

Lynn Barbee
Mayor

Joe Benson
Council Member

Jay Healy
Council Member



Deb LeCompte
Mayor Pro Tem

Mike Hoffer
Council Member

Bruce Oakley
Town Manager

Town of Carolina Beach
1121 N. Lake Park Blvd.
Carolina Beach, NC 28428
Tel: (910) 458-2999
Fax: (910) 458-2997

May 27, 2025

The Honorable David Rouzer
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Community Project Funding – Carolina Beach State Park Living Shoreline Restoration

Dear Congressman Rouzer,

On behalf of the Carolina Beach Town Council, I am writing to express our full support for the North Carolina Coastal Federation's request for Congressional Community Project Funding for the Carolina Beach State Park Living Shoreline Restoration Project in New Hanover County, North Carolina.

Carolina Beach State Park is one of the most heavily used state parks in North Carolina, offering diverse recreational opportunities while protecting over 750 acres of vital coastal habitat. This park plays a critical role in the Cape Fear region's economy, drawing visitors to hike, fishing, boating, and nature education.

Since 2015, the North Carolina Coastal Federation has collaborated with Carolina Beach State Park and the NC Division of Parks and Recreation on a series of shoreline and habitat restoration projects within the park and along the Cape Fear River. Many of these projects have extended onto lands owned by the U.S. Department of Defense's Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which are leased and managed by the park.

These efforts have been primarily funded through the Natural Resources Damages Assessment (NRDA) Restoration Plan for the Kerr-McGee (Tronox) EPA Superfund site in Navassa—approximately 15 miles upriver. This strategic use of federal restoration funds has already yielded significant environmental benefits, but much more remains to be done.

Roughly 2,000 linear feet of the park's shoreline along the Cape Fear River and Snows Cut have been identified as experiencing severe erosion, driven by boat wake, storm surge, and seasonal king tides. These areas serve as the park's last natural barrier against flooding and storm damage for critical infrastructure including the marina, buildings, parking areas, and popular trails.

Plans for a nature-based solution—a Living Shoreline—have been fully developed and permitted. These designs feature low-profile sills and marsh plantings to stabilize the shoreline while supporting native habitat. Unfortunately, current funding will only allow for the implementation of approximately 400 linear feet of the protection needed. That leaves more than 1,600 linear feet of vulnerable shoreline at risk.

This additional funding request will enable the completion of the shoreline protection project, ensuring long-term resilience of the park's infrastructure while restoring valuable coastal habitat. The economic, recreational, and environmental benefits to the region cannot be overstated.

We respectfully urge your office to support the North Carolina Coastal Federation's request for this critical investment in coastal resilience. Thank you for your continued leadership in supporting conservation and public lands in southeastern North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Mayor Lynn Barbee

Carolina Beach Town Council

1121 North Lake Park Boulevard

Carolina Beach, NC 28428

www.carolinabeach.org | lynn.barbee@carolinabeach.org