June 12, 2020

Dear Friends of the Dunes Supporters,

Friends of the Dunes stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter. We unequivocally condemn violence against Black People and racism in all of its forms. As a non-profit dedicated to conserving the natural diversity of coastal environments through community-supported education and stewardship, we believe that all people have the right to experience, enjoy, feel welcome, and feel safe in the outdoors.

Our work is grounded in the community, and we believe that equity, inclusion, and justice form the foundations of a healthy and thriving community. Embracing human diversity must be central to our ongoing work of conserving, sharing, and restoring natural diversity, and we realize we have more work to do in all of these areas. As a conservation organization working within a movement that has its own history with racism and privilege, we acknowledge that we must do more to support justice for Black Lives, Indigenous People, and other People of Color.

We pledge to listen and educate ourselves. We pledge to better understand the role we can play as allies. We pledge to support justice, equity, inclusion, and opportunity for Black People, Indigenous People, and People of Color. We are inspired by organizations that have worked for years to make nature more accessible to all: Outdoor Afro, Youth Outside, and Latino Outdoors, to name a few. Friends of the Dunes will continue to listen to and support communities who are working to bring an end to systemic racism and racial violence.

Sincerely,
Friends of the Dunes Board and Staff Members