

## IX. LAND ACQUISITION

Even though Carolina Beach State Park is one of the smaller parks in the state parks system, it is one of the most diverse parks. The underlying Coquina Formation has resulted in rare limesinks in the state park. Most of the rare species found within the state park are associated with the limesinks. The park also encompasses a relic sand dune known as Sugarloaf and the rare Coastal Fringe Sandhills natural community. The primary focus of the park is the protection and interpretation of the rare natural communities, the limesinks and Sugarloaf dune.

Several factors are considered in determining whether a piece of property should be included in an acquisition plan. These include: data from the Natural Heritage Program, the park's existing identified needs, and Division staff's surveys of the properties. Threats to these properties can include development, logging, and other forms of irreparable damage. Needs and threats are evaluated to determine what properties need to be added to the acquisition plan of the park.

### CURRENT ACQUISITION STATUS

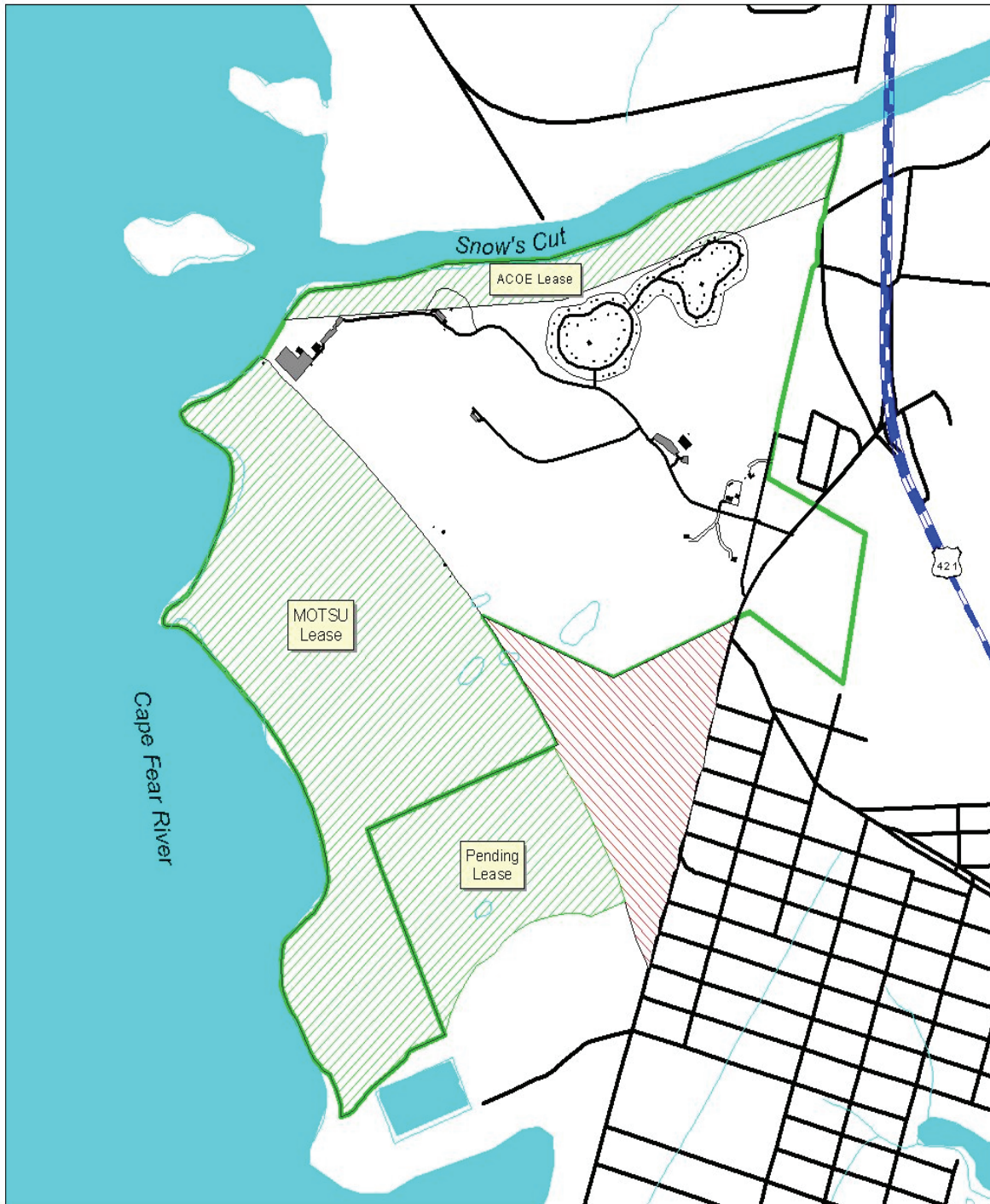
Carolina Beach State Park contains 686 acres as of January 1, 2007. The state owns 420 acres and leases 266 acres from the Department of the Army. Thirty-one of the leased acres lie along Snow's Cut, and 235 acres are in the Military Ocean Terminal - Sunny Point (MOTSU) buffer. At least 75 additional acres are pending as an addition to the MOTSU lease that is currently in the renewal process. Ideally, all the MOTSU buffer lands along Dow Road between the towns of Carolina Beach and Kure Beach should be added to the park. These lands were once leased as a part of the park, but the leased area was reduced years ago because of a lack of staff to adequately manage the property. Staff is now adequate to manage this additional land.

### FUTURE ACQUISITION NEEDS

Completion of land acquisition at Carolina Beach State Park requires the acquisition of two parcels consisting of 71 acres. This very high priority acquisition includes the protection of several lime sink ponds and additional land for trails. The property identified for acquisition has state ownership on one side and the area leased from MOTSU on the other. This property was evaluated in 2003 using the Division's Land Evaluation and Acquisition Priority Program (LEAP) criteria, and it has a very high systemwide ranking.

### ACQUISITION SUMMARY TABLE

State-owned land	420 acres
Leased land	<u>266 acres</u>
Current size of the park (January 1, 2007)	686 acres
Minimum addition to the MOTSU lease area	75 acres
Acquisition needs	<u>71 acres</u>
Planned size of the park	832 acres



Carolina Beach  
State Park

-  State Park
-  Future Need
-  Leased Land

0 500 1000 1500 Feet




Division of Parks and Recreation

**Figure: IX-1. Carolina Beach State Park**