

National Park Service  
2011 Environmental Achievement Awards

**Honorable Mention**

**Guest Services, Inc., Concessioner**  
**Rock Creek Park**  
*Manure Storage Building*

Guest Services, Inc. operates the Rock Creek Park Horse Center in Rock Creek Park. The facility offers riding lessons, trail rides, camps, and boarding for horses. The Rock Creek Park Horse Center has been in operation since 1959; Guest Services has been the concessioner since 1999.

For decades, the Rock Creek Park Horse Center had operated with an open manure storage area. An earlier containment structure had deteriorated and collapsed prior to 1999. Straw, wood chips, manure, and other equine wastes were periodically removed from the horse stalls, and piled on an open, partially-protected asphalt pad. Since the waste pile was open to the weather, runoff from the pile would leach into the soil and groundwater. Rock Creek itself, a tributary of the Potomac River, is only a few hundred yards away from the pile, and was subject to contamination by runoff.

The project to build a new manure storage area originated with the National Park Service, who asked Guest Services to develop plans for the project. Guest Services worked with the manufacturer and the contractor to design, permit, and build the new storage area.

The planning phase started in 2008, with construction completed in 2010. The new storage area consists of a wood-framed manure storage facility made from sustainably-harvested forest timber. The outside metal sheeting is made from recycled steel material. The paint on the steel sheeting is electrostatically bonded at the manufacturing facility, so no volatile paint products were applied to the skin of the building.

The Project houses a 33 cubic yard dumpster for the collection of horse manure, straw, and wood shavings. Once the dumpster is full, it is transported to a composting facility where the mixture is composted into nutrient rich soil that is used in landscaping and mushroom farming. The rain which lands on the building is collected and stored for watering the horses at the Rock Creek Horse Center, thereby reducing the demand on the municipal water system.

This project can be easily replicated in other parks and can serve as a model for other concessioners looking to replace horse facilities with new, sustainably designed facilities.