



Partnership for the Sounds Backgrounder

Partnership for the Sounds (PFS) was chartered in 1993 as a non-profit organization. The mission of PFS is to stimulate sustainable, community-driven economic well-being within the Albemarle-Pamlico region through the promotion of responsible ecotourism, environmental stewardship, and education. The focus area of PFS activities includes Beaufort, Bertie, Hyde, and Tyrrell counties and surrounding communities. PFS facilities and affiliated sites include the Columbia Theater Cultural Resources Center, North Carolina Estuarium, Roanoke/Cashie River Center, and Tyrrell County Visitor's Center, plus the historic Octagon House and Mattamuskeet Lodge in Hyde County, and the Walter B. Jones, Sr. Center for the Sounds in Columbia.

The Partnership is overseen by a board of directors comprised of representatives from local and state government, non-profits, business, education, national wildlife refuges, and environmental advocacy groups in the Albemarle-Pamlico region. The diverse interests represented by the Partnership were brought together by a common goal of developing a network of environmental/cultural education facilities that would provide destinations for tourism in the region.

The Albemarle-Pamlico peninsula is characterized by vast natural areas, widespread agricultural and silvicultural land use, and many interesting and historic small towns. The Partnership's facilities and other sites of environmental and cultural interest make the area an appealing destination to the rapidly growing ecotourism and heritage tourism markets. By developing these facilities and supporting a variety of community activities, PFS is helping foster an economic niche that celebrates and conserves the region's unique ecology and ways of life.

