

A full-page photograph of a child walking away from the viewer on a sandy beach towards the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that reflects on the water and the wet sand. The child is silhouetted against the bright light.

**20  
22**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

# **OUTER BANKS FOREVER**

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**CAPE HATTERAS**  
NATIONAL SEASHORE

**FORT RALEIGH**  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

**WRIGHT BROTHERS**  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL





## MEET OUR TEAM



Jessica Barnes, Director



Nicole Erickson,  
Development Manager



Rachael Graf, Community  
Engagement Coordinator

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# Outer Banks Forever

## Director's Letter

In 2022, our focus at Outer Banks Forever was to help locals and visitors rediscover new and interesting stories and experiences in our three national parks. We launched several new initiatives in 2022 and continued to expand our popular Adopt A Sea Turtle Nest and Adopt A Pony programs. These programs raise funds for our parks while also highlighting the important scientific work our park rangers are doing every day to better understand, manage, and protect our unique natural and cultural resources.

Our most exciting initiative of this past year was the launch of our Pathways to Your National Parks campaign. Building on the momentum of the past four years, we are working with our National Park Service partners to fill the gap in funding to build a new, paved multi-use path at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

The growth of the past year is due in no small part to the addition of two new full-time team members here at Outer Banks Forever – Nicole Erickson, Development Manager, and Rachael Graf, Community Engagement Coordinator. Nicole and Rachael's work allowed us to engage nearly 500 donors, strengthen our community partnerships, and have the capacity to take on larger projects that are critical to our parks. We look forward to another strong year of growth and impact as we protect and enhance these special places.

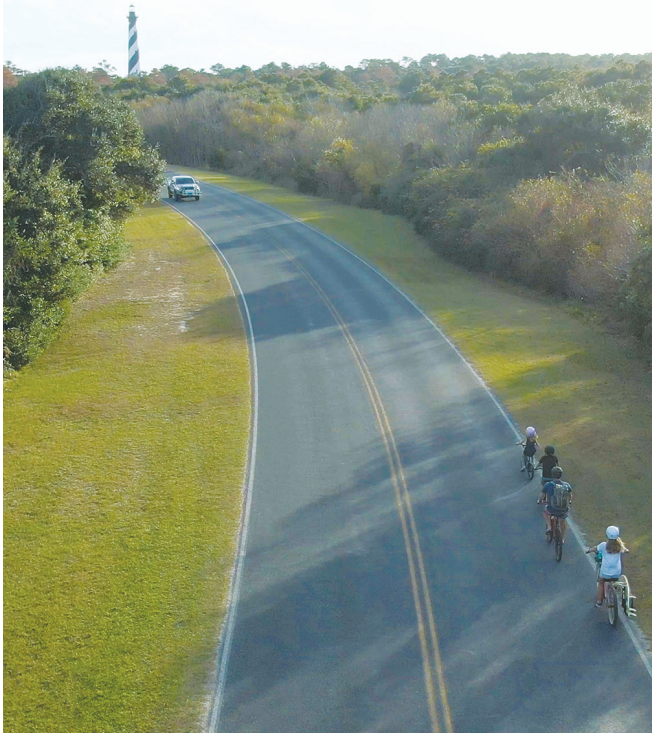


## Rediscovering Our OBX National Parks



### Education Garden at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site

The new education garden at Fort Raleigh NHS highlights the importance of agriculture in our community and includes crops that were cultivated by the Carolina Algonquian peoples, Europeans, and members of the Freedmen's Colony on Roanoke Island. You can visit the garden next to the Visitors Center to better understand the important stories of the people who shaped our unique Outer Banks community.



In 2022, we officially kicked off our largest project and fundraising campaign to date. **Pathways to Your National Parks** aims to create a new way to experience the iconic Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The new paved, multi-use path will make this area safer to explore, while honoring and educating visitors about our coastal environment and the history of our local community. The National Park Service is funding 80% of this project, and with your support we are helping close the funding gap to make this project a reality.

We are in the final stages of the fundraising campaign and look forward to celebrating the opening of the new Cape Hatteras Lighthouse pathway with you all in 2024!

## Helping Junior Rangers Take Flight

Because of our generous donors, we were able to help our park staff at Wright Brothers National Memorial print 2,000 Junior Flight Ranger books when supply chain challenges delayed an order last summer. The Junior Flight Ranger program helps kids continue the Wright brothers' legacy of making the impossible possible by inspiring them to soar to new heights. Thousands of kids participated in the program from April to August 2022!



## Shining a Light on Local History

We are working on a three-year project with our National Park Service partners to install 15 new educational signs at key places in our parks. Thanks to our generous supporters you can now read about the unique history of the Ocracoke Lighthouse, the oldest working lighthouse in North Carolina, as well as the harrowing stories of the Bodie Island Life Saving Station where countless lives were saved from the treacherous waters of the Outer Banks near the Bodie Island Lighthouse.





## FOREVER FOUNDER

Our Forever Founders have invested \$1,000 or more in their OBX national parks since our launch. We are so grateful for their commitment to building a strong foundation of support for our parks.

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## **OUR MISSION:**

Outer Banks Forever is the official nonprofit partner of the three national parks of the Outer Banks (Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial), helping to protect and enhance these special places through public engagement, programming, and project support.

## **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.

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**P.O. BOX 1635,  
KILL DEVIL HILLS, NC 27948**

**[www.obxforever.org](http://www.obxforever.org)**