



4

The Barbados System of Parks and Open Space

This section outlines the seven categories within the national System of Parks and Open Space and details policies for conservation and restoration of these key public and natural spaces.

This section provides policies to conserve and enhance the seven categories of open spaces identified across the island, which are anchored by the National Park. The Barbados System of Parks and Open Space recognises existing parks and open spaces which promote landscape preservation, ensure the conservation of the Natural Heritage System, meet the active and passive recreation needs of residents of Barbados and enhance amenities and the overall landscape of Barbados for residents and tourists alike.

The Barbados System of Parks and Open Space is anchored by the National Park in the Scotland District. Across the island the Government intends to build on the success of the National Park to maintain and improve the lands within the open space categories.

Components of the Barbados System of Parks and Open Space are at times also components of other island-wide assets, such as the Natural Heritage System or cultural heritage assets. The inclusion of these components in the System of Parks and Open Space recognises the landscape value, cultural heritage value and recreational opportunities inherent in these spaces.

The Barbados Systems of Parks and Open Space is shown on Map 15. It includes the following seven categories of open spaces:

OS1 – The Barbados National Park: International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – World Conservation Union (IUCN) Category 5 Protected Landscape/Seascape applies to the entire area of the National Park. The National Park encompasses a wide range of land use activities, from forestry and conservation to tourism, resource extraction and village settlements and includes many unique and wild landscapes.

OS2 – Natural Heritage Conservation Areas applies to features and locations that are important to the natural heritage of the island. The essential goal of this designation is to retain, protect and enhance these features for future generations. This designation encompasses both terrestrial and marine environments.

OS3 – Coastal Landscape Protection Zone applies to two coastal areas outside of the National Park which still exhibit a natural character and have unique physical attributes.

OS4 – Public Parks and Open Spaces includes sites that have been specifically designed to function as open space and recreation areas for the community.

OS5 – National Attractions refers to attractions which are used for public enjoyment and as part of the tourism industry.

OS6 – Barbados National Forest Candidate Sites – refers to State-owned sites which are predominantly covered in mature or emerging forests. Some of these areas contain the last remaining original forest cover in Barbados.

OS7 – Shore Access Points are locations of existing pedestrian access points to the sea which must be protected to ensure accessibility to Barbados' public beaches for all.

- Designation OS1 - Barbados National Park IUCN**
Category 5 Protected Landscape/Seaside (Source: PDP 2003)
- Designation OS2 - Natural Heritage Conservation Area**
 (Source: PDP 2003)
- Land:**
 Graeme Hall, National Park, Chancery Lane,
 Jack in the Box, Welchman Hall, Heywoods
- Marine**
 Harrison's Cave Zone of Special Environmental Control
 Chancery Lane Natural Heritage Area
- Designation OS3 - Coastal Landscape Protection Zone**
 (Source: USI 2016)

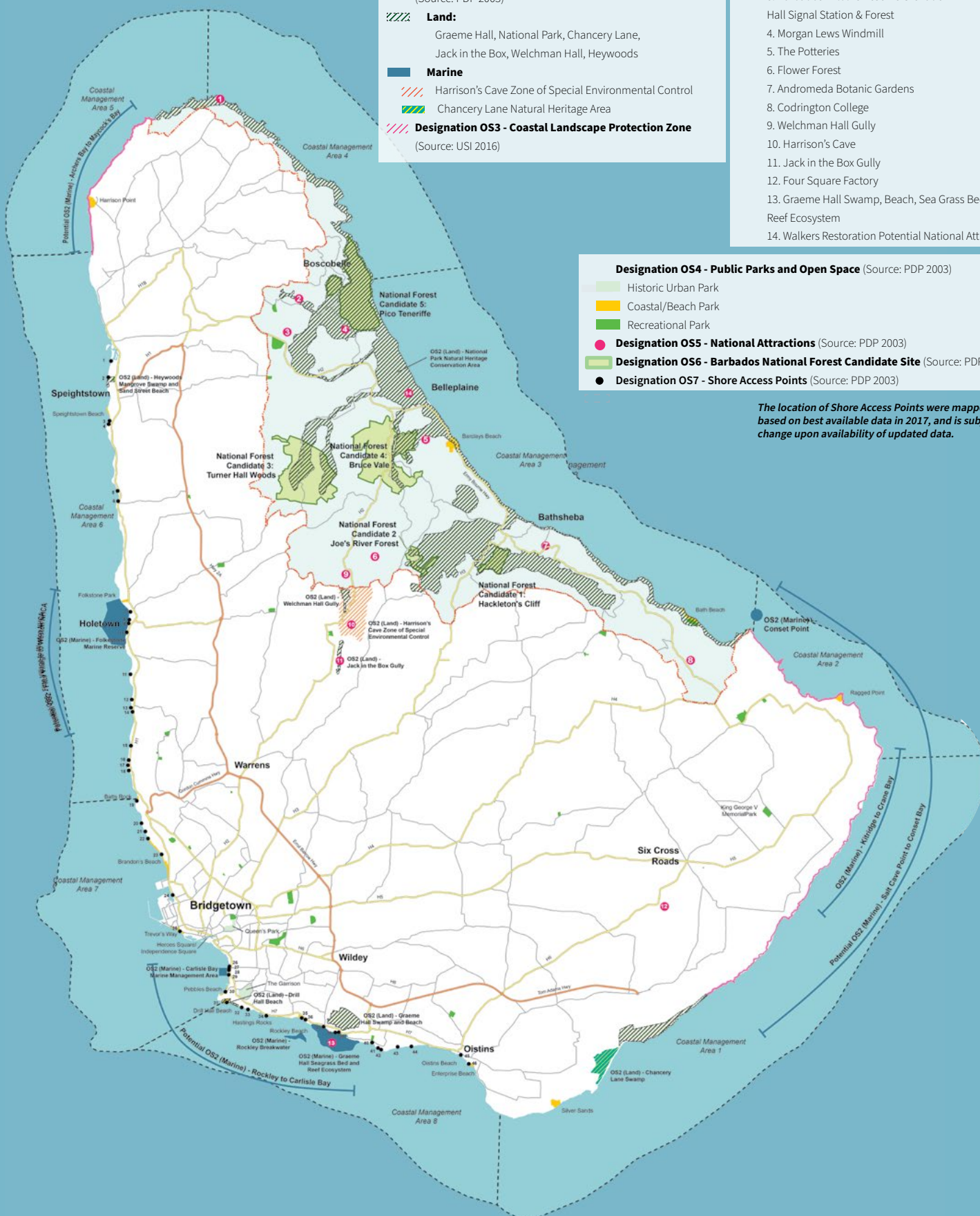
OS5: National Attractions:

1. Animal Flower Cave
2. St. Nicolas Abbey
3. Barbados Wildlife Reserve Grenade Hall Signal Station & Forest
4. Morgan Lews Windmill
5. The Potteries
6. Flower Forest
7. Andromeda Botanic Gardens
8. Codrington College
9. Welchman Hall Gully
10. Harrison's Cave
11. Jack in the Box Gully
12. Four Square Factory
13. Graeme Hall Swamp, Beach, Sea Grass Bed & Reef Ecosystem
14. Walkers Restoration Potential National Attraction

Designation OS4 - Public Parks and Open Space (Source: PDP 2003)

- Historic Urban Park
- Coastal/Beach Park
- Recreational Park
- Designation OS5 - National Attractions** (Source: PDP 2003)
- Designation OS6 - Barbados National Forest Candidate Site** (Source: PDP 2003)
- Designation OS7 - Shore Access Points** (Source: PDP 2003)

The location of Shore Access Points were mapped based on best available data in 2017, and is subject to change upon availability of updated data.



MAP 15:
Barbados System of Parks and Open Spaces

➤ 4.1

Overarching Policies

1. Existing open spaces will be protected and improvements made to their condition, in particular to address the impacts of the climate crisis and increase resiliency.
2. Sufficient lands will be allocated to neighbourhood, community and national level recreation activities.
3. The Government will encourage landowners to undertake reforestation of land which is not suitable or required for agricultural purposes.
4. It is recommended that the Government establish funding and mechanisms for the maintenance and upkeep of open spaces.
5. As development occurs, the Government should seek opportunities to add to or enhance the existing open space system, especially in areas associated with key components of the Natural Heritage System or hazard lands.
6. The Government will aim to make all Public Parks and Open Spaces (OS4), National Attractions (OS5) and Shore Access Points (OS7) accessible and safe for people of all ages and abilities.



➤ Coastal Beach Park, Bathsheba, St. Joseph

OS1 - The Barbados National Park

The National Park is the anchor of the Barbados System of Parks and Open Spaces, which has as its basis an IUCN Category 5 Protected Landscape/Seascape. The basis of an IUCN Category 5 designation is a protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value, and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.

The National Park designation is intended to conserve and enhance the character and quality of the landscape and marine resources in the defined area of the park including all features of natural and cultural heritage. It is also intended to restrict activities which would conflict with or are detrimental to the landscape, seascape or environmental qualities that led to the National Park designation.

The policies in this section should be read in conjunction with the National Park policies in Section 2.2.4, and the National Park Development Plan (1999) and Guidelines for Management and Operation of the Barbados National Park and Other Natural Heritage Conservation Areas (1999), which provides detailed implementation guidelines and description of the National Park.

4.2.1 Overarching National Park Land Use Policies

The following general policies apply to all land use designations within the National Park.

1. The majority of the land area, including the Food and Agriculture areas, Forests and Natural Heritage Conservation Areas shown on Maps 16 and 17 will be reserved for farming, forestry, open space, conservation and passive recreational uses such that they contribute to the overall ecological integrity and landscape quality of the National Park.
2. Urban uses such as residential subdivisions, industries, commercial development, services and tourist-related development will be directed to the National Park Villages.
3. Notwithstanding the above, small-scale tourist accommodations may be permitted within existing buildings in appropriate locations throughout the National Park subject to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning and Development regarding their suitability and environmental impact. Specific projects related to eco-tourism are permitted but will be individually evaluated against the National Park Development Plan (1999).
4. Additions to existing sporadic or isolated development, or extensions to ribbon development along highways and ridges will be discouraged within the National Park as this development generally degrades the landscape and visual quality of the National Park.
5. No new development will be permitted on the seaward side of the Ermy Bourne Highway or on the ridges/knife-ridges of slopes in the National Park.



➤ National Park, St. Thomas



➤ View from Coach Hill, St. John

6. The scale, siting and design of all new development within the National Park should be in keeping with its surroundings, respect existing settlement and building patterns, and not detract from the character and quality of the five identified National Park landscapes: The St Lucy Coastal Cliffs, The Savannahs, Chalky Mount, The Scotland Basin, and Hackleton's Cliff.
7. Development in proximity to Natural Heritage Conservation Areas or cultural heritage assets must be in accordance with the policies of Section 4.3 OS2 Natural Heritage Conservation Areas and 2.2.5 Cultural Heritage. Development which will have a significant negative impact on Natural Heritage Conservation Areas or cultural heritage assets will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the proposal is of overriding national need and no alternative sites are available. A full analysis of this need and any possible mitigating features or actions must be prepared for consideration by the Director of Planning and Development prior to approval of such developments.
8. On a regular basis, a review should be undertaken of outstanding planning approvals related to unrealised projects to assess their potential impact on the National Park and to identify ways in which this might be mitigated or avoided. In particular, consideration should be given to the opportunities that may be available to renegotiate or amend existing planning approvals so that they conform more closely to the policies of the National Park contained within the Physical Development Plan (2023) and the guidelines in the National Park Development Plan (1999).
9. Conceptual development strategies for key tourist and other attractions in the National Park are set out in Section B of the National Park Development Plan (1999). These strategies provide a guideline for assessing new development proposals in these areas. New National Attractions based on eco-tourism, permaculture, coastal landscape remediation and environmental education are possible within the National Park subject to compliance with the National Park Development Plan (1999) and the Physical Development Plan (2023).
10. Community Plans for the National Park Villages of Belleplaine and Bathsheba are located in Part B of the PDP (2023) and are also incorporated into Section B of the National Park Development Plan (1999) in their original form. The Community Plans establish a coordinated framework for improving the physical amenity of these two National Park Villages, and strengthen the potential for appropriately-scaled economic and tourism development and environmental improvement.

4.2.2 Food and Agriculture Areas in the National Park

Agriculture was formerly the predominant land use in the National Park. Over time, the focus has changed from plantation-scale activity towards grazing and vegetable and fruit production. Agriculture is a permitted land use in the National Park with the intention of:

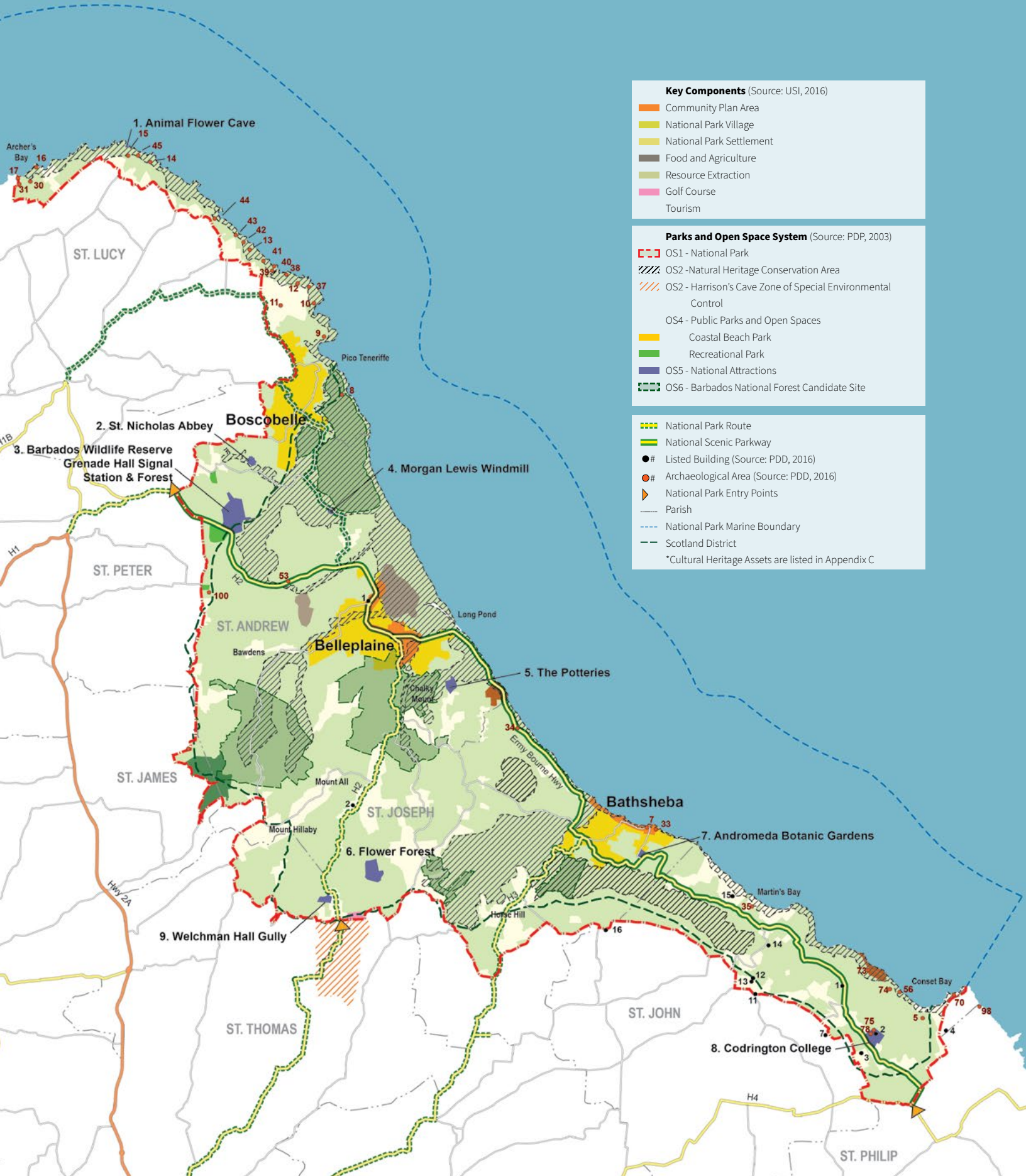
- Preserving the existing agricultural land base for food and agricultural production, open space, reforestation or passive recreational uses;
- Encouraging the adoption of more environmentally sustainable forms of agriculture and organic farming and food production; and
- Ensuring that new agricultural buildings are compatible with the visual and landscape objectives of the National Park.

The Food and Agriculture policies of Section 2.2.1 and 3.1 of the national policies apply within the National Park. In addition, the following National Park specific policies apply to promote environmentally sensitive and sustainable farming practices and development control.

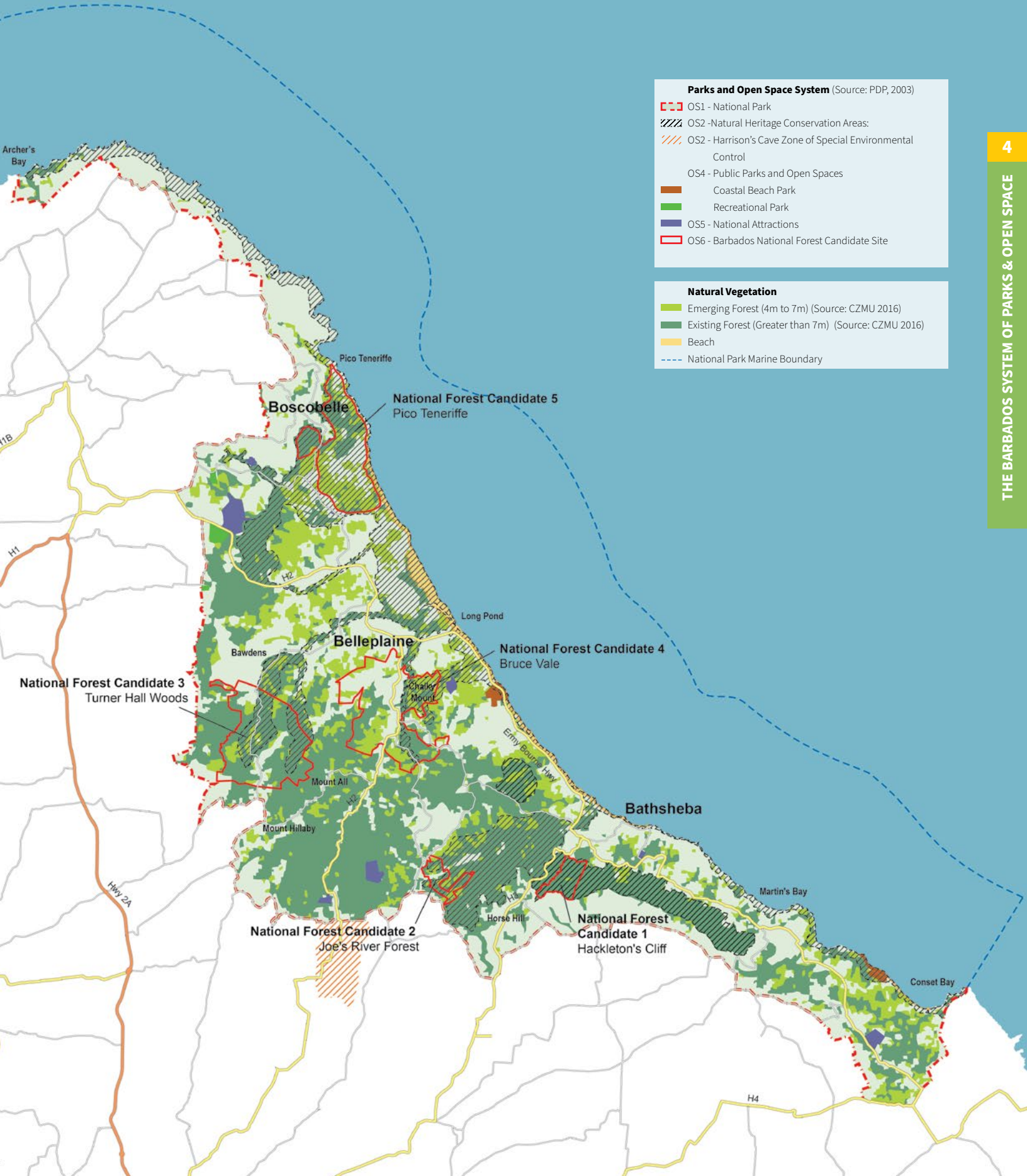
1. Sustainable grazing practices will be followed in proximity to key and supporting components of the Natural Heritage System and around watercourses.
2. Sustainable management practices will be used for woodland and scrub vegetation where those features might contribute to larger reforestation linkages.
3. Agricultural practices that promote soil conservation will be encouraged. The Director of Planning and Development, in consultation with the Division of Energy, Natural Resources Department, Ministry of Environment and National Beautification and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security, will review applications for new agricultural development proposals to ensure that they do not have an adverse impact on the landscape of the National Park, and that their scale, siting and design complements the natural landscape values of the National Park.
4. Conservation schemes will be promoted for farmers practicing sustainable agriculture in the National Park.



> Agricultural area, Boscobelle, St. Peter



MAP 16:
National Park Land Use



MAP 17:
National Park Natural Vegetation

4.2.3 Forest Areas in the National Park

The purpose of this designation is to identify forested areas within the National Park in order to:

- Encourage a high degree of preservation for existing forests due to their role as high quality wildlife habitat or due to the rare or indigenous mix of vegetation;
- Encourage the development of emerging forests; and
- Restrict new development and building in forested areas of the National Park.

The National Park forests are divided into three categories which are identified on Map 17:

- OS6 - Barbados National Forest Candidate Site
- Existing Forest (Vegetation greater than 7m)
- Emerging Forest (Vegetation 4m to 7m)

The Enforcement of Trees (Preservation) Act Cap. 397 and the Cultivation of Trees Act Cap 390 provide the legislative

framework to manage trees in the Forest Areas in the National Park. There was a measurable increase in forest and tree cover within the National Park between 1998 and 2017 which has contributed greatly to the overall quality of the landscape.

The Barbados National Forest Candidate Sites are outlined in the National Park Development Plan (1999) and described here as an overlay designation. Land use policies for the National Forest Candidate Sites are described in Section 4.7 OS6 National Forest Candidate Sites.

The following policies apply to Forest Areas within the National Park.

- 1.** Conservation and forestry, open space and agricultural uses such as tree farms, nurseries and orchards will be encouraged.
- 2.** Cattle grazing will be discouraged.
- 3.** Forest clearing and removal must be approved by the Director of Planning and Development which may include a mitigation or replacement obligation.



> View towards Belleplaine from Cherry Tree Hill, St. Andrew



➤ The Risk, within Boscobelle National Park Village, St. Peter

4.2.4 National Park Villages

The three National Park Villages of Boscobelle, Belleplaine and Bathsheba are identified on Map 16. The National Park Villages are intended to be locations for limited growth and sustainable economic activities, compatible with the landscape qualities of the National Park. More detailed policies for Belleplaine and Bathsheba are provided in the community plans in Part B of the Physical Development Plan (2023).

In addition to the policies of Section 3.3 Predominantly Residential, the following policies apply to the National Park Villages.

1. New housing, offices, stores, restaurants and cafes, craft workshops, small and medium scaled tourist accommodations and industries proposed within the National Park will be directed to the National Park Villages.
2. Development proposals which would require a significant expansion to the boundaries designated in the Physical Development Plan (2023) will not be permitted.
3. Proposals requiring minor extensions to National Park Villages may be permitted, provided they comply with the criteria in Section 2.1 Promoting Sustainable Development and policies of the National Park Development Plan (1999).
4. Large scale hotel or resort developments will not be permitted within National Park Villages.
5. Development proposals within National Park Villages which, in the opinion of the Soil Conservation Unit are located on sites susceptible to erosion or landslip will not be permitted.



> Springfield, St. Joseph

4.2.5 National Park Settlements

Small rural villages and settlements in the National Park have been designated as National Park Settlements. Most of these communities have been developed for many years and represent a traditional settlement pattern in the Scotland District. There may be opportunities for some of these settlements to accommodate limited infill development. However, development located on or adjacent to the knife ridges and on unstable slopes present a potential danger to residents. As a result, they are not suitable for additional development and residents may require relocation.

In addition to the policies of Section 3.2 Rural Settlements, the following policies apply within the National Park.

1. No new development will be permitted in National Park Settlements which, in the opinion of the Officer-in-charge of the Soil Conservation Unit and/or the Natural Heritage Department are located on sites susceptible to erosion or landslip,
2. The conversion of houses from temporary to permanent structures will be discouraged on sites susceptible to erosion or landslip.
3. In areas that are susceptible to erosion or landslip, special wastewater and stormwater disposal systems will be put in place, which will not contribute to the quantity of groundwater or surface runoff.



> Atlantis Hotel, Tent Bay, St. Joseph

4.2.6 Sanitary Landfill

The Greenland landfill located in the National Park has not opened. The National Park Development Plan (1999) does not anticipate the opening of this facility as a landfill, or the construction of new sanitary landfill sites within the National Park. The following policies apply.

1. Any applications for new landfill sites or expansions to existing sites in the National Park will not be permitted.

4.2.7 Resource Extraction

The policies of Section 3.11 Resource Extraction apply within the National Park.

4.2.8 Tourism

In addition to the policies of Section 3.6 Tourism, the following policies apply within the National Park.

1. Notwithstanding the policies of Section 3.6, large scale hotel or resort developments will not be permitted within the National Park.

4.2.9 Golf Course

In addition to the policies of Section 3.13 Golf Courses, the following policies apply within the National Park.

1. Notwithstanding the policies of Section 3.13, new buildings will not be permitted in the golf courses designation in the National Park.
2. No new golf courses will be permitted within the National Park.

4.2.10 Coastal Zone Management

The marine portion of the National Park is designated by the Coastal Zone Management Unit and is a part of the IUCN Category 5 Protected Landscape/Seascape. Future uses and activities in this area will be subject to the policies and recommendations of the Integrated Coastal Management Plan (2020), and will be administered by the Coastal Zone Management Unit. Policies related to Coastal Zone Management are located in Section 2.2.2 Natural Heritage System.

➤ 4.3

OS2 - Natural Heritage Conservation Areas

The Natural Heritage Conservation Areas designation applies to sensitive or unique ecosystems, both within and outside of the National Park, which require protection from development and intensive recreational development. The Natural Heritage Conservation Areas designation is divided into two categories: Natural Heritage Conservation Areas - Land and Natural Heritage Conservation Areas - Marine.

4.3.1 Natural Heritage Conservation Areas - Land

Eight Natural Heritage Conservation Areas (NHCA) - Land have been designated throughout Barbados, as follows.

Graeme Hall Swamp and Beach

This NHCA comprises a single continuous ecosystem that links together a range of habitats comprising an area of open brackish water that is surrounded by mangrove

swamp, woodland and wetlands and is connected via an outfall channel to a sandy beach with a reef system offshore (see related description of the Graeme Hall NHCA - Marine) . The swamp is an example of the type of wetland habitat that once occurred at several locations along the leeward coasts of Barbados from Holetown to Chancery Lane but which has since all but disappeared through drainage for agriculture and building development. The Graeme Hall Swamp supports a unique and very diverse range of flora and fauna.

Chancery Lane Swamp

This NHCA is described in Section 4.3.2.



➤ Graeme Hall Swamp



➤ Drill Hall Beach

Harrison's Cave Zone of Special Environmental Control

This NHCA is described in Section 4.3.3.

Welchman Hall Gully

Welchman Hall Gully was formed by the cracking of the coral limestone cap that covers the majority of the island. It is over a mile in length with steep cliff faces rising to over seventy feet in height. The luxuriant tropical vegetation includes both indigenous species and exotic introductions which combine to create an area of considerable natural heritage interest. The steep cliffs, caves and stalactites are also of significant geological importance. Welchman Hall Gully supports a very diverse range of flora and fauna.

Jack in the Box Gully

Jack in the Box Gully is connected to Welchman Hall Gully and forms part of the same watercourse which eventually becomes the Constitution River and empties into the Careenage in Bridgetown. Like Welchman Hall Gully, it was formed by the cracking of the coral limestone cap. Unlike Welchman Hall Gully, the vegetation of Jack in the Box Gully is almost completely natural and it supports a diverse range of native species and habitat areas.

Drill Hall Beach

The area of beach between the Richard Haynes boardwalk and Needham's Point enjoys characteristics that are unusual on the developed south and west coasts of Barbados. The beach is largely unobstructed, wide, dark and well-vegetated, providing ideal nesting and hatching conditions for the hawksbill sea turtle, a critically endangered species on the IUCN Red List. It is home to 300 nesting hawksbills, representing approximately 25% of the total hawksbill nesting population of Barbados. The beach has regional significance, given that most other Antillean islands have less than 100 nesting turtles on all their beaches combined, with no other island having more nesting hawksbills than Barbados. The natural character of the beach also provides potential to sustain a nesting habitat in the face of likely shoreline adjustment to changing sea level.

The OS2 Natural Heritage Conservation Area designation will protect this natural beach environment and critically endangered species, which have been enjoyed by generations of Barbadians and visitors, and will formalise existing functional beach management arrangements for turtle management that exist between NCC, CZMU, PDD, and the hotels, condominiums and homeowners.

Heywoods Mangrove Swamp and Sand Street Beach

This NHCA encompasses a small, spring-fed mangrove swamp at the north end of Speightstown and the beach on the seaward side of the adjacent street. The Heywoods Mangrove Swamp hosts white mangrove, manchineel, fustic, clammy cherry trees, and several bird and crab species. It's proximity to other Amerindian sites suggests that it may also have been used by Amerindians and may be an important archaeological site.

At night, the Sand Street Beach is used by hawksbill sea turtles for nesting, with over 100 nesting activities recorded in 2015. The beach is so narrow that most turtles reach the road before finding a suitable place to dig, and some are killed by vehicles or trapped in the drain on the landward side of the road. Hatchlings are frequently drawn away from the beach and onto the road, attracted by the street lights on the other side. The purpose of this OS2 Natural Heritage Conservation Area designation is to allow the restoration of the beach and wetland to promote stormwater management, biodiversity, and particularly the protection of hawksbill sea turtles.

Natural Heritage Conservation Area within the National Park

This National Park Natural Heritage Conservation Area is intended to protect the interlinked ecosystem that stretches from Archers Bay in the north to Conset Point in the south and encompasses many specific sites of ecological or geological importance. This includes:

- All of the coastal beaches, dunes and cliffs, including Morgan Lewis and Walkers Beach and St. Lucy Cliffs;
- Hackleton's Cliff and Woods, Turners Hall Woods, Cattlewash Woods, Joe's River Forest, Boscobelle Woods;
- Long Pond and Green Pond;
- The Green River, Joe's River, Bruce Vale River systems;
- The Savannahs complex; and
- Chalky Mount.

The importance of the Natural Heritage Conservation Area lies not only in the specific features of interest displayed by each of these sites but also in the fact that they represent a single linked ecosystem whose complexity and diversity underpins the landscape qualities that have led to the designation of the National Park.

The following policies apply to OS2 – Natural Conservation Areas - Land:

- 1.** Permitted uses in Natural Heritage Conservation Areas - Land designation are:
 - a) Conservation and associated uses related to forestry, natural regeneration, soil stabilisation, and habitat enhancement;
 - b) Private and public open space;
 - c) Environmentally sustainable agriculture and related dwellings and structures;
 - d) Environmental interpretive facilities, visitor centres and related facilities such as restaurants, gift shops and parking areas; and
 - e) Small-scale tourism development.



➤ Long Pond, St. Andrew

2. Landfills are not permitted within Natural Heritage Conservation Areas.
3. Management of Natural Heritage Conservation Areas - Land will be the responsibility of the Director, Natural Heritage Department.
4. An Environmental Impact Assessment will be required for applications within Natural Heritage Conservation Areas – Land.
5. An application will only be considered for approval if the Environmental Impact Assessment demonstrates that the proposal will have no net negative impacts on the environmental or landscape qualities of the Natural Heritage Conservation Area, or that expected impacts can be adequately mitigated by appropriate site design or other means.
6. In cases where a proposal may negatively impact the environmental or landscape qualities of a Natural Heritage Conservation Area, approval will be granted only if the proposal is of overriding national need and no alternative site is available outside of the Natural Heritage Conservation Area. The potential to provide replacement habitats or features (either on or off-site) will be considered and incorporated into the final development plan approval.
7. Minor expansions to existing buildings may be permitted provided that they do not detract from the landscape character of the surrounding area and are not located in areas subject to soil slippage or other natural hazards. Minor extensions to existing buildings will not be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment.
8. Informal recreation will be encouraged in Natural Heritage Conservation Areas provided that it is of a sustainable nature and does not conflict with the overriding objective of conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the area. In this regard, a network of well designed, managed and signed trails should be established to provide access routes through Natural Heritage Conservation Areas for walkers, cyclists and horseback riders.
9. Organic and sustainable farming practices will be promoted through fiscal incentives and other policies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security, with particular emphasis on soil erosion control, grazing practices and the management of woodland and scrub. Generally, the minimum lot size for agricultural uses is 10 hectares.
10. New Natural Heritage Conservation Areas may be established for the protection of significant ecosystems, such as remnant forests, wetlands, dunes, cave systems and marine features.

4.3.2 Chancery Lane Natural Heritage Conservation Area

The Chancery Lane ecosystem is situated on the south coast, south of Grantley Adams International Airport. It takes its name from the residential community located immediately above the open wetland plain. The Chancery Lane ecosystem comprises a dual escarpment, wetland, dunes and beach complex. It encompasses a wide range of natural habitats including open pools of water which change on a seasonal basis, a wet meadow marsh that is attractive to birds, and extensive beach and vegetated back berm (known locally as Long Beach), and an inland coral limestone cliff covered with trees and shrubs. This ecosystem is of national significance in Barbados as one of two landscapes, the other being Graeme Hall Swamp, that exhibit the diversity of a coastal wetland in a relatively undeveloped state. It has importance as a bird and sea turtle nesting area and is important as a recreational and educational resource as well as a location of archaeological resources.

The unique physical condition of this site has left intact one of the most significant shoreline natural dune and beach systems on the island. The significant sand berm on the back beach and the associated dune system behind are relatively rare on the island.

In addition to the general policies for Natural Heritage Conservation Areas – Land, the following policies apply.

1. To the extent possible, this complex should not be modified in any form to allow for buildings or infrastructure. Pedestrian access across the berm should be structured on boardwalks elevated above the sand and vegetation complex.
2. A sizable setback to the berm complex and dunes will be required, to be determined by the Director of Planning and Development in consultation with the Director, Natural Heritage Department and Director, Coastal Zone Management Unit. Setbacks will vary depending upon specific characteristics, however a 30 m setback should be considered suitable until detailed studies demonstrate otherwise.



➤ Chancery Lane, Christ Church

3. Any artificial lighting introduced to the shoreline must take into account the requirement to mitigate for wildlife and sea turtle habitat at the beach and berm/dune system and limit over light going onto this zone.
4. Some of the land in this ecosystem received outline approval for development before the expressed understanding of the ecological and cultural value of this site as outlined in the Physical Development Plan Amended (2003). Such development should not be considered a precedent for further development applications.
5. Limited development may be considered in the western portion of the NHCA on the condition that it involves the retention and enhancement of the wetlands, grass areas, beach berm and beach.
 - a) An Environmental Impact Assessment will be required as part of any development proposal.
6. Due to the unique nature of this area, the review of any planning applications within, adjacent to and in proximity to the Natural Heritage Conservation Area will assess their potential cumulative impacts on the natural heritage interest of the site.
 - a) Special attention will be given to site planning issues such as appropriate development densities, lighting, separation distances between developments and important natural heritage features, shoreline setbacks, treatment and disposal of stormwater runoff, treatment and disposal of wastewater, preservation and enhancement of natural vegetation, habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species and birds, beach berms and shoreline conditions. Recommendations relating to these issues may be incorporated into the conditions of approval for the developments.

4.3.3 Harrison's Cave Zone of Special Environmental Control

The Harrison's Cave Zone of Special Environmental Control is one of the most studied areas in Barbados. It is characterised by wooded areas, caves/karst systems, rolling agricultural land and significant residential and farming communities. Cole's Cave and Harrison's Cave are two well-known cave systems which possess a hydrological connection. Three gully systems adjacent to Harrison's Cave - Harris Gully, Welchman Hall Gully and Jack-in-the-Box Gully - provide relatively undisturbed linear corridors of wooded habitats. The intent of the Zone of Special Environmental Control is to control domestic waste discharge.

The following policies apply to the Harrison's Cave Zone of Special Environmental Control.

1. There will be no new development within the restricted area unless it is associated with the Harrison Cave.
2. There will be no change of use.
3. There will be no subdivision of land.
4. Improvements to existing buildings will be allowed subject to the special conditions for sewage disposal now enforced in Groundwater Protection Zone A, as described in Section 2.2.3 Water.
5. There will be no increase in the capacity of any building. For example, a single family house cannot be upgraded to a two family unit.
6. The Government may consider negotiation of a lease or agreement with the landowner of Coles Cave to ensure its protection.

4.3.4 Natural Heritage Conservation Areas - Marine

Barbados' near-shore marine ecosystem is one of its most important natural resources and provides the major tourist and recreational attraction for the island. Activities within and impacting upon the near-shore marine ecosystem need to be carefully managed as they can result in damage to habitats and a reduction in species abundance. These issues are addressed comprehensively in the Coastal Zone Management Plan. The Natural Heritage Conservation Areas - Marine that are identified on Map 15 are areas that have unique natural heritage or recreational value, as follows.

Graeme Hall Seagrass Bed and Reef Ecosystem

This NHCA encompasses the marine component of the Graeme Hall Swamp ecosystem. The combined land and marine components encompass an extensive inland wetland, a large beach area, seagrass, and an offshore reef complex. The fact that the swamp is linked to an important marine ecosystem serves to reinforce the conservation value of this site. The freshwater/brackish Graeme Hall Wetland provides important ecological functions including the presence of important mangrove communities. Opportunities exist to sustain and enhance this freshwater system and its relationship with the nearshore environment.

Carlisle Bay Marine Management Area

This NHCA encompasses a relatively small rectangular area of the bay off the southern part of the Esplanade. Records indicate that it has more than 350 different species of tropical marine flora and fauna occurring in scattered coral reefs, shipwrecks and seagrass beds. Three of the four shipwrecks have been there for several years and support a wide range of corals, fish, crustaceans and other types of marine life. The purpose of the OS2 Natural Heritage Conservation Area - Marine designation is to ensure that diving activity does not exceed the carrying capacity of the site.

Rockley Breakwater

The offshore breakwater at Rockley was constructed to reduce wave energy and has been successful in stabilising the beach. The breakwater and the associated seagrass beds also provide a habitat for a large variety of fish which, in turn, are leading to an increase in snorkelling, diving and other recreational activities.

Rockley to Carlisle Bay (potential)

Expansion to the Carlisle Bay Marine Management Area and Rockley Breakwater Natural Heritage Conservation Areas to encompass the entire marine area from Rockley to Carlisle Bay is being considered by the Coastal Zone Management unit.

Folkestone Marine Reserve

The Folkestone Marine Reserve was designated in 1981. The Marine Reserve extends to about one kilometre from the shore over a distance of approximately three kilometres between Folkestone and Sandy Lane. It has been divided into four zones with the intention of facilitating a multiple use system while at the same time protecting the coral reefs. These zones comprise (from north to south) a "Scientific Zone", "Northern Water Sports Zone", "Recreational Zone" and "Southern Water Sports Zone". The quality of the reefs within the Folkestone Marine Reserve has seriously declined in recent decades, primarily as a result of sewage pollution and, to a lesser degree, increased sediment deposition from surface water runoff. The Bellairs Research Institute monitors reef quality and has experimented with using the site as a demonstration of habitat recovery, including possible coral reef transplantation.

The Folkestone Marine Reserve is being considered by the Coastal Zone Management Unit for expansion to Fitts Village in the south and Weston in the North.

Kitridge to Crane Bay

This Natural Heritage Conservation Area - Marine protects a major source of sediment supply for southeast coast.

Conset Point

This Natural Heritage Conservation Area protects seagrass in the area of Conset Point.

Salt Cave Point to Conset Bay and Archers Bay to Maycock's Bay (potential)

This potential Natural Heritage Conservation Area - Marine mirrors the OS3 - Coastal Landscape Protection Zone on the southeast, east and northwest coasts, extending out to the bank reef to promote seascape protection. The nearshore environment in these areas is to maintain its rustic and high energy character consistent with the corresponding landscape. Changing the characteristics of the seascape by calming the water through engineered breakwaters is not appropriate in this area.

The following policies apply to OS2 – Natural Conservation Areas - Marine.

1. Management of uses and activities in the Natural Heritage Conservation Areas - Marine designation is the responsibility of Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit.
2. Management and operational guidelines for marine conservation in the Integrated Coastal Management Plan (2020).
3. The Coastal Zone Management Unit may consider the possible designation of additional Marine Natural Heritage Conservation Areas.



> Folkestone Marine Reserve



> Carlisle Bay (Source: topnotchdrone.com)

➤ 4.4

OS3 - Coastal Landscape Protection Zone

Two Coastal Landscape Protection Zones are shown on Map 15: Barbados System of Parks and Open Space. The Coastal Landscape Protection Zones extend from Salt Cave Point to Conset Bay (along the south east and east coasts) and from Archers Bay to Maycock's Bay (along the north west coast). The inland boundary corresponds to the setback line set out in the Integrated Coastal Management Plan for the Atlantic Coasts of Barbados.

These areas contain significant habitat and contribute to the appearance and function of the coastal areas of Barbados. The St. Lucy section is relatively undeveloped and is characterised by the undercliff woods below a flat plane. The St. Philip and Christ Church sections have a similar cliff profile but are characterised by more intensive development in some areas.



➤ Crane Beach, within the Coastal Landscape Protection Zone, St. Philip

The purpose of this designation is to:

- Locate new development away from erosion prone coastal cliff areas;
- Safeguard new development inland from this zone from the impacts of salt, wind and extreme storm events;
- Safeguard the remaining sections of relatively undeveloped coastline outside the National Park that possess distinctive and attractive natural qualities valuable to the island and the adjacent communities; and
- Offer opportunities for informal recreation and public access.

The following policies apply within OS3 Coastal Landscape Protection Zone.

4. All new development will be set back a minimum of 10 metres from the cliff edge. Additional setbacks may be required based on geotechnical surveys or by the Coastal Zone Management Unit and the Planning and Development Department in areas of significant coastal erosion, or in areas with rare or important existing landscape, habitat or vegetation features which in the opinion of these agencies should be preserved. These areas are indicated on the Integrated Coastal Management Plan for the Atlantic Coasts of Barbados.
5. Landowners will be required to preserve existing coastal vegetation in this zone, and in consultation with the Coastal Zone Management Unit will also be encouraged to enhance existing coastal vegetation buffers along coastal cliffs or adjacent to existing coastal vegetation. The use of indigenous vegetation will be encouraged and sometimes required.
6. Additional policies relating to the Coastal Landscape Protection Zone are set out in the Integrated Coastal Management Plan for the Atlantic Coasts of Barbados (2020) and in the document Integrated Coastal Management - The Barbados Policy Framework.
7. The Government will consider purchasing a 10 metre wide strip on the seaward side of both Coastal Landscape Protection Zones.

OS4 - Public Parks and Open Spaces

This designation includes both public and privately owned sites that are intended to serve a variety of recreation purposes. Several types of open space areas are incorporated in this designation:

- Historic Urban Parks;
- Coastal/Beach Parks;
- Recreational Parks; and
- Community Mini Parks.

4.5.1 Overarching Policies

The purpose of this designation is to:

- Recognise existing public parks and open spaces and ensure that new development within these parks is compatible with their current recreation and open space functions;
- Establish standards to encourage the provision of adequate community parks in developing residential areas; and
- Recognise historic urban open spaces and ensure that new development enhances their heritage characteristics.

The following policies apply.

1. Permitted uses in areas designated OS4 Public Parks and Open Spaces are:
 - a) Active and passive recreational uses;
 - b) Community and recreation centres;
 - c) Conservation uses and beach access in coastal areas;
 - d) Community services, limited government offices and institutional uses are also permitted on larger sites.

4.5.2 Historic Urban Parks

Five historic urban parks have been designated on Map 15: The Garrison Savannah, Queen's Park, Jubilee Gardens, Independence Square, and National Heroes Square. All of these historic urban parks are located within the UNESCO World Heritage site and World Heritage Cultural Conservation Area. The following policies apply to Historic Urban Parks.

1. The provisions and policies of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Management Plan will prevail within Historic Bridgetown and Its Garrison.
2. New recreational or open space development should be complementary to the heritage character of surrounding buildings and the traditional role and function of the park.
3. New structures, buildings and extensions or renovations to existing buildings will be designed to complement the overall heritage character of the park and surrounding heritage structures.
4. Public infrastructure improvements such as roads, sewers, parking facilities, street lighting and sidewalks proposed within or adjacent to these parks will be carefully designed to be compatible with the heritage character of the parks. In particular, new infrastructure should be designed to preserve existing mature trees and historic landscapes, should be located to minimise any reductions to the open space area, and should complement existing heritage buildings located in the park.
5. The Government will make every effort to preserve and upgrade existing cultural heritage assets and landscapes within these parks.
6. Mature trees will be preserved unless they need to be replaced due to disease or for public safety reasons.

4.5.3 Coastal/Beach Parks

Barbados has a variety of Coastal/Beach Parks, as shown on Map 15: Barbados System of Parks and Open Space. In addition, two new Coastal/Beach Parks are proposed: one at Ragged Point and a second one at Harrison's Point Lighthouse. Coastal/Beach Parks are essential elements in the National Parks and Open Space System; providing beach access, recreation opportunities and visual access to the sea for both visitors and residents. Coastal/Beach Parks represent important infrastructure supporting healthy communities.

Coastal/Beach Parks will be subject to the following policies.

1. The Government, through the Coastal Zone Management Unit and the National Conservation Commission, will explore options to protect Coastal/Beach Parks from the impacts of the climate crisis, including by implementing coastal protection and coastal erosion mitigation measures such as hard and soft coastal protection and land reclamation.
2. The management of Coastal/Beach Parks will be undertaken in accordance with the Beach Management, Recreation and Safety policies of the Integrated Coastal Management Plan (2020).
3. Pedestrians should be provided separate access routes, which provide safe, direct access between the beach and adjacent roads and parking areas.
4. Complementary uses such as restaurants, food stands, facilities for water sport equipment rental, children's play areas and interpretive centres will be permitted.
5. Parking lots and vehicular access points will be designed in a safe and attractive manner. Parking areas should be covered in a suitable surface, and should be well-lit and attractively landscaped.
6. Coastal/Beach Parks will be designed to enhance views to the sea from adjacent public roads.
7. The Government will continue to accord a high priority to the renovation of entrances, parking areas, pedestrian access and landscaping at Coastal/Beach Parks.



➤ Brandon's Beach , St. Michael



> Speightstown Playing Field, St. Peter

4.5.4 Recreational Parks

Recreational Parks are located in both urban and rural areas and are intended to accommodate a wide variety of active and passive recreational activities. They are of a smaller scale than facilities designated under the Major Recreational land use designation, which typically draw visitors from across the island and/or accommodate large numbers of spectators.

Recreational Parks are an important piece of addressing the problem of chronic non-communicable diseases in Barbados, as they provide designated spaces for physical activity. In rural areas, these parks are typically oriented toward more passive outdoor recreational activities such as picnics and walking. In residential areas there are numerous Neighbourhood Recreational Parks, which are small open space areas which serve local recreational needs. The Director of Planning and Development also requires developers of new subdivisions to set aside a portion of the land for usable open space

which is owned by the residents of the development. Some Recreational Parks are shown on Map 15: Barbados System of Parks and Open Space, however many Neighbourhood Recreational Parks designated as part of residential development are not mapped.

Neighbourhood Recreational Parks will be subject to the following policies.

1. New Neighbourhood Recreational Parks will be located in areas which are readily accessible to area residents, ideally on corner lots to ensure high visibility from roads, increase walkability and surrounding residences.
2. Neighbourhood Recreational Parks will contain facilities and amenities that are appropriate to the needs of the local population. This may include seating areas, children's play equipment, and active and passive play space.

3. The integration of Neighbourhood Recreational Parks with other community facilities such as elementary schools or community centres will be encouraged.
4. Generally, Neighbourhood Recreational Parks will range in size between 0.25 and 2 hectares.
5. Neighbourhood Recreational Parks will be established as part of the subdivision approval process, at the rate of 17 square metres per residential lot.
6. Neighbourhood Recreational Parks are generally owned in common by the residents of the development. They are frequently left vacant or are poorly maintained. In order to ensure that Neighbourhood Recreational Parks are maintained so as to facilitate active and passive recreation and healthy communities, the following strategies will be considered:
 - a) The Government will consider requiring that new Neighbourhood Recreational Parks are conveyed to the Government as part of the subdivision approval process.
 - b) The National Conservation Commission (NCC) will be encouraged to consider expanding their operations to include responsibility for the maintenance of Neighbourhood Recreational Parks.
 - c) Local communities will be encouraged to use their resources to assist in the upkeep of Neighbourhood Recreational Parks through informal neighbourhood cooperation or through such programs as the NCC's Adopt-a-Park.

4.5.5 Community Mini-Parks

Community Mini-Parks have been created as part of a Government-sponsored neighbourhood improvement programme. Frequently located on privately-owned sites, these parks have been upgraded and are maintained by local residents. Community Mini-Parks have not been mapped.



➤ Community Mini-Park, Bakers Woods, St. Peter



➤ Codrington College, St. John

➤ 4.6

OS5 - National Attractions

The National Attractions shown on Map 15: Barbados System of Parks and Open Space offer some of the finest created landscapes and cultural interpretation features on the island.

The purpose of this designation is to indicate the location of the National Attractions, about which further detail and proposed development strategies can be found in the National Park Development Plan (1999).

The National Attractions are:

- Animal Flower Cave
- St. Nicholas Abbey
- Barbados Wildlife Reserve Grenade Hall Signal Station & Forest
- Morgan Lewis Windmill
- The Potteries
- Flower Forest
- Andromeda Botanic Gardens
- Codrington College

- Welchman Hall Gully
- Harrison's Cave
- Jack in the Box Gully
- Four Square Factory
- Graeme Hall Swamp, Beach, Seagrass Bed & Reef Ecosystem
- Walkers Restoration Potential National Attraction

The following policies apply to National Attractions:

- 1.** The National Attractions will be promoted as part of Barbados' strategy to build a sustainable tourism industry as part of the green economy.
- 2.** Additional National Attractions will be considered to recognise new attractions that have national significance.
- 3.** Following its decommissioning as a sand mine and restoration, Walkers Reserve will be considered as a potential National Attraction.



> Pico Tenerife National Forest Candidate Site, St. Andrew

4.7

OS6 - Barbados National Forest Candidate Sites

National Forest Candidate Sites are identified on Maps 16 and 17. The National Forest Candidate Sites were evaluated for their potential as National Forests in the 1999 National Park Development Plan. They should continue to be preserved, with the intention of ensuring these sites become the core areas of a re-forested National Park.

The National Forest Candidate Sites within the National Park are:

- Hackleton's Cliff Woods
- Joes River Forest
- Turners Hall Woods
- Bruce Vale
- Pico Teneriffe

Lands that are designated under this overlay will be subject to the policies of their underlying land use designation. In addition, National Forest Candidate Sites are subject to the following policies.

1. Notwithstanding the permitted uses of the underlying designation, the permitted uses in National Forest Candidate Sites are:
 - a) Conservation;
 - b) Forestry;
 - c) Crop and fruit production; and
 - d) Grazing in un-forested areas.
2. The Government will develop agricultural outreach and education programmes to promote environmentally sensitive and sustainable farming practices in these areas, and to ensure that the quality of forest stands is not compromised.
3. Permits will be required to undertake tree cutting and vegetation clearing on existing forested sites.
4. Where there is a discrepancy between the policies of the Barbados National Forest Candidate Sites and the policies of the underlying land use designation, the more restrictive policies will apply.
5. Additional National Forest Candidate Sites will be considered outside of the National Park where the potential exists to protect emerging and established forests.

➔ 4.8

OS7 - Shore Access Points

Shore Access Points are identified on Map 15: Barbados System of Parks and Open Spaces. Shore Access Points play an important role in providing public access to beaches and to the emerging pattern of public boardwalks, which are increasingly functioning as pedestrian routes in urban areas. They are also extremely important to maintaining access to the sea for emergency vehicles and maintenance vehicles for coastal structures.

Existing and future Shore Access Points are subject to the following policies.

1. Existing Shore Access Points will be maintained and should be improved where necessary.
2. New Shore Access Points identified in the community plans in Part B should be considered as part of the development or redevelopment process of adjacent sites.
3. Shore Access Points should be identified by standardised signs.
4. New development will not block existing Shore Access Points. In no case will existing Shore Access Points be removed.
5. Where beachfront lots are being amalgamated or redeveloped, new Shore Access Points will be required as a condition of approval.
6. The Director of Planning and Development will attempt, wherever possible, to secure additional Shore Access Points and public parking facilities adjacent to Shore Access Points.
7. Subject to analysis of visual impact and compatibility with surrounding land uses, increases in building height may be allowed to facilitate the creation of additional public access, view corridors and/or pathways to beach areas.
8. Where possible, Shore Access Points should also provide views to the sea to enhance the visual connection with the ocean, particularly on the west coast.



➤ Shore Access Point, Holetown, St. James



➤ Shore Access Point, Rockley Beach, Christ Church

