



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Recovery and Resiliency

Roy Cooper, Governor
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Laura H. Hogshead, Director

March 29, 2023

The Honorable David Rouzer
United States House of Representatives
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' Funding Request for Shoreline Restoration Project at Brunswick Town Fort Anderson State Historic Site

Dear Representative Rouzer:

Please accept this letter in support of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' (DNCR) funding request to continue building a living shoreline at Brunswick Town Fort Anderson State Historic Site.

The installation of this living shoreline is a state-supported project that makes both the historic site itself and the community it serves more resilient in the face of future natural disasters, sea level rise, and wave energy from passing ships while also protecting and enhancing natural habitat, strengthening biodiversity, providing outdoor recreation and education opportunities on public lands, and safeguarding valuable historic resources. Through the installation of Reefmakers, an artificial reef system comprised of concrete molded trays set with natural rock material, this project will significantly reduce shoreline erosion, attenuate wave action, and mitigate flooding.

At the time of this writing, nearly 1,000 linear feet of the living shoreline have been completed and an additional 1,400 linear feet is scheduled for completion by the end of 2023. The Reefmakers have proven their efficacy and withstood the tidal forces of Hurricanes Florence, Dorian, and Isais, as well as Tropical Storm Michael. In each of these instances, the shoreline was protected even throughout flooding conditions. Where Reefmakers have been installed, sediment accretion and reestablishment of native grasses have been observed. Oysters are clustering on the Reefmakers themselves, which is improving the water quality in the area.

The North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) supports this application as it advances our mutual goals to help storm-impacted communities rebuild smarter and stronger in the face of natural disasters. The State of North Carolina has already invested significantly in this project

Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 110465
Durham, NC 27709



Phone: (984) 833-5350
www.ncdps.gov
www.rebuild.nc.gov

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(approximately \$1.9 million of state funding) and DNCR's request to NFWF will help bring this project closer to completion.

Without this important nature-based infrastructure investment, Brunswick Town Fort Anderson will sustain permanent damage and will be unable to serve as a community education hub. Additionally, important coastal habitat will continue to suffer while erosion damages the water quality of the Cape Fear River and ocean.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (919) 741-8762 or email me at marlena.byrne@ncdps.gov. Thank you so much for considering this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Byrne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marlena Byrne
Deputy Chief Resilience Officer



NC DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Roy Cooper, Governor
D. Reid Wilson, Secretary

March 30, 2023

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

Dear Congressman Rouzer:

Please accept this letter of support for the Brunswick Town Fort Anderson (BTFA) Shoreline Restoration Project submitted by the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. If funded, BTFA would install another segment of its Reefmaker system to protect its shoreline from further erosion.

Located along the Cape Fear River, BTFA has lost more than 12 acres in the last 81 years due to coastal erosion. The existing Reefmakers, which have been installed piecemeal since 2017, have succeeded in using wave attenuation to reduce shoreline erosion. By protecting the shoreline from tidal and wave forces, this project has also protected wildlife, facilitated the growth of natural habitat, and protected the historical resources still found throughout the grounds of the historic site. Ultimately, the Shoreline Restoration Project will make BTFA more resilient to natural disasters and will support the community through sustained education, recreation, and tourism. It is a preventive investment that will save taxpayer dollars from future costs resulting from storm and wave damage.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask your careful consideration of our \$2 million community project funding request.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 919-814-6750 or at reid.wilson@ncdcr.gov. You may also contact kimberly.kandros@ncdcr.gov for information. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Reid Wilson".

D. Reid Wilson
Secretary



*State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor*

*Roy Cooper
Governor*

October 6, 2022

*20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0301*

Ms. Kristin Ransom
NOAA Office for Coastal Management
1021 Balch Blvd. Suite 1003
Stennis Space Center
Stennis, MS 39529

Dear Ms. Ransom:

I am pleased to provide a letter of support for North Carolina's Brunswick Town Fort Anderson Restoration project application to the Coastal Zone Management Habitat Protection and Restoration Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Competition.

The project is in partnership with North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Coastal Management Program and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The grant, if awarded, would fund the final 1,438 feet of a living shoreline along the Brunswick Town Fort Anderson State Historic Site. The living shoreline will preserve a site of important natural and cultural historical significance to the state by protecting this portion of the Cape Fear River from the impacts of storms, erosion, and climate change.

The Brunswick Town Fort Anderson State Historic Site lies within the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, a National Heritage Area representing the story of the Gullah-Geechee people of Central and West Africa. The restoration project will protect still buried artifacts in this area. In addition, the site is located in a "Resiliency Hub" as designated by the National Fish and Wildlife Service due to the combination of biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and community resilience value.

I lend my full support for this project and underscore its cultural and environmental significance to Brunswick County and the state of North Carolina. My staff is ready to assist with the implementation of this project.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,


Roy Cooper

RAC/sm/ll

cc: Sec. Gina Raimondo

*This is an
important
project!*



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Recovery and Resiliency

Roy Cooper, Governor
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Laura H. Hogshead, Director

May 19, 2022

North Carolina Attorney General's Office
Environmental Enhancement Grant Program
NC Department of Justice
114 W Edenton Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

RE: North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' Grant Application for Shoreline Restoration Project at Brunswick Town Fort Anderson State Historic Site

Dear Grant Review Panel:

Please accept this letter in support of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' (DNCR) grant application to continue building a living shoreline at Brunswick Town Fort Anderson State Historic Site.

The installation of a living shoreline is a state-supported project that makes both the historic site itself and the community it serves more resilient in the face of future natural disasters, sea level rise, and wave energy from passing ships while also protecting and enhancing natural habitat, strengthening biodiversity, providing outdoor recreation and education opportunities on public lands, and safeguarding valuable historic resources. Through the installation of Reefmakers, an artificial reef system comprised of concrete molded trays set with natural rock material, this project will significantly reduce shoreline erosion, attenuate wave action, and mitigate flooding.

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The North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) supports this application as it advances mutual goals. NCORR leads the state's initiatives to help storm-impacted communities rebuild smarter and stronger in the face of natural disaster and long-term climate change. The State of North Carolina

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has already invested significantly in this project (approximately \$1.9 million of state funding) and DNCR's request to NFWF will help bring this project closer to completion.

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Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (919) 741-8762 or email me at marlena.byrne@ncdps.gov. Thank you so much for considering this project.

Sincerely,



Marlena Byrne
Deputy Chief Resilience Officer