Our Vision:
The Outer Banks national parks protect much of what you love most about being here. With your support, Outer Banks Forever will ensure that future generations can continue to learn, grow, and create memories here in the Outer Banks through history, conservation, and the celebration of innovation. Together, we will support the Outer Banks national parks by engaging current and future visitors through philanthropy, education, volunteerism, and partnerships.

“Outer Banks Forever has made remarkable progress during its first year, spreading the word on how everyone can give back to their national parks to improve the quality of visitor experiences and enhance resource stewardship.”

David E. Hallac, Superintendent, National Parks of Eastern North Carolina

In 2016, our team at Eastern National began to explore ways to adopt a greater role in fundraising to support our park partners. We decided our pilot philanthropic branch would support the three national parks in the Outer Banks: Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Wright Brothers National Memorial, and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site.

It was an exciting year leading this initiative. We publicly launched during National Park Week in April 2019, and I am happy to report that in just eight months, Outer Banks Forever built a strong foundation of support for these amazing parks that includes:

• Raising $35,000 to protect and enhance our Outer Banks national parks.
• Growing a supporter base of nearly 150 donors, more than 750 email subscribers, and 3,000 social media followers who are passionate about their Outer Banks national parks.
• Recruiting and engaging a founding Board of Directors—comprised of six community leaders—who provide strategic direction and opportunities for continued growth.
• Establishing a young professionals committee, led by board member Nick Graham, who is engaging a new generation of leaders.
• Launching Outer Banks Forever merchandise at the America’s National Parks™ Store at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, including the popular Adopt A Turtle plush program.

While building this foundation, we led two key projects that raised funds and visibility for the parks in the local community: the Adopt A Pony program and the Love the Beach, Respect the Ocean campaign. Through the Adopt A Pony program, visitors can symbolically adopt one of the 14 ponies who live on Ocracoke Island and receive a photo and adoption certificate for their pony. These donations support the care and maintenance of the beloved island residents. Outer Banks Forever also played a key role in growing the Love the Beach, Respect the Ocean campaign. A collaboration between the National Park Service, local municipalities, and local life-saving services, this community campaign provides education on ocean safety to reduce the number of ocean-related fatalities in our coastal community.

Along with raising funds and awareness for the Outer Banks national parks, we helped raise their visibility around the region. We were invited to submit a nomination to The Cultural Landscape Foundation’s Landslide 2019 program, which highlights important cultural landscapes in the United States that are threatened by climate change. It was an honor to be featured in the report, which explains the threat sea-level rise has on our Outer Banks national parks. We collaborated with the foundation on a press release that was picked up by media outlets across the country, including the Charlotte Observer, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and the Chicago Tribune.
The Outer Banks Forever founding Board of Directors with Dave Hallac, superintendent of National Parks of Eastern North Carolina (far left), and Jessica Green, Outer Banks Forever director (fourth from right). The six founding board members shown are (left to right) Bob Woodard, Mike Smith, Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy, Beth Midgett, Nick Graham, and Trip Forman.

We look forward to making an even bigger impact in the upcoming year. Our vision is to be the premier philanthropic partner of our national parks, giving them support that allows them to achieve a margin of excellence in their work and flexibility to respond to ever-changing visitor and community needs.

The focus of our work in 2020 includes:

- Expansion of the Board of Directors to encompass community and business leaders from around the region that represent the diverse visitors who enjoy these parks.
- Growing our presence in the parks and the community to increase our reach to new supporters.
- Funding projects at all of the three parks that will include partnering with the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau to install webcams, launching an Artist-in-Residence program, and kicking off a campaign to build new multi-use paths.
- Hosting events off the islands to engage visitors in key cities who have strong connections to the Outer Banks.

I am incredibly grateful to the National Park Service leadership and staff here in the Outer Banks for fully embracing Outer Banks Forever and working side by side with us to make our first year a success.

Jessica Green
DIRECTOR, OUTER BANKS FOREVER
What We Achieved in FY19

76 pony adoptions

500 turtle adoptions

146 donors

100,000 ocean safety cards distributed

3,000 social media followers

6 founding board members
“We are so fortunate to have three historic and beautiful parks on the Outer Banks! All of them are quite unique…. I believe our three national parks—Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Wright Brothers National Memorial, and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site—are such treasures, worthy of support from all of us.”

Mike Smith, Outer Banks Forever Board Member and Forever Founder

**FOREVER FOUNDERS $1,000+**
Dare County Gifts in Honor of Edward and Rebecca Boone-Masterka Bridget Hart Kevin and Michele Kissling Linda Meyers National Park Foundation Ocean Atlantic Rentals Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Jason Scarpello Michael “Moose” Smith*

**$500-999**
Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy*
Cat and Charlie Lineberry Bob Woodard*

**$100-499**
Joseph Abell Carol Bauer Shanna Blanchard Brian and Julie Claydon Brian Doyle Trip Forman* Gerry Gabrys** Lloyd Godwin Nick Graham* Kimberly Harris Stephen Jones Frances March William McKendree** Beth Midgett* Paul Mortensen Nancy Myers Katherine Nelson Paul Osler Tom and Sue Phalen Julie, Tegan, and Kylie Royster Jason Sartori Susan Schroeder** Megan Shelley Dusty Shultz** Tom Sterzel Christine Trippe McGrew Peter Vankевич Joan Watts Richard Weaver

**$1-99**

Kathleen Welton Barbara Werner Wesley’s Way Foundation Don Willis Davitt Woodwell Deb Yandala**

**$100-499**
Joseph Abell Carol Bauer Shanna Blanchard Brian and Julie Claydon Brian Doyle Trip Forman* Gerry Gabrys** Lloyd Godwin Nick Graham* Kimberly Harris Stephen Jones Frances March William McKendree** Beth Midgett* Paul Mortensen Nancy Myers Katherine Nelson Paul Osler Tom and Sue Phalen Julie, Tegan, and Kylie Royster Jason Sartori Susan Schroeder** Megan Shelley Dusty Shultz** Tom Sterzel Christine Trippe McGrew Peter Vankевич Joan Watts Richard Weaver

“**The more visible supporters a national park has, the better chance it will thrive. Outer Banks Forever has put OBX on the map when it comes to regular people like me being able to support our area’s national parks. The most immediate way I could make an impact to protect and preserve our OBX national parks was to become a Forever Founder. I am proud to be a Forever Founder and look forward to seeing the impact my investment will make to protect and enhance these amazing parks.”**

Bridget Hart, Forever Founder


Cathy Riddell Daniel Ryman Daniel Schmoyer Jeff, Jennifer, and Kaitlyn Schwartzenberg Barbara Schwemigam Sherry Scott Susan Sherman Thomas and Susan Shulthise Julie Shuren Vera Smith Marshall Smith Daniel Song** Stack ‘Em High Pancakes Henry Steiger Vicky Steiger and Jack Schaefer Richard Stillman Martin Stoyanov Greg Taylor Melissa Thompkins Judy Topper Melissa Totten April Valentine Daniel Vallandingham Chris Van Alstyne Peggy and Bruce Wackelin Sarah Welch William Wherry Mason Wickline David Wigglesworth Teri Williams and Hubert King Lance Wines Gwen Wright Arthur Young Kimberly Zippay

*Outer Banks Forever board member
**Eastern National board member

Note: This list includes donors through end of calendar year 2019.