



# Cape Fear Firebird

*The Light of Save the Cape*

September 15, 2014

*Make no small plans for they have no power to stir the soul.*  
–Niccolò Machiavelli

## ***A Plan with Power***

We have just developed a comprehensive plan for a new State park on the Cape Fear River just north of Southport. Brunswick County, the State's sixth largest and tenth in tourist revenues, does not have a State park. But Brunswick County does have a lovely 600-acre site on a high bluff overlooking the river. The last pristine site along the river, with the last example of a Coastal Fringe Evergreen Forest with 300-year old live oaks. And this is the last chance.

The State Ports Authority had planned a port on that site—a very big port. But the Ports Authority has abandoned the project and written off the engineering costs of \$10 million.

Save the Cape's plan would make that asset produce for the State and the County. To provide 169 new jobs and \$6.9 million in new cash for Brunswick County's tourism engine. And a lovely complement to Brunswick's economic future—amenity based housing for young and old.

Our plan blends conservation and recreational objectives. It has these components:

- a new home for Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter, a rehabilitation center for injured birds and other wildlife
- campgrounds and RV facilities
- handicap accessible trails and observation walkways through woodlands and along a high bluff overlooking the Cape Fear River
- amphitheater and events center
- coastal café set among live oaks and overlooking the river and marshes
- environmental education center
- dock for shallow-draft boat tours of the islands and waterways of the Bald Head State Natural Area
- picnic areas for families and groups
- extensive longleaf pine reforestation
- generous areas for new facilities

We have a well-defined plan on our Website. Two volumes, over a hundred pages. Very nice map. Take a look. [www.savethecape.org](http://www.savethecape.org) The links are on the sidebar.

The State Ports Authority is cooperating. The NCDENR Division of Parks is interested But the missing link is the local support we need to put the project together.

We need your help. Invite us to give your community or group a presentation. Then take what you learn to the County Commissioners. Contact us at [mike@savethecape.org](mailto:mike@savethecape.org) or [toby@savethecape.org](mailto:toby@savethecape.org)

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