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## The Sandy Hook Foundation Receives New Capacity Building Grant from National Park Foundation

### GRANT EXPANDS The Sandy Hook Foundation's IMPACT at Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit

**FORT HANCOCK, SANDY HOOK (September, 2022)** The National Park Foundation on September 12, 2022 announced The Sandy Hook Foundation (SHF) is one of [41 park partner organizations](#) to receive a Strong Parks, Strong Communities grant from the National Park Foundation, the official nonprofit partner to the National Park Service. This grant will enable the Foundation to build capacity through board training and recruitment. The full list of grantees can be found on the National Park Foundation's blog.

"The Sandy Hook Foundation is so pleased to be a recipient of the Strong Parks, Strong Communities Grant from the National Park Foundation. Recognizing the needs faced by Friends Groups around the country, this grant will serve to strengthen our organization to best serve the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area, celebrating its 50th anniversary as a National Park this year," says Patricia Alcaro, President of the Board of Trustees.

The Strong Parks, Strong Communities grants help address nonprofit park partner needs most urgent to the parks they serve. The grants will enable partner organizations to invest in strategic planning, community engagement, improving visitor experience in parks, increasing organizational relevancy and resiliency, and launching new fundraising campaigns.

"Philanthropy and partnership are essential to the success of America's national parks," said Will Shafroth, president and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "New funding will help park partners across the country to build capacity, improve strategic planning and fundraising initiatives, and to more deeply engage the communities and national parks they serve. Ultimately, investing in the growing community of park partners is a commitment to expanding and transforming the role philanthropy plays to ensure national parks reach their full potential."

"These strategic investments in local groups elevate the creative opportunities, organizational efficacy, and bandwidth of the professional network that [Friends Alliance](#) serves," said Vickie Mates, Executive Director of the National Park Friends Alliance. "We look forward to our continued collaboration and celebrating the outcomes created by these incredible grantee projects."

[Strong Parks, Strong Communities](#) is a collective effort to grow national park philanthropy across the country. Working together on this initiative, the National Park Foundation, National Park Service, and Friends Alliance enhance local philanthropic organizations, bringing park philanthropy to an elevated level.

The Strong Parks, Strong Communities capacity building grant program is made possible by the National Park Foundation Board of Directors.

### **The Sandy Hook Foundation**

The Sandy Hook Foundation (SHF) is the Official Friends Group of the National Park Service at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, a unit of Gateway National Recreation Area. Its mission is to enrich and enhance the public's experience when visiting Sandy Hook. SHF does this by preserving and rehabilitating natural and cultural park resources, supporting public programs and services, and raising awareness about these resources. Since its founding in 1989, SHF has supported a variety of wellness, cultural, educational, environmental, and conservation programs and projects within the park, and has also restored and preserved historic structures including the Lighthouse Keepers' Quarters adjacent to the Sandy Hook Lighthouse (the United States' oldest continually operating lighthouse, c.1764), and the History House Museum, a living history museum. Both fall within Fort Hancock, a National Historic Landmark. Matching funds from the Foundation have also been designated for work that will restore historic barracks to supplement group camping experiences within Camp Gateway at Sandy Hook.

### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION**

The National Park Foundation is the official charity of America's national parks and nonprofit partner to the National Park Service. Chartered by Congress in 1967, the National Park Foundation raises private funds to help protect more than 84 million acres of national parks through critical conservation and preservation efforts and connect all Americans with their incomparable natural landscapes, vibrant culture, and rich history. Find out more and become a part of the national park community at [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org).

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