



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

News Release

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National group picks Monmouth County, NJ as a top beach

The restored beaches from Sea Bright to Manasquan Inlet in Monmouth County, N.J., have earned honors as one of the 2006 Top Restored Beaches from the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association.

The 18 miles of Monmouth County shore is among six beaches from around the country being singled out for successful efforts to restore the health, ecology and protective benefit of their coastlines.

The Sea Bright to Manasquan Inlet project has succeeded beyond the designers' expectations of a six-year renourishment cycle. The project, conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District in partnership with the State of New Jersey, has reduced storm damage for more than 10 years. It also has enhanced economic, recreational and environmental opportunities in the area. Located in a suburban and urban environment, it is the largest restored beach in the United States and will be the site of the ASBPA's 2006 fall conference in October.

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Designed as a storm protection project to prevent infrastructure damage from ocean storms along the heavily populated coastal area, the project involved creating a 100-foot-wide sand berm 10 feet above mean low water. Outfall lines were extended and stone groins were notched to facilitate sand movement along the shoreline. Before the project was completed in 2001 after seven years of seasonal construction, many areas had only seawalls and strips of beach a dozen feet wide as protection from Atlantic storms.

One renourishment cycle has been completed, in Sea Bright and Monmouth Beach. Design plans are nearly complete for the next section, Long Branch, with contract award scheduled for this fall.

The ASBPA notes that for more than 80 years, U.S. communities have been restoring their beaches. Every coastal state has a beach replenishment project; in all, more than 370 locations have been restored – including some of the best-known beaches in the country, such as Miami Beach and Coney Island, Ocean City and Waikiki.

The ASBPA established its Top Restored Beach Awards to build awareness and appreciation for the value and importance of America's restored beaches. Coastal communities are asked to nominate their restored beaches, and an independent panel reviews the selections based on its ecological and economic success, the short- and long-term performance of the restoration project and the unique challenges overcome in the course of completing the restoration project.

This year's other five winners are:

- Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland
- Captiva Island, Florida
- Gulf Shores/Orange Beach, Alabama
- Pinellas County Beaches, Florida
- Rehoboth and Dewey Beaches, Delaware

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Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., New York District commander, noted that the estimate of damages prevented for the total project was \$53 million annually. "In addition, this project has had enormous positive economic and ecological benefits for New Jersey and the nation's economy."

Said ASBPA President Harry Simmons: "This year's winning beaches again represent the breadth and benefit of beach restoration – as well as the unique nature of each beach project undertaken. These beaches are being brought back to health in ways that reflect the unique character and ecosystem of each one, as well as the unique challenges each one faces both from nature and from man."

Beaches previously honored with this award include Cape May Inlet to Lower Township, N.J., in 2005.

New York District is responsible for civil works, environmental restoration and military construction projects in northern New Jersey, eastern New York and Long Island, portions of Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut, and overseas in Thule, Greenland. Within these boundaries, District personnel also are responsible for maintaining more than 240 miles of Federal navigation channels in the greater New York Harbor area and emergency and contingency operations. More information about New York District is available at www.nan.usace.army.mil.

Founded in 1926, the ASBPA represents the scientific, technical and political interests along the coast in an effort to shape national research and policy concerning shore and beach management and restoration. The organization strives to engage a factual debate on coastal issues and economics that will foster sound, far-sighted and economical development and preservation of our shores and beaches, thereby aiding in placing their benefits within reach of the largest possible number of people in accordance with the ideals of a democratic nation. Additional information about the ASBPA is available at www.asbpa.org.