



## **Hot Spot Outcomes – Carolina Beach State Park**

Carolina Beach State Park's delicate ecosystem is home to several endangered carnivorous plant species - Venus Fly Traps, Pitcher Plants, and Sun Dew. This park has been selected as a Hot Spot because this land is the only habitat in the world where Venus Fly Traps are living endemically. The park is threatened by poaching of the rare plants and ecological damages from visitors traveling off trail to view the Fly Traps. The Traveling Trainers worked with volunteers to strengthen the plant's population by planting 25 new Traps near the main trail and adding mulch to this trail to encourage visitors stay on the designated trail. They also camouflaged social trails and installed "Habitat Restoration Area" signs to keep visitors from furthering impact to the undesignated paths and the Flytrap's ecosystem.

The Traveling Trainers helped install 9 new signs educating visitors on managing their pets to protect wildlife and other park visitors, proper disposal of pet waste and the ecological benefits of staying on established trails. The new signs are the first to utilize Leave No Trace messaging as well as Hot Spot information. Carolina Beach plans to integrate Leave No Trace information tailored specifically for park impacts into future messaging and education programs. Many local stakeholders attended Leave No Trace Trainer course during the Hot Spot week. The hope is this course provided locals with the tools to continue to perpetuate Leave No Trace education in the park and local area moving forward. The Leave No Trace team also lead several Leave No Trace educational hikes alongside Carolina Beach State Park staff. During these hikes, the team was able to explain the benefits of practicing Leave No Trace skills and ethics with the participants while showing them specific examples of impacts within the park.