



Assateague Island National Seashore www.nps.gov/ASIS

Stewardship

The following centennial proposal is certified as eligible for Centennial Challenge funding consideration in fiscal year 2008. Funding for the Centennial Challenge requires legislation.

Develop Alternatives for Sustainable Wastewater Treatment for Assateague Island

Location: Worcester County, Maryland
Partner(s): State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Total Cost: \$150,000.
Proposal # 137620

Summary: The NPS shares land management responsibilities in the Maryland portion of Assateague Island with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Assateague State Park. Together, the two areas host more than 1.6 million visitors annually. Both parks provide visitor amenities that require the treatment and disposal of sanitary waste. Existing systems on the Island are, however, antiquated and do not provide the level of treatment (particularly nitrogen and bacterial removal) required to adequately protect water quality in adjacent park waters.

The proposed project will develop sustainable wastewater treatment infrastructure for both the National Seashore and State Park. The unified system will contain, collect and transport wastewater generated on Assateague Island to an existing NPS-operated wastewater treatment plant currently serving the mainland visitor center and headquarters facilities. The project will eliminate nitrogen loading and bacterial contamination of surface and ground waters; existing problems that currently threaten both public health and aquatic resources.

For more information contact:

Carl Zimmerman at (410) 641-1443, x213 or by email at carl_zimmerman@nps.gov



The proposed project will help protect sensitive aquatic resources by developing improved wastewater treatment practices for infrastructure supporting visitor use on Assateague Island