

**RECORD OF MINUTES  
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD  
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021  
9:00 A.M.  
OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
MANTEO, NC 27954**

**ATTENDING:**

**In-Person:** Jeff Pruitt, Chair; Ervin Bateman, Treasurer; Webb Fuller, Secretary; Bambos Charalambous, Leo Holland, and Bobby Owens.

**Via GoToMeeting:** Tim Cafferty, Vice-Chair; Monica Thibodeau (arrived at 9:20 a.m.), Assistant Treasurer; Doug Brindley; Jamie Chisholm, Karen Loopman-Davis, Ivy Ingram, and Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel.

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Donna Peele.

**STAFF:**

Lee Nettles, Executive Director (in person)  
Diane Bognich, Director of Administration (in person)  
Amy Wood, Clerk to the Board/Administrative Specialist (in person)  
Stephanie Hall, Senior Content Coordinator (in person)  
Lorrie Love, Tourism Sales and Events Manager (GoToMeeting)  
Aaron Tuell, Public Relations Manager (GoToMeeting)

**OTHERS ATTENDING:**

**Via GoToMeeting:** Michael Zehner, Town of Nags Head Planning & Development Director

**In Person:** Dave Hallac, Superintendent, Outer Banks Group, National Park Service; Philip Ruckle, *The Coastland Times*; and John DeLucia, Albemarle & Associates.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The Board then recited the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Holland moved to approve the agenda. Second by Mr. Charalambous. There was no discussion.

**Yes:** Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, and Jeff Pruitt.

**No:** None. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Bateman moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 18, 2021 meeting. Second by Mr. Holland. There was no discussion.

**Yes:** Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, and Jeff Pruitt.

**No:** None. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments made. No written comments were received.

**PRESENTATION:** Superintendent Hallac provided a Year in Review presentation (attachment A).

**SOUNDSIDE EVENT SITE COMBINED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT DISCUSSION:** Lee Nettles reviewed the past discussions regarding the combined Conditional Use Permit for the parcels at the Event Site. Michael Zehner explained his rationale for amending the existing Designated Public Event Site Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to combine the three properties (former South Beach Grill site, Dairy Queen, and Pamlico Jacks). The Board discussed their thoughts behind not combining the parcels at this time and queried if a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be an acceptable compromise. Mr. Bateman moved to begin discussions with the Town of Nags Head for a MOU. There was no second; however, the Chair did not declare the motion dead.

Michael Zehner explained that a MOU would not be sufficient in this case. Mr. Bateman withdrew his motion. Following discussion, Legal Counsel suggested that staff work with the Town to obtain a draft CUP to see what the document would contain. The Board discussed this idea. Michael Zehner stated he “would be happy to give you a draft of our recommendations to the Planning Board.”

Mr. Holland moved to direct staff and the Board Attorney to get a rough draft of the [Combined] Conditional Use Permit. Second by Mr. Cafferty.

**Yes:** Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

**No:** None. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

**STEERING COMMITTEE:** The Board reviewed the agreement with Albemarle & Associates for engineering and design of a boardwalk at the event site. Mr. Fuller noted the desire that the boardwalk have piers and allow access to sandy bottom areas. Lee Nettles noted there would be periods for both the Board and public to weigh in on the design. Following discussion, Mr. Charalambous moved to approve agreement with Albemarle & Associates. Second by Mr. Bateman.

**Yes:** Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

**No:** None. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

Mr. Fuller was excused at 10:46 a.m.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT:** Mr. Bateman reviewed the meals and occupancy receipts received. Receipts for fiscal year 2020-2021 are up 14.99% compared to 2019-2020 actual receipts.

**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022:** Diane Bognich reviewed the proposed budget. There were no questions at this time. Mr. Bateman moved to set the Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget for May 20, 2021 at 9:15 a.m. at the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Offices. Second by Mr. Holland.

**Yes:** Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

**No:** None. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

Mr. Fuller was excused from the meeting and did not vote.

**OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU UPDATES:** Lee Nettles reviewed the:

- Stewardship presentation with the Manteo Rotary Club
- Industry Partner webinar with Google
- Tourism Summit for May has been cancelled; however, the webinars will continue.
- VisitNC 365 will be virtual and free to attend
- Taste of the Beach will be an in-person event starting April 16.
- Internet, marketing, and visitation numbers
- Public Relations and Group Sales/Events efforts, including work on an African American Experience Trail and work with events at the Event Site.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Lee Nettles noted that there was an agreement to be finalized with the Town of Nags Head regarding the purchase of the Town's share of the Event Site. The terms agreed upon are: \$600,000 in Fiscal Year 2020-2021, with following payments being made each year for a period of 10 years; a minimum payment of 100,000 per year, and the remaining amount paid out in the final year. The final document will be brought back to the Steering Committee and full Board.

Jay Wheless reviewed a past grant award to Chicamacomico to purchase a parcel of land to enhance the public use of the historic site. While the Board created the contract [based on the old GOSPL contract] with the idea that the land would remain vacant, Chicamacomico did not have the same intent. They wished to move a historic structure to the site to enhance the overall attraction and the ability to use the land as collateral from time to time. Legal Counsel drafted a new agreement that would allow for the placement of the historic home or other development as approved by the Tourism Board from time to time, and a grant repayment reduction schedule of 10% over a 10- year period.

Ms. Thibodeau moved to approve the grant agreement as presented. Second by Mr. Charalambous.

**Yes:** Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

**No:** None. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

Mr. Fuller was excused from the meeting and did not vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Owens asked about the GOSPL grant for the Davis Lot in downtown Manteo and the types of things that could be placed on the lot. Legal Counsel responded that state statute dictated that these were conservation easements, and nothing could be built or placed on the land.

Following discussion, Mr. Owens moved to direct the attorney to review and brief the [Tourism] Board on the terms and conditions of the conservation easement on the Davis Lot, downtown Manteo. Second by Mr. Bateman.

**Yes:** Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

**No:** None. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

Mr. Fuller was excused from the meeting and did not vote.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** Mr. Owens thanked the Board for the grant for the Town Commons in Manteo.

**SET DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Curtis Creech Memorial Boardroom, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Office, Manteo, NC (virtual and in-person options available).

The Chair asked if there was any further business before the Board. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

**ATTESTED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, Dare County Tourism Board



# National Parks of Eastern North Carolina



## STAFF

- 81 STAFF
- 80 SEASONAL STAFF
- THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEER HOURS
- 2840 L.E. DISPATCH EVENTS

## INTERESTING FACTS

- 5 VISITOR CENTERS
- OVER 200 PUBLIC TOILETS
- 2 WATER TREATMENT PLANTS
- 60 SEPTIC SYSTEMS
- 84 PARKING LOTS
- 230 BUILDINGS
- 3 AIRSTRIPS
- 270 TONS OF TRASH

## VISITATION

- TOTAL: 3.07 M VISITS
- 117,000 OVERNIGHT CAMPERS
- 91 SUPs
- 29 CUAs
- 1138 DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENTS
- 533 WATERFOWL HUNTERS AT B.I.
- 47,794 ORV PERMITS

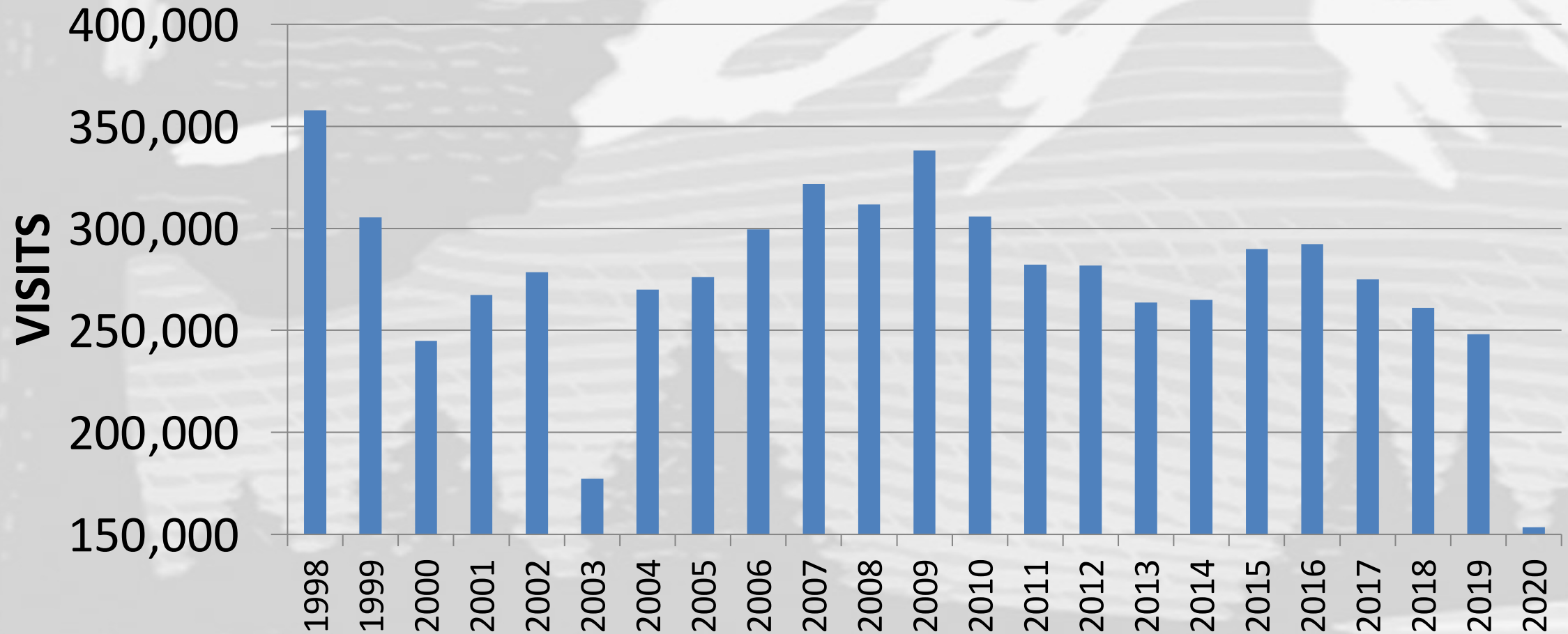
## BUDGET (APPROXIMATE)

- \$15 M
  - \$10 M BASE FUNDING
  - \$3 M OFF-ROAD VEHICLE PERMITS
  - \$2.0 M OTHER FEES

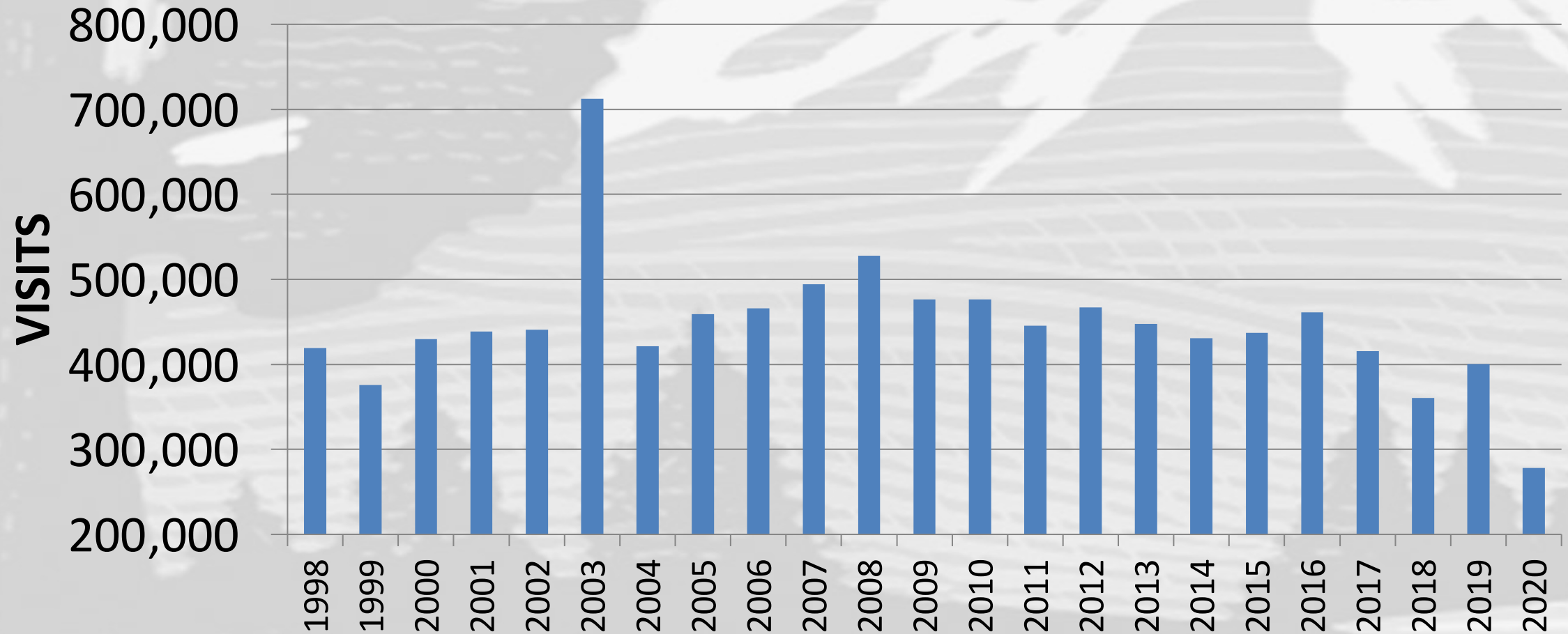




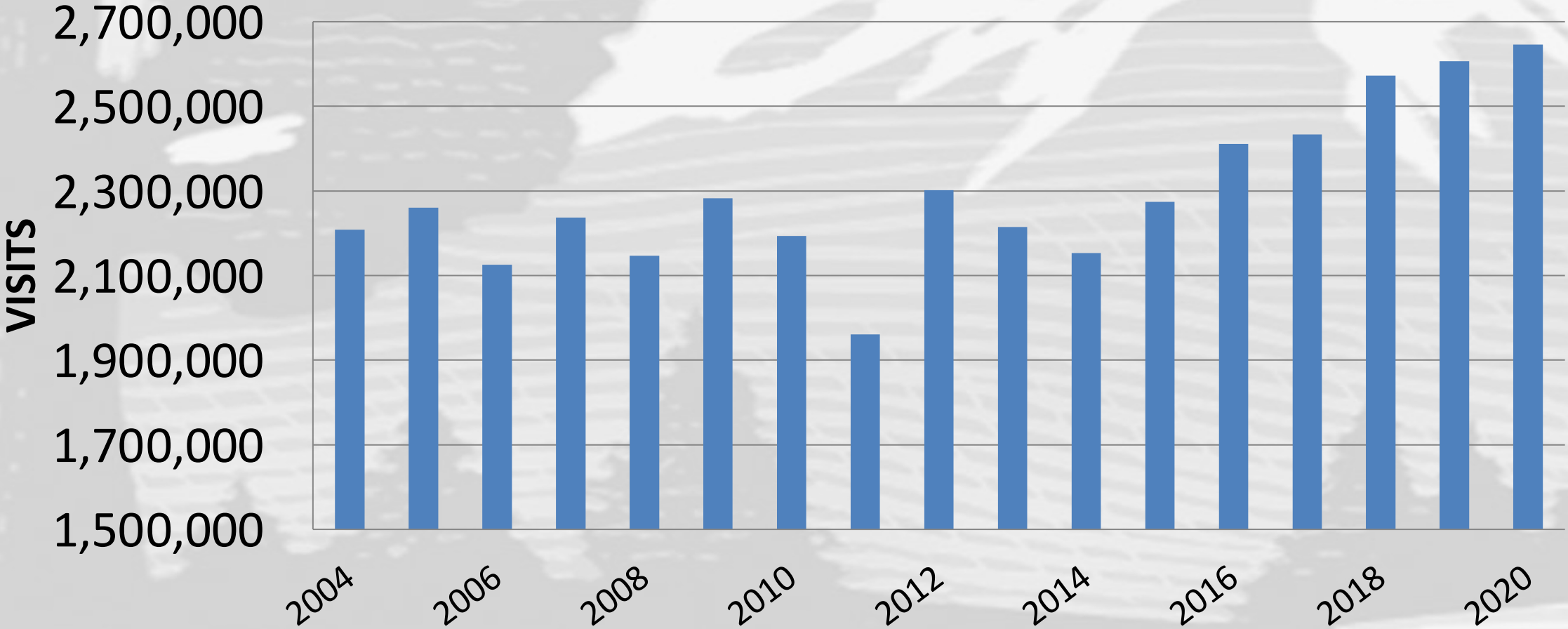
# Fort Raleigh National Historic Site



# Wright Brothers National Memorial



# Cape Hatteras National Seashore



Out of 423 national park sites, the Seashore was the 22<sup>nd</sup> busiest in 2020



# Ocean Pursuit



March 5, 2020



July 9, 2020



# Challenges





# Permits & Camping

Extended camping season at  
Oregon Inlet and Ocracoke  
Campgrounds



High ORV permit sales.





# Virtual Experiences

Shipwreck of the George W. Wells



0:03 / 2:45



Attachment A April 2021



# Ocean Overwash



Attachment A April 2021





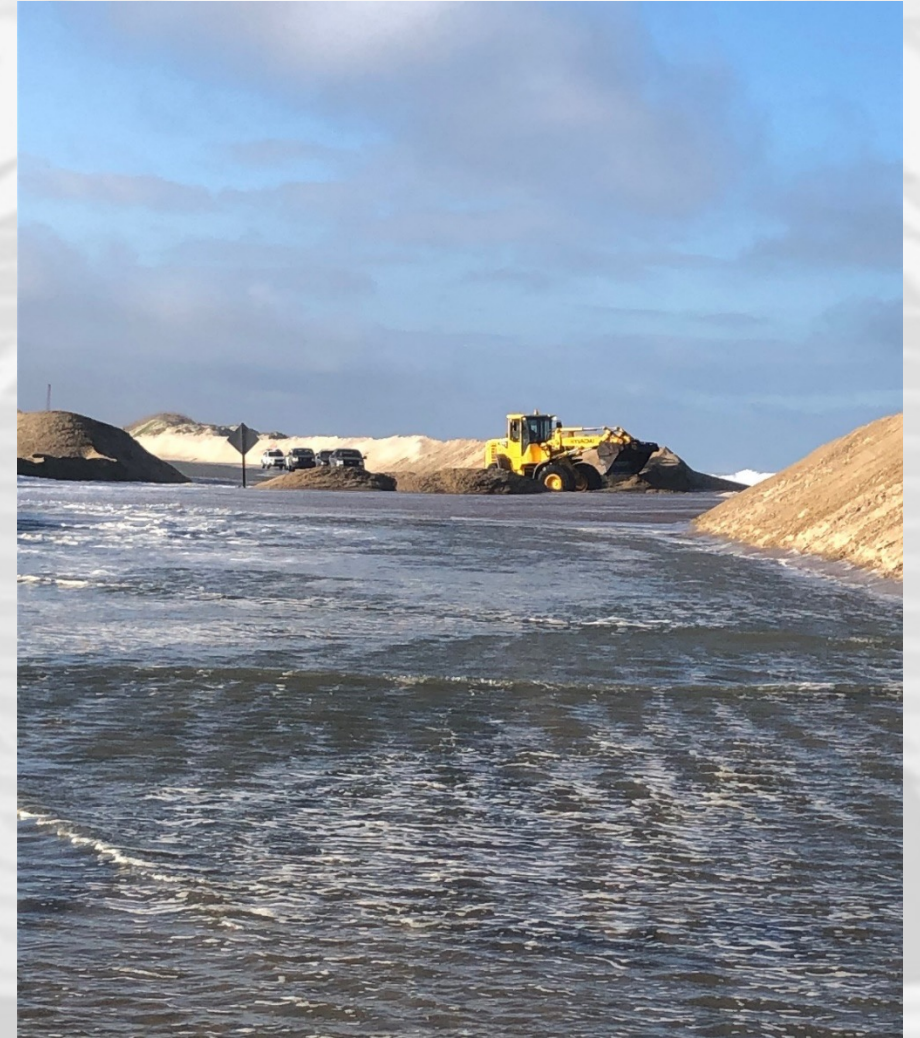
# Erosion

Original Cape Hatteras  
Lighthouse fence foundation  
was uncovered by erosion.





# Seashore Sediment Management Framework EIS



Ocracoke & Buxton staff assisted NCDOT with restoring access through CAHA.

Attachment A April 2021



# Storm Recovery & Improvements





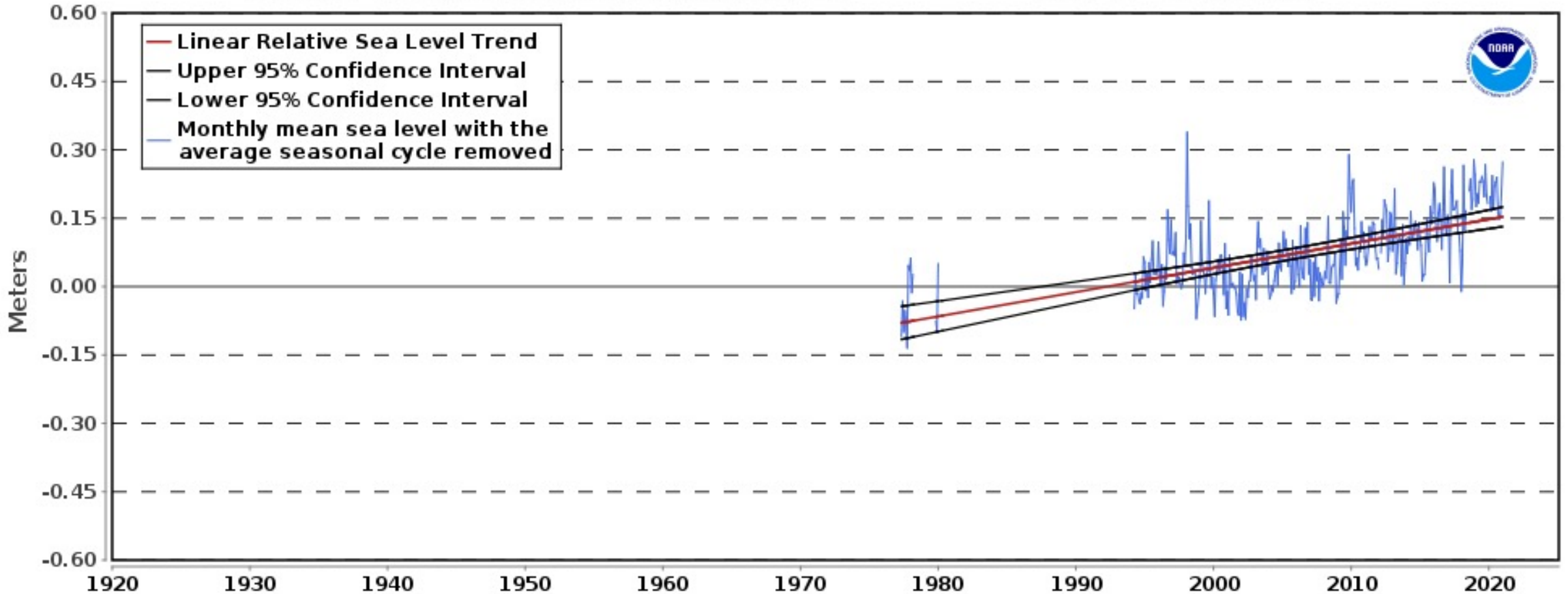
# Storm Recovery & Improvements





# 8652587 Oregon Inlet Marina, North Carolina

5.32 +/- 1.12 mm/yr



“The relative sea level trend is 5.32 millimeters/year with a 95% confidence interval of +/- 1.12 mm/yr based on monthly mean sea level data from 1977 to 2020 which is equivalent to a change of 1.75 feet in 100 years. ”

Graphic and text from NOAA found here: [https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends\\_station.shtml?id=8652587](https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends_station.shtml?id=8652587)

# Science informing recovery



Attachment A April 2021



Hurricane Florence - 2018

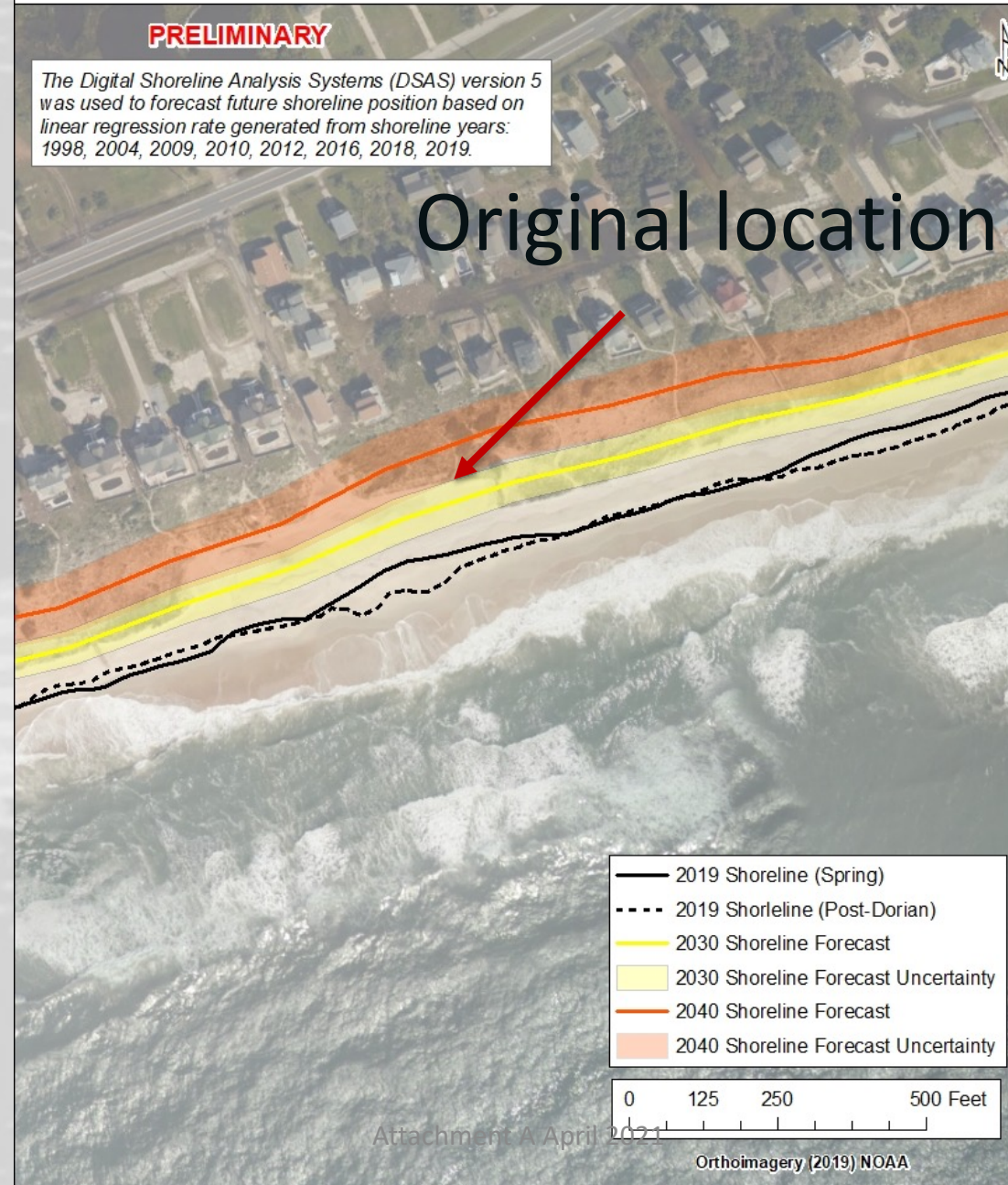


## Frisco Pier (2019)

**PRELIMINARY**

The Digital Shoreline Analysis Systems (DSAS) version 5 was used to forecast future shoreline position based on linear regression rate generated from shoreline years: 1998, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2016, 2018, 2019.

Original location





## Frisco Day Use Area (2019)

**PRELIMINARY**

The Digital Shoreline Analysis Systems (DSAS) version 5 was used to forecast future shoreline position based on linear regression rate generated from shoreline years: 1998, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2016, 2018, 2019.

New location

- 2019 Shoreline (Spring)
- - - 2019 Shoreline (Post-Dorian)
- 2030 Shoreline Forecast
- 2030 Shoreline Forecast Uncertainty
- 2040 Shoreline Forecast
- 2040 Shoreline Forecast Uncertainty

0 125 250 500 Feet

Orthoimagery (2019) NOAA

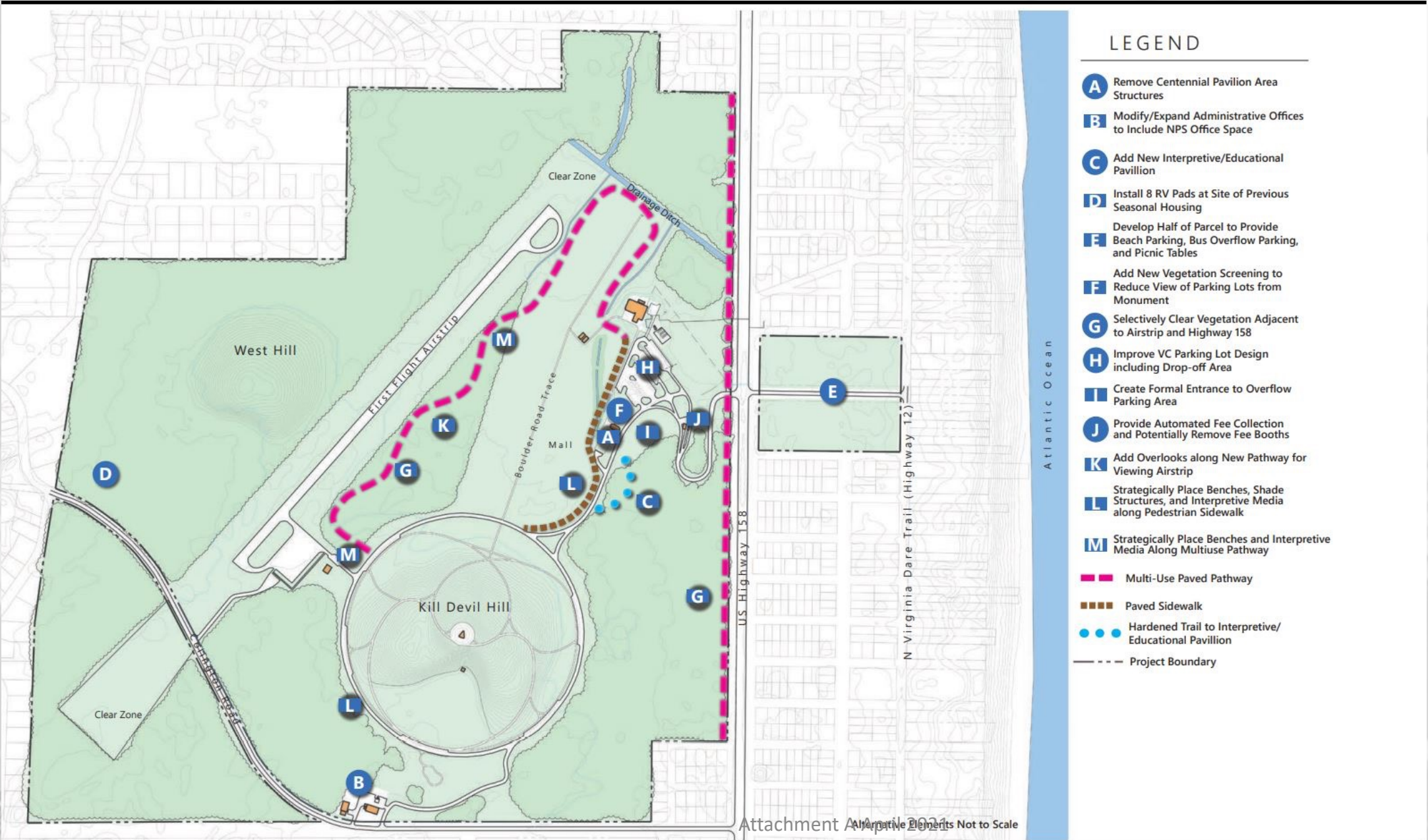


# Oregon Inlet Fishing Center





# Wright Brothers GMP Amendment



## LEGEND

- A** Remove Centennial Pavilion Area Structures
  - B** Modify/Expand Administrative Offices to Include NPS Office Space
  - C** Add New Interpretive/Educational Pavilion
  - D** Install 8 RV Pads at Site of Previous Seasonal Housing
  - E** Develop Half of Parcel to Provide Beach Parking, Bus Overflow Parking, and Picnic Tables
  - F** Add New Vegetation Screening to Reduce View of Parking Lots from Monument
  - G** Selectively Clear Vegetation Adjacent to Airstrip and Highway 158
  - H** Improve VC Parking Lot Design including Drop-off Area
  - I** Create Formal Entrance to Overflow Parking Area
  - J** Provide Automated Fee Collection and Potentially Remove Fee Booths
  - K** Add Overlooks along New Pathway for Viewing Airstrip
  - L** Strategically Place Benches, Shade Structures, and Interpretive Media along Pedestrian Sidewalk
  - M** Strategically Place Benches and Interpretive Media Along Multiuse Pathway
- Multi-Use Paved Pathway
  - Paved Sidewalk
  - ... Hardened Trail to Interpretive/Educational Pavilion
  - Project Boundary

# Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Restoration



Attachment A April 2021



# Bonner Bridge Pier





# Ocracoke Light Station Preservation





# Wildlife



228 sea turtle nets  
480 shorebird nests protected



Attachment A April 2021



# Anniversaries





# NPS Mobile App

- Trip planning
- Ranger Program Schedules
- Campground and ORV information
- Ferry, airstrip and Lifeguarded Beaches.
- Detailed Maps
- Narrated Walking Tours



The graphic features the National Park Service arrowhead logo at the top left. Below it, the text reads "The Official NPS App is HERE" with a large white location pin icon and concentric circles behind the word "HERE". A green button says "Download Now!". Below this, a section titled "Get *more* out of your visit—" lists four features with icons: "Trusted" (checkmark icon), "Works Offline & Anywhere" (globe icon), "Maps" (location pin icon), and "Activities & Events" (calendar icon). At the bottom, it says "Search 'National Park Service' in the app stores, or use the QR code." and shows the App Store and Google Play logos next to a QR code.

**The Official NPS App is HERE**

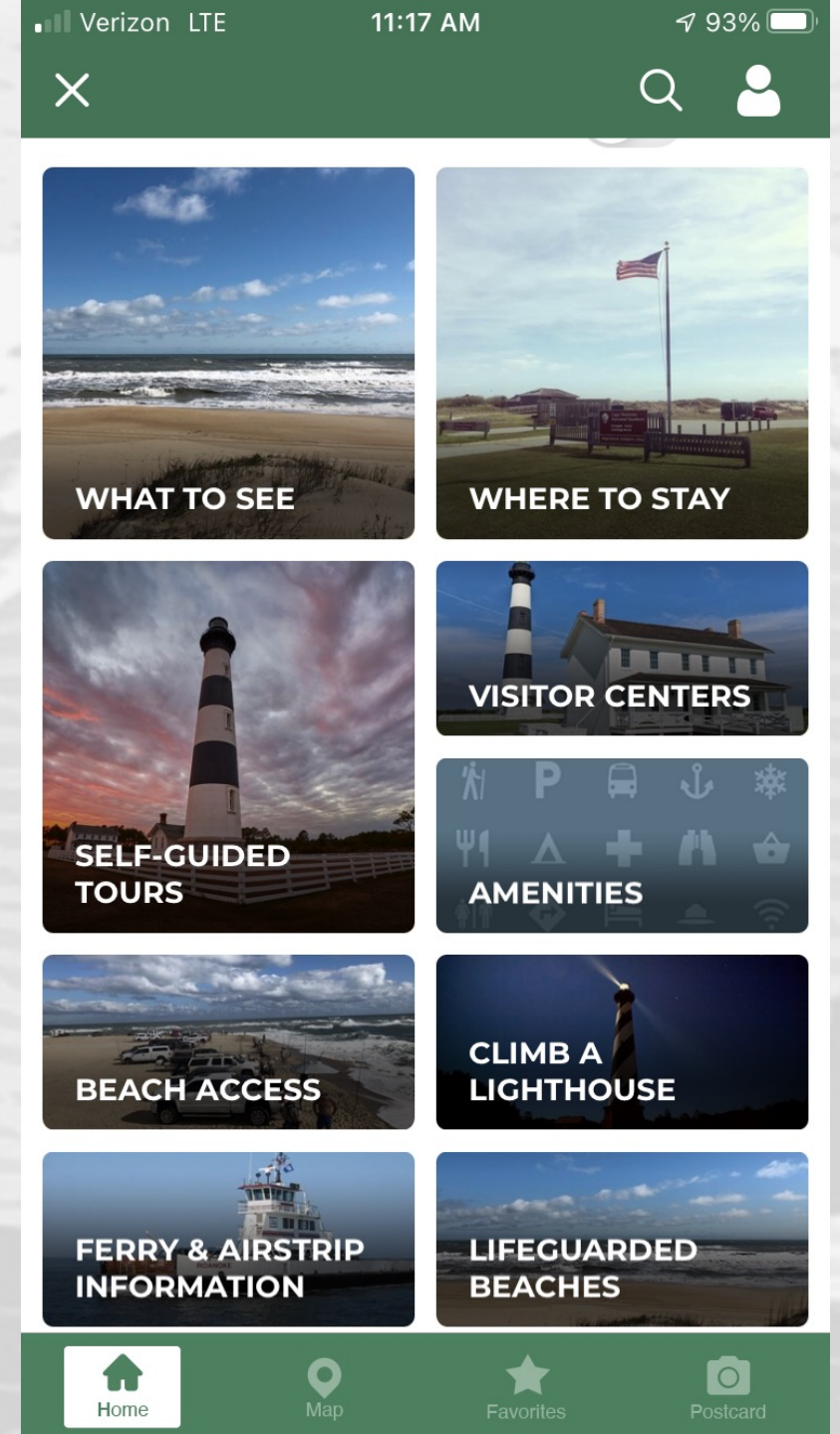
**Download Now!**

Get *more* out of your visit—

- Trusted**  
Plan your trip with confidence with the official app of the National Park Service.
- Works Offline & Anywhere**  
Download the app in advance, and it becomes your offline digital companion.
- Maps**  
Access the same map data that is trusted by rangers.
- Activities & Events**  
Avoid the lines—discover what there is to see and do, right on your phone.

Search "National Park Service" in the app stores, or use the QR code.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play



The screenshot shows the app's main menu with a green header bar containing a close button (X), a search icon, and a user profile icon. The status bar at the top shows "Verizon LTE", "11:17 AM", and "93%" battery. The main content area is a grid of eight tiles, each with a landscape image and a text label: "WHAT TO SEE", "WHERE TO STAY", "SELF-GUIDED TOURS", "VISITOR CENTERS", "BEACH ACCESS", "CLIMB A LIGHTHOUSE", "FERRY & AIRSTRIP INFORMATION", and "LIFEGUARDED BEACHES". A row of icons for various amenities (hiking, parking, bus, anchor, snow, etc.) is visible between the "SELF-GUIDED TOURS" and "VISITOR CENTERS" tiles. At the bottom is a green navigation bar with five icons: Home, Map, Favorites, and Postcard.

Verizon LTE 11:17 AM 93%

WHAT TO SEE WHERE TO STAY

SELF-GUIDED TOURS VISITOR CENTERS

AMENITIES

BEACH ACCESS CLIMB A LIGHTHOUSE

FERRY & AIRSTRIP INFORMATION LIFEGUARDED BEACHES

Home Map Favorites Postcard









# Where are we going?

## Using technology and keeping staff in the field

- **Dorian Recovery**
- **Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Revitalization**
- **Adapt to a dynamic coast**
- **Wright Brothers improvements and Camping Modernization**
- **Housing improvements**