The Refuge shares with NASA bears testimony that nature and technology can coexist. Within the refuges of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The unique relationship is a key resting stop for many migrating bird species. Merritt Island NWR’s habitats strategically located on the Atlantic Flyway, a major bird migration corridor, and it contained within this 35-mile long barrier island is a rich abundance of plants and for over 500 different species of wildlife and 1000 species of plants.

This blue goose, designed by J.N. ‘Ding’ Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System. To Daytona Beach

Traffic light

Restrooms

Beach access

Interpretive trail

Closed to the public

Open to the public

No motor zone

Pole and troll zone

Black Point Wildlife Drive

Intracoastal Waterway

Foot trails

2-way unpaved roads

Paved roads

Major highways

Refuge boundary

Legend

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

New Smyrna

To Daytona Beach

Pine Flatwoods Trail - 13 miles

Playalinda Beach - 10.5 miles

Hammock Trails - 1.5 miles

No Motorized Boats

Manatee Observation Deck - 10.5 miles

Hammock Trails - 1.5 miles

No public access

Black Point Wildlife Drive - 3.5 miles

Scrub Ridge Trail - 6.5 miles

Pine Flatwoods Trail - 13 miles

Travel Distance (from the Refuge Visitor Center):

Black Point Wildlife Drive - 3.5 miles

Hammock Trails - 1.5 miles

Manatee Observation Deck - 10.5 miles

Playalinda Beach - 7 miles

Scrub Ridge Trail - 6.5 miles

Pine Flatwoods Trail - 13 miles

For further information, contact:

Refuge Manager
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 2683
Titusville, FL 32781
Phone: 321/861 0667
Visitor Center Phone number: 321/861 5601
Email: merrittisland@fws.gov
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/merritt_island

Emergency by cell phone: 321/867 7911
Canaveral National Seashore Headquarters: 321/267 1110
Canaveral National Seashore Visitor Information Center: 321/867 4077
Kennedy Space Center Information: 866/737 5235

May 2015
Wildlife Observation and Photography

The main route to view wildlife is Black Point Wildlife Drive. Hiking trails, towers, decks and dikes roads marked on the map offer excellent, alternative wildlife viewing, especially in the fall and winter. One of the best ways for viewing wildlife is by canoe or kayak.

Black Point Wildlife Drive

This 7-mile, one-way drive travels through salt and freshwater marshes and is located on SR 406, one mile east of the intersection of SR 402 and SR 406. A $5.00 Refuge Daily Pass is sold on an honor system at the drive’s entrance. Pick up an auto tour brochure at the drive’s entrance or at the Refuge Visitor Center. The brochure includes numbered stops describing the natural history and management of the area. Wading birds, shorebirds, raptors, waterfowl, alligators, otters and other wildlife species can be observed. The Wild Bird Trail (1/4 mile round trip) is located at Stop #4. Located at Stop #9 are: parking lot, restrooms, observation tower, wheelchair accessible platform, and the trail head to Cruickshank Trail (five mile loop).

Foot Trails

Hiking the refuge is most pleasant during the fall, winter, and early spring. Seven walking trails are marked on the map.

- Visitor Center Boardwalk - 1/4 mile Loop
- Oak Hammock Trail - 1/4 mile Loop
- Palm Hammock Trail - 2 mile Loop
- Scrub Ridge Trail - 1 mile Loop
- Cruickshank Trail and Tower - 5 mile Loop
- Wild Bird Trail - 1/4 mile Round Trip
- Pine Flatwood Trail - 1 mile Loop

Manatee Observation Deck

Manatees frequent this spot year-round and can be seen more reliably in spring and fall. The deck is located 16.5 miles north of the Visitor Center off SR 3 at Halewood Canal. Baes Cove boat launch offers another viewing area.

Boat Launches

Motorboats, canoes and kayaks may be used for wildlife observation, fishing and hunting. Boat speed regulations are in effect in several areas for manatee protection. Boat/canoe launching is limited to designated launch areas. A $5.00 Refuge Daily Pass is required to launch a boat from Baers Cove, Baes Lab and Beacon 42 boat ramps. The Refuge Daily Pass is sold on an honor system at each site, cash or check only. For details see Refuge Fees.

- Baers Cove - Halewood Canal
- Beacon 42 - Mosquito Lagoon
- WSEG - Mosquito Lagoon (No Fee)
- Bio Lab - Mosquito Lagoon
- Eddy Creek - Mosquito Lagoon

Shuttle launch at Kennedy Space Center - Merritt Island NWR is a 1,400,000 acre overlay of Kennedy Space Center, credit USFWS.