

OUTER BANKS FOREVER

CAPE HATTERAS
NATIONAL SEASHORE

FORT RALEIGH
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

WRIGHT BROTHERS
NATIONAL MEMORIAL



2021
ANNUAL
REPORT

Outer Banks Forever

Photo: Chuck Bradshaw



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DIRECTOR'S LETTER:



The Outer Banks of North Carolina are often referred to as a “land of firsts.” These unique barrier islands are home to the site of the first attempted English colony in the New World, the first heavier-than-air powered flight, the first National Seashore in the United States, and many more. Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial protect and celebrate these important local and global stories.

For Outer Banks Forever, 2021 was also a year of firsts. We had more supporters than ever investing in our mission to protect and enhance our Outer Banks national parks, including our first and largest individual gift of \$25,000. The generosity of our donors, whether they gave \$25 or \$2,500, allowed us to give our first donation of nearly \$40,000 to our parks and to complete our first park improvement projects since our launch in April 2019.

In addition to growing our impact in our parks, our organization continued its growth in 2021 by electing our first Board officers and bringing on our first new Board members since our founding Board was created. These new leaders and new Board members are helping us to expand our impact in our parks and to engage Outer Banks lovers around the region.

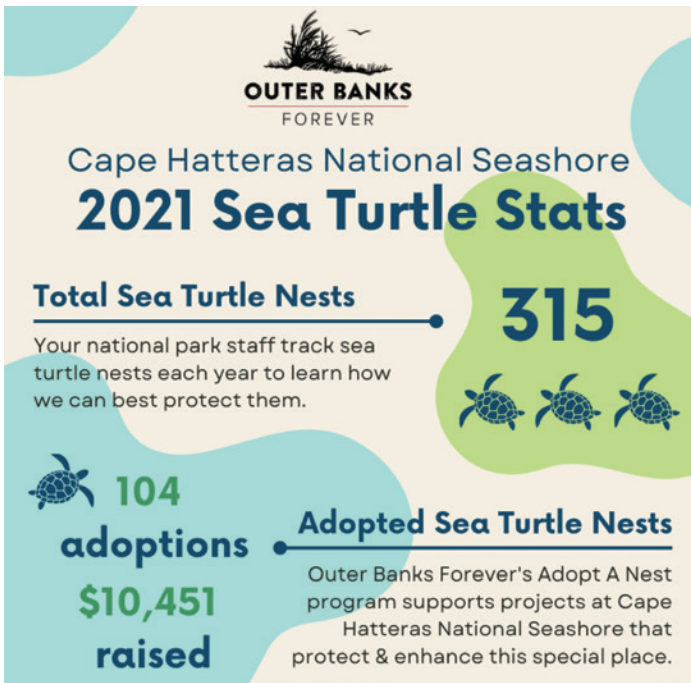
Our parks also exceeded 3 million visitors for the first time ever in 2021. We are proud to continue to work side by side with our National Park Service partners to help them meet the new challenges our parks face and create new ways for you and your family to experience our parks.

Jessica Barnes

DIRECTOR

2021 SEA TURTLE SCOOP

Cape Hatteras National Seashore's pristine beaches are a perfect home for our sea turtle friends. Each year, hundreds of sea turtles make their way onto the beaches to lay their eggs. Funds raised through our Adopt a Sea Turtle Nest program provide for projects that preserve and enhance Cape Hatteras National Seashore today and for future generations. We want to say thank you to our generous supporters and celebrate what we accomplished together in 2021!



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: OREGON INLET KAYAK LAUNCH

With your support, we helped Cape Hatteras National Seashore unveil its first designated, mobility-friendly kayak launch at the popular Oregon Inlet Fishing Center in August 2021. Improvements at the new kayak launch include a new loading zone, additional handicap and kayak trailer parking, mobility friendly access mat, cleanup of rubble and debris, and new educational signage. Thank you to our lead local sponsors TowneBank and Ocean Atlantic Rentals, as well as Bass Pro Shops, for their generous support of this project!

VIEWS FROM YOUR PARKS WEBCAM PROJECT

We were thrilled to announce the installation of a live-feed webcam on the top of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse during National Park Week in April 2021! Made possible by a partnership with The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau and Surflife, this webcam offers locals and visitors a glimpse of the incredible view from the top of the lighthouse while it undergoes extensive renovations and will continue to allow those who may not be able to physically climb or visit the lighthouse a real-time way to stay connected to their park.

The lighthouse webcam is the first of three webcams to be installed in our Outer Banks national parks as part of our Views from Your Parks project.



View the webcam at www.obxforever.org



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.

Bass Pro Shops
Betsy Werley & Bob Plows
Brenda Cummins
Bridget Hart
Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative
Cat & Charlie Lineberry
Dare County
Greg & Eden Honeycutt
Jason Scarpello
Jim & Betty Mast
Kevin & Michele Kissling
Linda Meyers
Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy
Matt & Lauren Imboden
Michael E. Smith
National Park Foundation
Ocean Atlantic Rentals
Paul & Amy Orser
REAL Watersports, Watermen's Grill & Watermen's Retreat
Surflife
The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau
TowneBank (Nags Head, NC)
Marilyn Bray
Tom & Joy Wood & Family

OBX Forever 2021 Donors

\$1000+

Anonymous
Marilyn Bray in honor of Maurice, Hennie, and Frank Bray
Bridget Hart
National Park Foundation
REAL Watersports
Tom & Joy Wood & Family

\$500 - \$999

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT



**BRIDGET HART, Forever Founder,
Project Committee Member**

Back in the summer of 1993 when my family headed to Nags Head for a week, I didn't know this amazing place would one day be our home. The group was made up of my husband, 5-year-old son, one-month-old daughter, parents

and six younger siblings who traveled from California, Florida, Maryland and Virginia. The age range was one month to 65 years, so we were on the lookout for places to visit and things to do that everyone would enjoy.

Our top three choices, in addition to the mandatory beach time and fishing trip, were visiting the Wright Brothers National Memorial, touring Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and attending a performance of the Lost Colony – very different activities that allowed our large group to have fun while learning about this special area. I'll never forget the memories we made back then visiting our Outer Banks national parks.

When I heard a couple of years after we moved to Corolla that Outer Banks Forever was forming, I was excited to learn that in my backyard I could experience and support the intersection of my loves of history and nature. Thanks in part to my father, a 35-year Marine

Corps officer who wrote books about old forts as my parents drove our big family around the country when we were little, I have visited at least one national park, historic site, historic landmark or historic trail in 49 states and two U.S. territories. I continue to marvel at the Outer Banks sites, which are all special and amazing on their own.

The more visible supporters a national park has, the better chance it will thrive. Outer Banks Forever has put the Outer Banks 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 Outer Banks national parks was to become a Forever Founder.

We can better understand where we are going when we appreciate where we have been. Our Outer Banks national parks tell the story of our local history (that has global impact – hello aviation!), while also protecting our natural resources. They allow residents to live in this beautiful, history-filled spot while attracting visitors who keep the local economic engine running. 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.

MEET THE OBX FOREVER TEAM



Jessica Barnes, Director

A native of Virginia and long-time Outer Banks visitor, Jessica received her B.A. in Business Communications from Hollins University and began her career raising funds and managing volunteers in the fight against breast cancer. Her passion for

the nonprofit sector took her to the west coast where she received her Master's in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from the University of San Diego. Before coming to lead Outer Banks Forever, Jessica spent several years learning how philanthropy can support our public lands by leading fundraising efforts for the Shenandoah National Park Trust in Charlottesville, Virginia. Jessica has been visiting the Outer Banks with family and friends since she was young and is thrilled to now call the Outer Banks home.



Rachael Graf, Community Engagement Coordinator

Rachael began visiting the Outer Banks when she was a child, and she has always had a passion for these beautiful barrier islands. She holds a Master's in Professional Writing and a B.A. in Individualized Studies (Journalism

and Spanish), and she enjoys connecting people to causes through the power of story. Over the years, Rachael has

had opportunities to work in K-12 education, higher education and the for-profit public relations sector, but her heart is most at home in the nonprofit world. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, exploring the outdoors, reading and drinking too much coffee. Rachael lives in scenic Central Virginia and travels to the Outer Banks often!



Nicole Erickson, Development Manager

When Nicole graduated from the University of Virginia's College at Wise with a degree in Psychology, she had no idea she would be led down the path of environmental nonprofits.

Now, close to 20 years later, she

has loved every minute of working for mission-driven organizations. Nicole got her start in fundraising, relationship management, and donor events at the National Wildlife Federation in 2002 and continued that same line of work when she joined the development team at the Piedmont Environmental Council in 2014, and then the Shenandoah National Park Trust in 2017. As the newest staff member of Outer Banks Forever, she's thrilled to be joining the team in the role of Development Manager. Nicole resides in the beautiful city of Charlottesville, Virginia, with her husband, son, and sweet rescue pup, Nala.

\$100 - \$499 Cont.

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Libby Squire
Samantha Stallings
Brittany Sweeney
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Two Pups Pottery
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Joan Watts
Kathleen Welton
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Martha Wilson
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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.

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

www.obxforever.org

Cover Photo: Jason Cole