







**\$400,000**

In 2023, you helped us contribute over \$400,000 in financial support to protect and enhance our Outer Banks national parks.





IN 2023, OUR SUPPORTERS SHOWED THEIR LOVE for our Outer Banks national parks in more ways than ever before! We not only contributed the most funding yet to a variety of impactful projects in our parks, but we were also able to connect our parks, our community, and our partners in new and exciting ways. Since we launched Outer Banks Forever in 2019, partnerships have been at the core of our work to protect and enhance these special places. Partnerships connect us all, and when we work together, we strengthen our parks and our community.

We are grateful to our many partners—from local businesses to families and individuals who enjoy visiting our parks—for helping make 2023 our most successful year yet. We hope you will enjoy this brief overview of a few ways our supporters have helped improve our parks, and we look forward to exciting new projects that are in the works as we celebrate five years of impact in 2024!

*Jessica Barnes*  
DIRECTOR



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of David Johnson*

Bob Woodard

Robert Zampardi



# PROJECT UPDATE



## Pathways to Your National Parks

ON NOVEMBER 15, 2023, we joined our National Park Service partners, Terra Site Constructors, LLC, and our friends from Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative to break ground for the new Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Pathway you've helped make possible!

Since then, we've raised an additional \$25,000 through our Giving Tuesday 2023 campaign and a generous grant from the Outer Banks Visitor's Bureau for new accessible restroom and shower facilities at the Old Lighthouse Beach Access. Currently, the only facilities available at the access are port-o-potties. This greatly affects the beachgoing experience – to use proper restroom facilities, locals and visitors must trek over half a mile to the lighthouse itself, and even then, there are no shower facilities available to rinse off sand or gear. Permanent restroom and shower facilities that are accessible and adaptable to changing weather conditions is one of the most requested amenities by both visitors and locals for this area, and we're proud to be a part of greatly improving the beachgoer experience, enhancing the overall aesthetics of the area, and promoting environmental sustainability.

This March, construction crews began pouring concrete on the section of the pathway closest to the lighthouse. We're happy to share that the new pathway is expected to be completed this year!





# YOUR PARKS, YOUR IMPACT

**THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU** who gave in 2023 to support our work to protect and enhance these special places! Together, we are making waves and supporting our parks through some of their biggest challenges to date.

This year we are celebrating our 5th birthday – that’s five years of supporting our parks! Since our founding in 2019, you’ve helped us raise over half a million dollars to preserve these special places for future generations.

## Forever Founders (\$1,000+)

Anderegg Family  
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Cape Clasp  
Cape Hatteras Electric  
Cooperative  
CapSpecialty  
Carolina Brewery  
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ExxonMobil  
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Kitty Hawk Rotary  
Peter Martins  
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Robert Poitras  
Pony Island Inn  
REAL Watersports  
Tracy & Dave Reaves-Allen  
Ron & Paula Withrow  
Foundation  
Swells’a Brewing Company  
Vacasa LLC  
William Weiss  
Betsy Werley & Bob Plows  
Dennis & Julie Whalen  
Marley Williams



## Partner Spotlight: Swells’a Brewing Beer Company

We’d like to introduce you Sam Harriss, co-owner and artistic director at Swells’a Brewing Beer Company located in Kill Devil Hills! Not only are Sam and her fellow owners passionate about brewing great beer, but they are also passionate about protecting and enhancing our Outer Banks national parks. In 2023, through their “Pints for Parks” nights and 1% for the Planet contributions, they raised significant funds to ensure these special places will endure for future generations to enjoy. To meet Sam and to learn more, scan the \*QR code!





## Big Wave Risk Assessment Summit

Since 2019, we've been a part of the award-winning Love the Beach, Respect the Ocean campaign, helping to promote beach and ocean safety in our community. In 2023, we took our passion for keeping Cape Hatteras National Seashore safe to the next level by partnering with Big Wave Risk Assessment Group (BWRAG) of Hawaii to bring their Surf Safety Summit to the East Coast for the first time.

Over two days in April, 60 surfers and water sport athletes participated in a safety and survival workshop hosted by Outer Surf in Nags Head. The goal of the summit was to give more people knowledge and skills that could save a life. By all accounts, it was informative and inspiring to all involved—helping them feel more connected to each other and to the special coastal environment we have here that allows them to do what they love.

## Freedom Trail at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site

The new Freedom Trail at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site will help tell the story of the Freedmen's Colony of 1862 following an existing 2.5-mile roundtrip wooded path through maritime forest. New educational signs, artwork, and life-sized silhouettes will lead park visitors along a journey taken by the freedom seekers who risked everything to reach Roanoke Island, exploring why the island was a safe haven for the community they built, as well as the island's role in the Underground Railroad.

The Freedom Trail is made possible by a partnership between local community members who are descendants of members of the Freedmen's Colony, the National Park Service, our generous supporters, and grant funding from the 400 Years of African American History Commission and the National Park Foundation.



## The Wright Flight Academy

This past year, we helped Wright Brothers National Memorial launch The Wright Flight Academy in partnership with First Flight High School in Kill Devil Hills. A group of 23 juniors and seniors is learning how to build a working airplane in a new workshop built at the park. Once the airplane is built, it will be certified for flight at Wright Brothers National Memorial's First Flight Airport. We're proud to be the official sponsor of a video series created in partnership with Rayolight Productions, a local Outer Banks video production company, that documents the students' progress as they work to build the airplane. As videos are made available, we'll be adding them to our YouTube channel, sharing them on Facebook, and featuring them in our monthly e-newsletters.



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## **Coastal Warning Tower Restoration at U.S. Weather Bureau Station**

Last June, Cape Hatteras National Seashore completed its exterior renovations of the historic U.S. Weather Bureau Station in Hatteras Village with the installation of a new coastal warning tower. Established in 1901, the station historically displayed weather warning flags on the tower to inform residents and boaters of changing weather patterns and approaching storms. We were awarded a Tourism Impact Grant of \$35,000 from the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau in November 2022 to fund the restoration of the tower, which is flying weather flags once again.



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*This list reflects donations  
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**CAPE HATTERAS**  
NATIONAL SEASHORE

**FORT RALEIGH**  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

**WRIGHT BROTHERS**  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL

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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:

Our 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)

