



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Assateague Island  
National Seashore

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## Assateague Island National Seashore News Release

Date: 11/30/12

For Immediate Release

Contact: Liz Davis 410-629-6087

### **Assateague Island National Seashore Recovery Update #7**

Progress continues in Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts. A National Park Service Type III incident management team has been supervising the recovery working with park staff and with assistance from other NPS employees from around the country. The damage to the park's two districts included:

- Maryland – Dunes were breached in front of the group campsites, the walk-in campsites, and South Ocean Beach parking area, causing them to either be totally washed away or covered by over four feet of sand. The bayside picnic area and the end of bayside parking lot were lost into the bay; the bayside "Life of the Marsh" and "Life of the Forest" trails were severely damaged or destroyed. The Old Ferry Landing naturalist shack was lifted off of its pilings and washed onto its side. Most boardwalks in the park were destroyed or damaged. Blind A, the blind available to disabled hunters, was destroyed. All backcountry roads suffered significant damage.
- Virginia – The boathouse dock at the U. S. Coast Guard Station, a National Historic Landmark, received significant damage. The beach parking lots sustained severe damage, and part of the beach road was washed out.

The following areas are open to the public:

- Assateague Island Visitor Center in the Maryland District is open seven days a week. Toms Cove Visitor Center in the Virginia District is open Friday through Monday, from December through February.
- All user fees are in effect.
- North Ocean Beach parking area in the Maryland District is open.
- Beach Road in the Virginia District will open on 12/01/12 to vehicle traffic. There is limited parking at the beach.
- Oceanside Drive-in campground loops 1 and 2, Bayside Drive-in campground and Group camping is open.
- Little Levels backcountry campsite is open.

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- The Over-Sand Vehicle (OSV) zone in the Maryland District has reopened; however, high tides may limit access.
- The Over-Sand Vehicle (OSV) zone in the Virginia District will open 12/01/12.
- Hunting is open in the Maryland District.
- Bayside picnic area is open. Kayaks and canoes may launch from this area.
- South Ocean Beach parking area is projected to be open by noon on 12/01/12.
- Life of the Dunes nature trail is open.

Significant progress is taking place in the following areas:

- Contractors for Maryland Department of Transportation are working to repair the pedestrian/bicycle trail next to Maryland Route 611.
- A crane has removed damaged boardwalks from the Life of the Marsh trail and moved the naturalist shack from its pilings.
- Damaged asphalt from the parking areas has been removed.
- A saw crew has removed downed and hazardous trees.
- Damaged administrative backcountry roads are being filled utilizing heavy equipment.

No injuries have occurred during recovery operations.

Please call 410-641-1441 for more information or check our website at [www.nps.gov/asis](http://www.nps.gov/asis) for updates. Follow Assateague Island National Seashore on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Flickr](#).

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