end thereof:

"(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no fee or charge shall be imposed for entrance or admission into the Virgin Islands National Park."

(5) Section 4 is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. Effective October 1, 1978, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands within the Virgin Islands National Park. For purposes of this section, acquisitions of land on Hassel Island shall be deemed to be acquisitions qualifying for payment under the provisions of paragraph (2) of the Act of June 10, 1977 (Public Law 95-42; 91 Stat. 210). In addition to such sums as may have heretofore been appropriated for development of public facilities within the Virgin Islands National Park, effective October 1, 1978, there are authorized to be appropriated not more than \$1,000,000 for restoration and rehabilitation of historic structures and for development of public facilities on Hassel Island, and not more than \$500,000 as a grant to the Territory of the Virgin Islands for its use in furthering projects undertaken pursuant to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the Historic Preservation Act, or other comparable programs upon the transfer of title to the United States of all properties held by the territory on Hassel Island."

(6) Section 2(c) of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the establishment of the Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes" (70 Stat. 940; 16 U.S.C. 398) is amended by adding the following sentence at the end thereof: "Notwithstanding the acreage limitations and boundary designations contained in this section, the Secretary is authorized to accept through donation, or purchase from a willing seller, the real and personal property located on Lots 251-252 Estate Contant Enighed, Parcels 86B and 86AA Cruz Bay Quarter."

AUTHORIZATIONS TO REMAIN AVAILABLE

SEC. 8. Any amount authorized by this Act or by the Act entitled "An Act to authorize certain appropriations for the territories of the United States, to amend certain Acts relating thereto, and for other purposes" (Public Law 95-134; 91 Stat. 1159) but not appropriated for a fiscal year is authorized to be available for appropriation in succeeding fiscal years.

SEC. 9. Section 501 of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize certain appropriations for the territories of the United States, to amend certain Acts relating thereto, and for other purposes" (Public Law 95-134; 91 Stat. 1159) is amended—

(1) by inserting ", notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary," after "it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress"; and

(2) in subsection (a) by striking out "Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any" and inserting in lieu thereof "Any".

SEC. 10. Authorizations of moneys to be appropriated under this Act shall be effective on October 1, 1978.

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Approved August 18, 1978.