



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Assateague Island National**  
**Seashore**  
**Maryland and Virginia**

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## Assateague Island NS 2008 Accomplishments

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### At a Glance

**\$4.6 million budget**

**137 permanent/term/seasonal staff**

**2 million visitors**

**1,280/12,432 volunteers/volunteer hours**

**\$368,106,000 spent by non-local visitors in local economies**

**\$25,000 donated**

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### National Park Service Centennial

Centennial funds were used to plan and design a new marine life exhibit and aquaria to be built as part of the new Barrier Island Visitor Center

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### Improving Visitor Experience

Replaced the antiquated and undersized North Beach bathhouse with three new sustainable facilities; increasing our capacity to serve our guests to the island and decreasing our water consumption

Introduction of our cell phone tour to reach visitors interested in mixing technology with their park visit was highly successful and efforts will be taken to expand this opportunity for future visitors

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### Working with Communities

Assateague Island Alliance, Inc. (AIA) is the first Friends Group and was established in January of 2008

Piloted a new Community Youth Apprenticeship Program; creating an opportunity for a high school student to work as a National Park Service interpretation trainee

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### Caring for the Environment

Initiated an ambitious three year project to control *Phragmites australis* (common reed), an aggressive, non-native invader of wetland habitats on Assateague Island

Began the restoration of 200 acres of salt marsh to reverse the harmful affects of extensive ditching during the 1940's and 1950's to control mosquitoes

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### Working Smarter

Completed a combined Core Operations Evaluation and Business Plan development project that was very successful

Initiated revision of the park's outdated General Management Plan

Completed a Park Asset Management Plan to guide us in replacing high priority assets

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### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.