



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Assateague Island
National Seashore

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Assateague Island National Seashore

News Release

February 13, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact: Debbie Morlock (410) 629-1091

Assateague Island National Seashore Proposes Fee Changes in 2008

Assateague Island National Seashore (ASIS) Superintendent Scott Bentley announced today that the proposed 2008 fee schedule for the National Seashore is open for public comment until March 14, 2007. In accordance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (REA) and National Park Service Policy, Assateague Island National Seashore (ASIS) is soliciting public participation to determine appropriate rates for recreation and use fees. National Park Service recreation and use fees are retained by the Agency. No less than 80% of fees collected at Assateague Island National Seashore are retained by the Seashore for specific services and projects such as repairing and maintaining visitor facilities, providing lifeguard services and administering permit programs.

Assateague Island National Seashore is scheduled for fee increases that are compatible with other similar national parks in 2008. As responsible stewards of the Seashore, staff routinely engages in market research to ensure fees are comparable with similar services and markets. Based on current market research, the following changes are proposed to take effect January 1, 2008.

Entrance Fee:	When Valid:	Current Cost:	Proposed Change:
7 day foot/bicycle	7 days	\$ 3 Age 17-62	\$3 (No Change) Age 16-62
7 day vehicle pass Includes Motorcycles & Mopeds	7 days	\$10 Age 17-62	\$15 Age 16-62
Assateague Annual Entrance Pass	January 1 – December 31	\$ 20	\$30
Commercial Tour (26+ people)	1 day	\$100	No Change
Commercial Tour (7-25 people)	1 day	\$ 40	No Change
Commercial Tour (1-6 people)	1 day	\$ 25	No Change
Chincoteague NWR Annual Pass	1 year from purchase	Honored by ASIS	Payment of difference to ASIS Annual Pass
Chincoteague NWR Weekly Pass	7 days	Honored by ASIS	Payment of difference to ASIS 7-day Pass
Federal Duck Stamp	July 1 to June 30 of following year	Honored by ASIS	Payment of difference to ASIS Annual Pass

Currently, 80% of the revenue generated from entrance fees remain at the Seashore.

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Expanded Amenity Fees:	When Valid:	Current Cost:	Proposed Change:
Virginia Beach Services	Year-around	No Fee	\$5/week to \$3/day in addition to Refuge \$10 fee
Reservation Camping	April 15 through October 15	\$20/night	\$22/night
First Come, First Served Camping	October 16 through April 14	\$16/night	\$18/night
Group Camping	Year-round	\$30/night	\$50/night
Horse Camping	October 16 through April 14	\$25/night	\$50/night
Backcountry Camping	Year-round	\$5/group	\$5/adult Age 16 and older

Currently, 80% of the revenue generated from entrance fees remain at the Seashore. The most notable change in the proposed fee structure is a new Expanded Amenity Fee that would be charged by the Seashore on the Virginia end of the Island to off-set costs associated with National Park Service provided beach parking and lifeguard services. This new expanded amenity fee of up to \$3/day for each vehicle is in addition to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge's (Refuge) entrance fee, which is currently \$10/7-days. The Seashore expanded amenity fee is proposed to ensure sufficient funding is available to cover the costs of repairs associated with parking lot damage caused by annual storms and to provide summer lifeguard services. No Refuge entrance fee revenue is used to offset National Park Service costs associated with providing recreation on the southern end of Assateague Island. Currently, visitor use fee revenue generated from the Maryland end of the Seashore is used to off-set the cost of many projects on the Virginia end of the Island.

Special Use Permit Fees:	When Valid:	Current Cost:	Proposed Change:
VA Only Oversand Vehicle Day Use Permit	1 year from purchase, Refuge hours, No summer access	Previously allowed by \$70 OSV permit	\$70
Island-wide (MD & VA) Oversand Vehicle Day Use Permit	1 year from purchase, 5 AM – Midnight only	Previously allowed by \$70 OSV permit	\$90
Overnight Oversand Vehicle Permit (Includes Island-wide Day Use) Must be awake/no camping	1 year from purchase, 24hrs/day except in Refuge	Previously allowed by \$70 OSV permit	\$110
Bull Pen Overnight Parking Permit (Includes Island-wide Day Use and Overnight)	1 year from purchase 24hrs/day except in Refuge	Previously allowed by \$70 OSV permit	\$150
Waterfowl Hunting Permits	Per Season	No Fee	\$20/Season

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Currently, 100% of the Special Use Permit Fee revenue remains at the Seashore to off-set the costs associated with providing the special uses.

The following projects have been completed recently at Assateague Island National Seashore with recreation fees collected on the Maryland portion of Assateague Island.

• Rehabilitation of Bullpen OSV Parking Area, MD	\$ 14,482
• Replacement of Portable Romtec Toilets, VA	\$ 80,000
• Replacement of Air Compressor for OSV tire inflation, MD	\$ 7,133
• Replacement of Radio Repeater Tower & Rehab Building	\$ 110,503
• Installation of Roadside Fencing to Protect Natural Resources	\$ 45,000
• Purchase & Customize Mobile Discovery Trailer	\$ 8,509
• Rehabilitation of Water Pump Building, MD	\$ 9,064
• Rehabilitation of Boardwalks, MD	\$ 130,319
• Replacement of Picnic Tables and Grills	\$ 14,368
• Rehabilitation of Naturalist Shack, MD	\$ 4,651
• Renovation of Lifeguard Tower, VA	\$ 5,378
• Rehabilitation of Off Road Vehicle Booth, VA	\$ 2,143
• Rehabilitation of South Ocean Beach Restroom, MD	\$ 10,592
• Fire and Life Safety Assessment of Buildings	\$ 9,354
• Reconfiguration of Eroding Bayside Parking Area, MD	\$ 33,019
• Replacement of Visitor Center HVAC Systems, VA	\$ 22,250
• Bridge Maintenance: Assateague & Sheep Head Ck	\$ 155,426
• Rehabilitation of Historic Boathouse, MD	\$ 68,673
• Rehabilitation of Bulkheads, Mill and Overlay Roadway, VA	\$1,588,754

The Seashore encourages public feedback to help us gain a broad and diverse perspective in order to make well-informed decisions about how to proceed with the proposed changes. Comments may be made by calling the Seashore's Fee Program Manager Debbie Morlock at 410-629-1091, emailing the Superintendent at ASIS_Superintendent@nps.gov or by visiting <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

Assateague Island National Seashore was authorized by act of Congress (Public Law 89-195) on September 21, 1965, to preserve and protect the unique Mid-Atlantic coastal resources and the natural ecosystem conditions and processes upon which they depend, while providing high quality resource-based recreational and educational opportunities. The authorized boundary includes approximately 48,700 acres of land and water in Maryland and Virginia. Located within an easy three hour drive of Washington D.C., Baltimore and Philadelphia metropolitan areas, Assateague Island offers visitors an unspoiled setting to experience the ambiance of a dynamic barrier island with its legendary wild horses and a multitude of exceptional recreational opportunities.