



Fire Island National Seashore
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, New York
11772

Stabilize and Repair Historic Fresnel Lens (\$175,000)

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding provides Fire Island National Seashore with \$175,000 for the stabilization and reassembly of the Fire Island Lighthouse's original Fresnel lens. This artifact may then be displayed permanently in a new building at the Fire Island Lighthouse.



The 18-foot-high first order Fresnel lens was installed at the top of the Fire Island Lighthouse in 1858. In 1933, it was taken out of service, disassembled and removed from the lighthouse. The lens was then crated and shipped to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

From 1939 to 2000, the lens was incorporated into the Franklin Institute's permanent exhibit on Lighting and Optics. In 2000, the Franklin Institute removed the lens from permanent exhibit and placed it into storage.

Many years of planning, formal agreements and appropriate environmental reviews had begun while the lens was in Philadelphia. In partnership with the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, the National Park Service approved the construction of a new facility to display the lens beside its former

home on Fire Island. In March 2007, the crated lens was moved to Fire Island National Seashore's curatorial storage facility on Long Island, where it has been in storage awaiting funding for refurbishment.

Authorized ARRA Funding Amount: \$175,000

will cover the following costs:

- Condition assessment of the historic Fresnel lens
- Artifact conservation and repair
- Installation into the new building at the Fire Island Lighthouse

Benefits:

- **Stabilization of historic artifact**
- **Expanded educational opportunities**
Actual historic Fresnel lens is expected to provide a greater understanding of and appreciation for story of light station technology.
- **Increased local tourism**
More than 130,000 people visited the Fire Island Lighthouse in 2008, and even greater visitation is expected after the return of the Fresnel lens.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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