

Cape Henry Lighthouse Dune Restoration/Base Stabilization Media Fact Sheet

Q: What is the timeline for the dune restoration/base stabilization project?

The project began in September 2018 and is expected to finish in spring 2019.

Q: What is the cost for the project?

The estimated total project cost is \$1,144,230.

Q: Who is funding the dune restoration/base stabilization project?

The majority of the funding (\$845,000) is from Federal transportation enhancement grants. [Preservation Virginia](#) and the [City of Virginia Beach](#) have partnered to provide the matching grant funds and cover additional project costs.

Q: Who owns the Cape Henry Lighthouse?

Preservation Virginia (formerly known as the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities) owns the lighthouse.

Q: Who is Preservation Virginia?

Preservation Virginia is a private, non-profit organization and statewide historic preservation leader founded in 1889 that is dedicated to preserving, promoting, and serving as an advocate for Virginia's cultural and architectural history. In 1930, Cape Henry Lighthouse was deeded to Preservation Virginia by the U.S. government to be preserved and opened to the public.

Q: Who has been awarded the construction contract for the dune restoration project?

Conquest USA, Inc.

Q: Who will be managing the construction project?

The City of Virginia Beach Public Works Department is managing the construction project. The firm of Clark Nexsen has provided the design and engineering services and will assist the City with project oversight.

Q: Why is the City of Virginia Beach managing the project?

The Federal grants require the local government to perform project management.

Q: Why does the dune need to be restored and the base stabilized?

The foundation of the Lighthouse, which is approximately 20 feet deep, is constructed from a relatively soft building material, Aquia sandstone. Exposure to strong winds eroded the sand dune and exposed about half of foundation. The wind, and especially wind-driven rain, has damaged the exposed Aquia sandstone material. Restoring the dune to cover the base, as it was when the lighthouse was originally constructed, will prevent further damage.

Q: What will the dune restoration project entail?

The project will entail the installation of interior and exterior retaining walls to hold the top of the dune in place. The interior wall will be installed around the lighthouse approximately six feet out from the base. The area between the exterior and interior walls will be filled with a compacted soil and sand mixture. A concrete slab will be poured to encapsulate the dune. A sand soil mix will also fill the area between the lighthouse base and the interior retaining wall. Sea grasses will be planted there. The slab will be finished with brick pavers. The interior wall will extend approximately 18 inches above the slab to serve as seating. It will be finished with a granite veneer. A metal railing will be installed on top of the exterior retaining wall. Surrounding vegetation will be reduced to enhance visibility from the base area. The stairs into the lighthouse will be replaced. New interpretive signs will also be installed around the pedestrian plaza.

Q: Will any archaeology be done during the project?

Archaeological investigations have been completed in advance of the project by the James River Institute for Archaeology.

Q: Will the public be able to climb the lighthouse during construction?

Not during construction. Preservation Virginia will update their website and social media channels in advance of the tower becoming temporarily unavailable for climbing.

Q: What other activities will be available while the tower is not available for climbing?

Preservation Virginia has launched a walking tour that explores more than 400 years of the historic Cape Henry area surrounding the Lighthouse. Stops include the Cape Henry Memorial National Park, which commemorates the English settlers first landing near here in 1607 before continuing up the James River to Jamestown, and the new Cape Henry Lighthouse built in 1881 to replace the original tower. The general admission cost of walking tours is \$10.

Q: Outside of the dune restoration project, what other projects are Preservation Virginia fundraising for at Cape Henry Lighthouse?

Preservation Virginia is raising \$525,500 with the support of the Virginia Beach community. Those funds will support new educational programming and preservation maintenance projects including tower repairs and painting, and visitor services facility improvements.

Q: When will the shuttles at Joint Expeditionary Base Fort Story launch?

The shuttles will launch on October 15.

Q: How will the shuttle service work?

Visitors arriving to Security Gate 8 at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek Fort Story without military ID will be directed to park in a designated area at the gate to be transported to Cape Henry Lighthouse. Before boarding the shuttle, visitors will need to show a photo ID and go through a security check. Visitors carrying a military ID will be allowed to drive to the Lighthouse.

Q: Will the shuttles pick visitors up from locations outside of the military base?

No, the shuttles will not be traveling away from the military base to transport people to Cape Henry Lighthouse.