



Newsletter
**Moreton Island Protection
Committee Inc.**

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Draft Bay Zoning Plan released

The current Moreton Bay Marine Park has 0.5% (less than 1%) of the park in high level protection. Under the rezoning 15% of Bay will receive the highest level of protection. Recreational anglers should welcome the plan, even if their favorite fishing spot has become a green zone. No take zones replenish fish stocks regionally by increasing fish density, size and abundance into adjacent areas.

The draft plan divides the Marine Park into four zones.

- **Marine national park zone (MNP)** ; a no take zone where access by all craft is allowed.
- **Conservation park zone (CPZ)** Trawling and dredging is not allowed, commercial netting is restricted to bait netting, commercial crabbing is restricted to 4 pots per person as is recreational crabbing, commercial and recreational fishing is restricted to one line/ hook per person. Production from net fisheries is expected to decrease by 16.8%, with all other commercial fisheries to be reduced by less than 5%. The government is proposing a buy back scheme to provide compensation to industry and to reduce fishing effort.
- **Habitat protection zone (HPZ)** trawling is not allowed . Impact on production will be a reduction of 4.1% from trawl fishery, and 19.2% from the beam trawl fishery.
- **General use zones (GUZ)** A major change to this zone is *“Aquaculture involving the addition of feed will be prohibited. This has been the position of the Queensland Government since 2004, in recognition of programs such as the Healthy Waterways SEQ Partnership to reduce nutrient inputs into the marine park”* Page 27

Note The estimates of commercial reductions listed above are sourced from the Moreton Bay Marine Park Draft Zoning Plan. Undoubtedly industries own estimates will be released to the media over the next few months.

Designated Go Slow Areas Increased.

The purpose of these areas is to protect dugongs and turtles from boat strikes by requiring all boats to travel at hull speed.

The draft plan contains statements suggesting that biological scientific principles in determining optimum zoning for preservation of marine communities have been significantly compromised by giving the needs of recreational and commercial interests a high priority.

- The gap in the DA01 from Tangalooma Point to the northern boundary of Tangalooma suggests water sports requiring planing speeds have been accommodated at the expense of dugongs and turtles moving along the coast. See map on page 3.
- *“Existing yellow zones being downgraded where substantial economic impact would result from phasing out commercial netting”*. Page 25
- *“the EPA has collected and analysed information from a range of sources to ensure that the potential impacts of green zones on the recreational sector are minimized”* Page16
- yellow zones have been designated over areas to allow continued entry and use of areas of high recreational value, in particular for recreational fishing. Page 23.
- General use zones which provide the lowest level of protection *“accommodate 92 percent of the marine park’s trawling”*. Page 27

Note Page numbers refer to the “Moreton Bay Marine Park Draft Zoning Plan

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Statement of Aims

1. To promote the preservation of Moreton Island as a natural area to be managed for public recreation and enjoyment provided always that the recreational uses are consistent with conservation aims.
2. To foster the conservation of the vegetation, fauna and natural features of Moreton.
3. To facilitate public awareness and appreciation of Moreton Island as a natural area and encourage support for its preservation and management in accordance with these objects.
4. To co-operate with, or promote co-operation by any means with and among persons, trusts, corporations, firms, associations, institutions, governments, instrumentalities or government, municipal authorities and other bodies in the Commonwealth or its Territories or elsewhere for the purpose of carrying out any object of the organisation.
5. To oppose any development or usage of Moreton Island which is contrary to the preservation and good management of the island in accordance with these objects.
6. Generally, to take such lawful action as it considers necessary or appropriate in the interests of promoting the preservation and good management of Moreton Island in accordance with these objects.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Moreton Island Protection Committee or its members.

Contributions to this newsletter are welcome, but the editors accept no responsibility for alterations made to articles.

Printed by Rex Leo ph. 3878 5248

Editors Alan Gennings

Printed 19th December 2007

Letter to the Editor

Recently MIPC received from Grant Stacey a copy of a letter he submitted to the Minister

“We can no longer continue on our annual retreats to the island due to the New Management Plan.

We have a 4WD utility as a work vehicle which seats 3. To get to Moreton Island campsites we use the utility and a trail bike. My wife drives the utility with our two children and I ride the trail bike to our destination.

Tail bikes are now banned on Moreton Island.

I have always ridden legally and had respect for the environment consistent with my conservation values.

I would be interested in viewing any environmental risk management assessment that was carried out during the consultation process in regard to transport on Moreton Island. Specifically the facts relating to trail bikes being banned.

The NPWS has a mandate to protect the environment as well as allow access in a fair manner, equally to all. I don't believe this is the case with the current legislation. To still allow local residents and landholders to use quads and trail bikes would appear discriminatory when the National Parks is owned by the crown ie all of us.

I would like to see the situation reviewed and registered trail bikes be allowed access to existing tracks, as per all registered road users on Crown Land specially Moreton Island.

Grant Stacey

Editors note. The 3 page letter Grant also sent to the Minister has been summarized above and hopefully retains the main points. Grant who must be approaching 50 has been camping on Moreton since he was 13 and in his letter gives examples of his commitment to Moreton by removing other

peoples rubbish etc.

The proposal of banning trail bikes was discussed at the Advisory Committee meeting. I presented the equity issues involved in banning a particular type of registered vehicle based on an inability to enforce regulations designed to prevent damage caused by the irresponsible drivers. Local residents retain the use of quads and trail bikes on Moreton. Enforcement of resident quad and bike riders is virtually impossible as irresponsible residents have the capacity to use their local knowledge to escape enforcement. I have visited the Sandhills 17 times since the management plan took effect on the 1st July and only once was I unable to find any quad tracks.

I and other MIPC members have seen examples of illegal riding of trail bikes – riding on dunes etc. I believe the incidence of irresponsible bike driving has decreased with increased enforcement in recent years. The greatest impact by bike riders on other visitors before the 1st July 2007 was the loud exhausts often fitted to trail bikes, which are particularly annoying when riders attempt to ride every track through the camp grounds when sand is soft.

Alan

Register now for volunteer weekends.

If you are interested in participating in volunteer events it is important to register your interest. With the increasing volunteer activity it is becoming more difficult to provide adequate notice of all events in the newsletter. Often a last minute cancellation, or a hastily arranged trip can mean an opportunity to participate, if we can contact you by email. If you do not have email, then provide a phone number.

To register email your details and particular interest to mipcvolunteers@acenet.net.au

MORETON BAY MARINE PARK ~ Zones around Moreton Island

Adapted from "Draft zoning plan for public consultation"

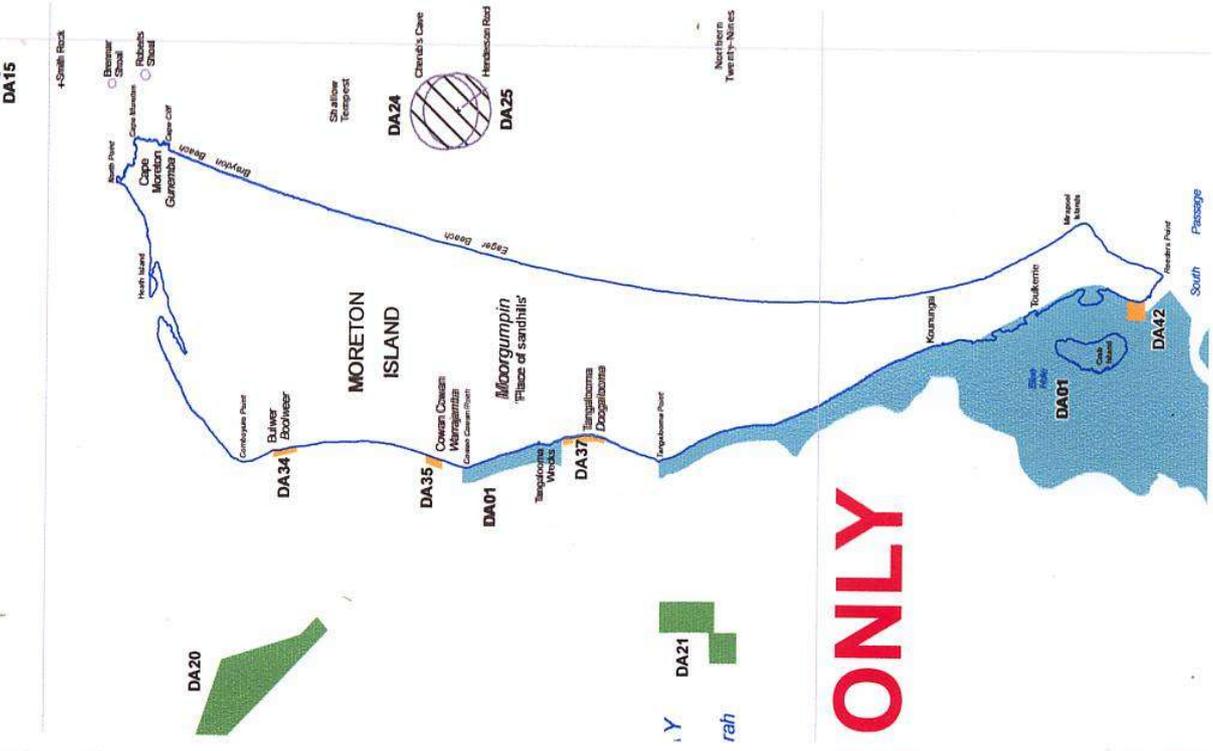
- MNP Marine national park zone;
- HPZ Habitat protection zone;
- GUZ General use zone



MORETON BAY MARINE PARK ~ Designated areas around Moreton Island

Adapted from "Draft designated area for public consultation"

- DA 01 Go Slow area for Dugongs and turtles
- DA 24, 25 Grey Nurse shark area
- DA 20, 21 Sand extraction
- DA 42, 37, 35, 34 Mooring area



Draft Bay Zoning Plan released (Cont from page 1)

Questions put to EPA by MIPC

To date pipi's on the ocean beach have basically been able to be freely collected (bag limit of 50 per person). Intuitively it would seem that visitors must be over fishing pipis. The draft zoning plan places 15% of the Bay in the highest protection level. Being concerned that Moreton's Ocean beaches were under represented in the green zone, EPA was asked **what percentage of Moreton's surf beaches are protected by green zone classification, which would prevent collecting of Pipi's.**

The reply by the EPA/QPWS spokesperson stated; *A small percentage, about 14 per cent of Moreton Island's ocean beaches, are within proposed green zones in the draft zoning plan. These green zone areas include beaches in the Heath Island reserve, Braydon Beach and the Mirapool Islands area. The other green zone (MNP10) is not along the ocean beach, but begins 500 metres from the Eager Beach shoreline.*

Bradons beach (MNP07) is the only green zone area suitable for pipis, and makes up only 10% of Moreton's surf beach that is suitable for pipis.

Are there any areas where motorized boats are excluded? The reply by the EPA/QPWS spokesperson stated; *No. The green zones are "no take" zones - not "no go" zones. People can access entire areas of green zones for activities such as boating, diving, education programs and snorkeling, but activities that remove resources, such as commercial fishing, recreational fishing and collecting are not allowed. Green zones in marine parks are used to protect plants and animals from threatening impacts so that they may thrive and multiply.*

Thus all areas of the Bay remain accessible to motor boats including jet skies.

Why are there no motorized boat exclusion zones to provide sanctuary areas for dugongs and turtles? The reply by the EPA/QPWS spokesperson stated; *scientific research shows that, at low tide, dugong and turtles occupy the edges of sandbanks and their adjacent deep-water areas. Research also shows that dugong and turtle populations face significant risks of death from boat strike – largely because dugong and turtle habitat is also often in high traffic areas for boats traveling on the low tide.*

Scientific data shows that "go slow" areas in Moreton Bay Marine Park are effective in reducing

the incidence of propeller strikes on turtle and dugong – a key cause of dugong and turtle death. In a study in 2005-06 of 28 turtles at the Blue Hole - Henderson's Gutter drainage area, none of these turtles showed recently acquired fractures – a significant reduction from the 50-80 per cent of loggerheads in this area with fractures when the "go-slow" areas were first introduced (in 1995).

A key scientific guiding principle of this marine park zoning plan review is to minimize the impacts on users. Locking users out of certain zones would fail to meet this principle. There are no exclusion zones within Moreton Bay Marine Park.

The proposed new "go slow" areas near Moreton Island include an extension to the Moreton Banks "go slow" area – which will now extend north along the western side of Moreton Island (the area next to the Tangalooma Resort will not be included). Also the existing "go slow" areas around Moreton and Amity Banks and Lamb Island will be expanded.

The expansion of the go slow designated areas (DA) is a significant improvement. On Moreton the extension of the Go Slow area from The Little Sandhills north to Tangalooma Point and from The Wrecks to Cowan Cowan Point will decrease risk to dugong and turtles which inhabit this area. This extension will also provide sanctuary for visitors from jet skis travelling at high speed along the coast as they will now be required to travel at least 500 metres from the beach.

For more details on the draft zoning plan, including the proposed green zones and go slow areas, please visit. www.epa.qld.gov.au/moretonbay

Tourist activities once permitted can access all zones. It is of concern that tourist launches are now specifically promoting dugong watching as a significant attraction. Once permitted, tourist activity is allowed through all zones. It would seem prudent to create sanctuary areas where vulnerable species such as dugongs and turtles are not subjected to disturbance by the well intentioned nature watchers. **Further information** www.epa.qld.gov.au/

Or to request a mailed copy of the plan, email EPA at moreton.bay@epa.qld.gov.au or call EPA toll free on 1800 105 789.

Cont from page 4 **Draft Bay Zoning lan.**

Public submissions in response to the draft plan close 5pm 7th March 2008.

It is important that plenty of submissions be made either endorsing the draft zoning or requesting increases in protection levels contained in the draft plan.

Improvements in level of protection for the bay biological communities could include;

- More of the important dugong/turtle feeding areas presently in go slow zones should become green zones. This would reduce boat activity in go slow areas whilst improved fish stocks in the Bay. Locally on Moreton this could be achieved by including more of the go slow area into the MNP14 and MNP 15 on the bayside of southern Moreton Island. Care would have to be taken to ensure, any extension would not become counterproductive by increasing boat activity if Koorringal residents lost access to close by fishing areas and then had to travel through green zones to access fishing areas.
- The percentage of green zone on the surf beach between Cape Moreton and Short Point should be increased to encompass at least 15 or 20% of this beach to increase the no take area for pipis to ensure viable populations.

Seagrass-Watch – Volunteers' Report

On Friday December 7, 2007, four MIPC volunteers carried out the last seagrass monitoring session for the year at the Moreton Island site adjacent to the Little Sandhills. Present were Janet Dovers (organiser of the trip), Nanette Kempel, Helen Sutherland and myself. The weather was very favourable, although the moderate low tide and breezy conditions made seagrass viewing a bit difficult. The bad news is that the site was covered in *Lyngbya*, the blue-green algae which occurs in bloom proportions at various areas in Moreton Bay, but which we have not come across at our site since commencement of monitoring in early 2001. We also noticed that there were very few other organisms around, eg starfish, sea cucumbers, sand worms etc, probably due to the algal bloom.

Lyngbya blooms occur due to a number of environmental factors. Increased *Lyngbya* growth requires water temperatures over 24°C and elevated levels of phosphorus, nitrogen, bio-available iron and dissolved organic matter in the water column. The

need to manage *Lyngbya* blooms is in response to known human and environmental health, and economic issues.'(quote from Caboolture Shire Council website) Thanks again to Tangalooma staff for providing transport to the island on the Flyer, and thence to the site via their Dugong Explorer vessel. The session ended on a high note with an excellent sighting of a dugong just off the bow of the vessel whilst moored off the sandbank at the monitoring site. *Linda Back*

Liz Glennie

The sudden death of Liz Glennie has saddened her fellow travelers to Moreton Island. Liz frequently took part in Wildlife Preservation Society and MIPC trips since the 80's.

In 1990 Liz took on the role of MIPC secretary which she continued until 1997 when she moved to the Sunshine coast. Liz was one of those valued members who regularly wrote letters to the Minister to support caring for the environment.

Liz undertook solo back packing walks around the southern end on Moreton in the 90's. Friends would express concern about her solo camping walks and to reassure them she related how on her return to the Moreton Venture, she received a full accounting of her itinerary, including where she had bush camped, by Moreton Venture staff who had seen her on freight delivery runs, and by myself who had seen her as a silhouette on the horizon and her footprints on the beach leading into her campsite.

Liz sometimes looked after my camp at Blue Lagoon, before the advent of phones and fridges at the camp. In the debriefing, after a windy hailstorm, Liz explained that the hailstones had bounced off the tent roofs and that she was glad of the opportunity to have a scotch with the hailstones she collected during the storm. A special treat when camping.

Although Liz had not backpacked on Moreton recently, on her recent wildlife trip to Moreton in early October this year she did one of her regular walks from Blue Lagoon, down the ocean beach to Middle track, then up the Telegraph track to Mt Tempest and then north along the Telegraph Track to the Bulwer road and then returned to Blue Lagoon. Such was her love of Moreton and walking.

Liz was always looking out for those who came along unknown to others and looking a little lost. Liz was good listener and so it was very easy in the ebb and flow of conversation for those around her to know very little about her. Moreton has lost a great friend and supporter, as have we all who knew her. *Alan*

Envirofund Grant Approved for Weeding Project at North Point.

In early November MIPC received notification that its application to the Australian Government Envirofund had been approved, and funding of \$20,240.00 was offered to undertake the proposed project at North Point removing weeds and revegetating using volunteer labour. We were delighted to accept the offer by signing and returning the substantial Funding Agreement supplied. A small supply of marketing merchandise bearing the Envirofund logo has been subsequently received, including shirts, hats, beanies, sunscreen, bum bags, windshield protectors and promotional signs; so we now feel very important!



Linda with branded accessories ready to start planning the North Point weed project.

The project is to be carried out over 18 months, officially commencing in January 2008 and the funds received will primarily cover costs of transporting volunteers from the mainland to Moreton Island by barge and up to the North Point project site by bus or other 4WD vehicle. The funds also will also help us purchase some necessary equipment and to set up communal camping facilities at the North Point campground (marquee, cooking equipment and some basic supplies) on designated volunteer trips, so people can spend from three to seven days working at the site. Further details and dates of the camps will be provided via the Newsletter and MIPC website (www.home.acenet.net.au/mipc) as planning gets underway early in 2008. The main weeding camps will be scheduled in the cooler months from May – September.

Participants will need to bring their own personal camping gear and food, and will be expected to put in three to four hours of work per day, the rest of the time being free to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of this special place. The North Point area offers a variety of landscapes, including a wide sheltered beach, rocky headland, and idyllic Honeymoon Bay, as well as lovely Bloodwood and Banksia open forests.

The main work carried out by volunteers will be weeding using a variety of techniques, as directed by the QPWS rangers, including hand-pulling, cutting and poisoning, and some heavier brush-cutting and digging in the case of lantana. There will also be some planting and maintenance of cleared areas.

I will be coordinating the project and am seeking expressions of interest from people who would like to be involved as volunteers so I can establish a database of potential participants. As well as the physical labour of weeding, we need people to help in setting up and maintaining the camp. Please indicate your preferences and abilities, and if you have any useful qualifications for using equipment such as brush-cutters. Also spread the word around to others you know who may be willing and able to help. I look forward to hearing from you and also welcome any useful suggestions and ideas.

I can be contacted by email:

mipcvolunteers@acenet.net.au, or phone 3366 1292, or by snail mail to the MIPC post box, PO Box 2182, Ashgrove West, 4060.

Linda Back

Information Centre staffing 7-9th December.

Alan, Shona, Trish, Chris and Dawn staffed the information centre for a total of 20 hours. Other activities included planting Spinifex seeds (18 hours) on the sand blow below the grave, potting tube plants at the North point nursery, and folding visitor's brochure packs. Alan assisted with Friday maintenance of vehicles at Ben Ewa.

Thanks to Parks and Wildlife in providing transport and accommodation which enabled us to contribute to the Park.

Treasurer's report to the AGM

MIPC's income this year was increased due to sales of the oral history book, *Shifting Sands: Memories of Moreton Island*. Profit is also directly attributable to book sales as printing of the books was paid for last year. Approximately 150 books remain in stock out of a total of 1,000 printed.

MIPC is very grateful to Judy Fenton, who audited MIPC's accounts for the financial year to June 2006 on a voluntary basis, thereby saving MIPC about \$600 in auditor's fees. Judy is very well qualified and was approved by the Office of Fair Trading to be MIPC's auditor. Judy has agreed to audit MIPC's books again for the financial year ending June 2007.

On 5 July 2007, MIPC was granted approval to receive tax-deductible donations to its special account, the MIPC Public Fund.

Pam Schindler, Treasurer

Income	2006	2007
T shirt sales	738	226
Donations	951	504
Conservation activities	2525	1237
Oral history project	6532	3278
Memberships	1180	1285
Interest	378	456
Total income	12304	6989
Expenses		
Auditing fees	605	76
Bank charges	2	0
Depreciation	0	0
Donations	45	
Conservation activities	2122	1150
Insurance	930	910
Misc		
Printing newsletters	571	1065
Postage and stationary	460	655
Oral history project	8870	19
T shirt supply	824	0
Telephone	204	341
Subscriptions	74	0
Total expenditure	14807	4218
Net profit (Loss)	loss \$2503	profit \$2771

Balance sheet as at 30th June

	2006	2007
Cash at bank	\$14,464	\$17,735

Note At time of printing a \$320 discrepancy exists when comparing Cash held at end of this financial year to the cash held last year plus profit for this year.

North Point Planting weekend

Parks and Wildlife Service on Moreton sponsored a special volunteer's week-end on the 9-11th November to commence planting out plants raised at the North Point nursery.

Prior to the weekend, ground was prepared for planting following a plan designed to provide shade and screen for campers at the North Point campground.

Volunteers, Lyn, Trish, Erol, Lyn and Merv planted out native species such as Blue Berry Ash, Brush Box, Dianella and Midyim. All plants had been raised from seeds and cutting from Moreton plants.

Temporary irrigation was set up to ensure plants were watered until they became established. General nursery work including potting and seed collection was completed.

If resources are available it is hoped to conduct another single purpose week-end independent of the staffing the information centre.

MIPC thanks Parks and Wildlife staff on the Island for their assistance in providing transport for the weekend, preparing the ground for planting and providing tools. A special thanks to Justin Herdman for organising the weekend. .



Planting out to provide screening and shade at the North Point camp ground.

From left Errol, Lynn, Patricia, Merv and Lynn.
Photo provided by Justin Herdman

What's on!!! Ph 3321 1463

Feb 3 6pm Executive meeting – to be confirmed.

Mar 28-30 NPA affiliated groups meeting at Tamborine Convention Centre

Apr 11-13 Wildlife Pres Soc camp at Blue Lag.

Blue Lagoon 11th to 13th April ~WPSQ

Wildlife Preservation Society Queensland, weekend at Blue Lagoon. Camp kitchen and marquee tents with stretchers provided. BYO food except for the BBQ provided Saturday evening. Includes tour to Cape Moreton, and Little Sandhills, (Sand tobogganing)

Departs 8.30 am Friday, 6.30 pm Friday.

Returns Sun 6 pm

MICat terminal Howard Smith Drive, LYTTON

Members Cost \$125 Bookings 0428 783781

More information at: www.moretonexperience.com

Five inch plant pots still wanted!

Five inch pots are needed to grow out seedlings from Moreton destined for the North Point camp ground.

Please only pots with a 5"/140 mm diameter across the top of the pot can be used. Merv will sterilize them before they are used. Phone MIPC to arrange collection/ delivery.

Tax deductible donations

All is now in place for receipt of tax deductible donations. A receipt will be sent after receipt of your donation.

NPA affiliated group's weekend

28-30th March

The Tamborine Mountain Natural History Association and the Tamborine Bush Volunteers will be hosting the 2008 affiliated groups meeting at The Beacon on Tamborine Convention Centre, Beacon Road, North Tamborine. Cabin and chalet accommodation and camping are available. Those using the chalet accommodation or camping have the option to self cater. The local groups who host these week-ends use their local expertise to "show" their park to the visiting groups. The weekend also provides an opportunity to compare notes with members of others groups in their endeavors to care for their special natural area.

\$25 Deposit required for trips.

4WD bus transport is only chartered for those who have paid deposits by the Friday before trip departure. The deposit is non-refundable after the Friday before trip departure, as the deposit is required to fund the vehicle charter made on the basis of your booking. Those who do not pay deposits may be cancelled if seats on chartered transport is full. Simplify payment by forwarding full payment with your deposit.

Members Trip Price

Trip prices quoted are for members of MIPC or Wildlife Preservation Society.

Others pay \$5 to \$10 extra.