



Cole Island Foundation 2025 Year in Review



Establishing the Foundation

Following receipt of nonprofit status, the Foundation completed core organizational and compliance milestones, including governance documents, IRS 501(c)(3) status, budget systems, fundraising strategy development, and quarterly board meetings.

Building Our Public Presence

To support outreach and fundraising, the Foundation launched *coleislandfoundation.org*, installed an online donation button, developed social media presence, and commissioned professional photography for marketing material and a future pictorial history book. Cole Island Board Member began work on an extensive Cole Island history for Wikipedia, which also references the work of the Foundation.



Conservation Advocacy: Cole Creek

Changes in Cole Creek remain an ongoing environmental concern. Board members engaged with elected officials and explored resilience funding opportunities, with two concept notes submitted to state environmental agencies, and full proposals ready to be submitted in the 2026 funding cycle.



Partnerships & Historical Preservation

The Foundation initiated collaboration with the **Folly Beach History Museum** and arranged to donate a Foundation-owned 1897 historical volume containing an 1863 sketch of Cole Island and other Civil War sites in the region..



Research & Academic Engagement

The Foundation hosted an on-site research visit by **College of Charleston** Professor Michael J. Lee and met with **The Sustainability Institute** to explore AmeriCorps conservation volunteer visit and research opportunities in early 2026. The Foundation researched escape routes of enslaved people in the Stone River following a discussion with **McLeod Plantation Historic Site**, including through Cole Island and published initial findings.

Fundraising

Cole Island Foundation received a number of individual donations, and a contribution of branded merchandise valued at more than \$800 from Island Life Ventures. All work performed by the Foundation is on a pro-bono volunteer basis.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The Foundation enters 2026 positioned to submit coastal resilience grants, formalize museum collaborations, host conservation volunteers, and advance stewardship planning.

Support Our Work

Donate: www.coleislandfoundation.org/donate

coleislandfoundation.org | Instagram: @cole_island_foundation