

Civic Engagement for NPS-GVI Land Swap for New School on St. John  
Virgin Islands National Park (VIIS)

NPS Public Engagement:

- April-June 2023
  - Responses to over 400 comments received during NORA were announced via press release, posted in the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website and available in hard copy at the Park's visitor center.
- March 2023
  - NPS held multiple outreach events in Coral Bay at Calvary Baptist Church and St. Theresa Catholic Mission, as well as, four (4) separate outreach events at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Cruz Bay, St. John, after their Saturday evening mass, Sunday morning mass services, and their Sunday evening bilingual language mass.
  - NPS held simultaneous "office hours" to provide information and receive public comments at Ivanna Eudora Kean High School, St. Thomas and at the Cruz Bay Visitor Center pavilion on St. John.
- February 2023
  - The Land Exchange Task Force participated in a three-hour public meeting hosted by Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett and Virgin Islands At-Large Senator, Angel Bolques with (~70 attendees).
  - Superintendent appeared on the one-hour radio show "Step Up To The Truth" on WSTA-AM to discuss the land exchange.
  - A second NORA was issued in three media outlets (The Virgin Islands Daily News, The St. John Source, and VI Consortium).
  - Superintendent provided a brief update on the land exchange to the Pastoral Council of St. John.
  - Superintendent attended a public meeting hosted by the Rotary Club of St. John at the Giff Hill School to share information about the land exchange.
- January 2023
  - Superintendent shared information about the land exchange with the Pastoral Council of St. John.
- December 2022
  - A NORA was issued in three media outlets (The Virgin Islands Daily News, The St. John Source, and VI Consortium) to inform the public of land title transfers between the GVI and NPS on St. John. The Virgin Islands Daily News and the St. John Source issued notices on December 13, 20, and 27, 2022. The VI Consortium issued the notice on December 16, 23 and 30, 2022.
- August -September 22, 2022
  - NEPA/ Environmental Assessment was open for public comment. Forty (40) correspondences were received.
  - Over a dozen articles and opinion pieces published in three primary news outlets covered the Pre-NEPA and NEPA phases from March to September 2022.
  - Park posted multiple social media announcements and reminders to inform the public how and when to provide comments.
- Spring 2022
  - Park conducted direct outreach to the Catherineberg Estate Owners Association regarding future non-education territory land use concerns.
- April 2022
  - Superintendent Nigel Fields and VI Department of Education Chief Operations Officer,

- Dr Dionne Wells-Hedrington gave radio interview on “Analyze This with Neville James” WTJX-FM 93.1, an NPR affiliate.
  - NPS posted civic engagement survey questions in PEPC and printed on handouts distributed to facilitate comments.
  - NPS, St. Thomas-Water Island Administrator’s Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service, VI State Historic Preservation Office, and the VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources Commissioner and staff held a St John Land Exchange Stakeholders Meeting.
  - St. John Land Exchange Task Force hosted virtual public meeting with 30 attendees.
- October 2020
  - WASO communications issued news release to announce the signing of the Preliminary Land Exchange Agreement indicating that a subsequent NEPA process will offer opportunities for public comment.

Government of Virgin Islands (GVI) Public Engagement:

- March 2023 – GVI hosted two (2) days of meetings on St. John to discuss comprehensive development on the island, including the proposed St. John School.
- July 2021 – Governor Albert Bryan hosted a well-attended Town Hall meeting in Cruz Bay to discuss the St. John Land Exchange and other St. John-specific issues.
- June 2020 – VI Department of Education hosted two (2) St John-focused meetings with DLR Group to share VI Educational Facilities Master Plan including a new preK-12<sup>th</sup> grade school design for Catherineberg Estate.
- October 2019 – VI Department of Education hosted a well-attended open house at the St. John legislative building on St. John to describe Governor Bryan’s future vision for a new school. NPS Catherineberg Estate was identified as the only preferred location.
- October 2018 – Governor Mapp addressed the land exchange at a St. John Town Hall.
- Spring-Summer 2014 – VI Department of Education and the Office of the Governor hosted multiple public meetings with the Jaredian Design Group. The Jaredian Design Group presented the programming plan and conceptual models (2014) for a school at the 11-acre Catherineberg parcel following a Phase 1 Archaeology Survey (2013) contracted by the GVI, funded by the DOI Office of Insular Affairs, through the NPS.
- July 2007 – Congresswoman Donna Christensen convened the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs in the Virgin Islands to hear a legislative proposal authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to enter a long-term lease for a new school on St. John. Multiple public meetings were held with or hosted by the ad hoc One Campus group of St. John residents who advocated for a land lease for Catherineberg. Congresswoman Donna Christensen’s St. John bill HR 53 authorizing a lease was unopposed by the NPS, yet not signed into law.
- December 2003 – St. John Administrator, Julien Harley identified Catherineberg Estate as a potential location for a land swap or lease during a Town Hall meeting on St. John with Governor Charles Turnbull.