

Archie Carr

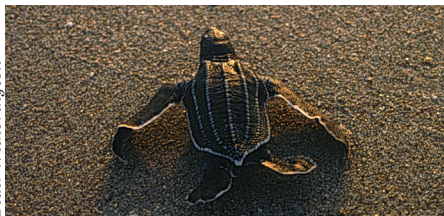
National Wildlife Refuge



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1991.
- Acres: 252.
- Located: Brevard and Indian River counties, Florida.
- Other management: The refuge is a unique partnership of multi-agency land owners and managers including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Florida, Brevard County, Indian River County and Hubbs SeaWorld Research Institute.
- Location: the refuge is located between Melbourne Beach and Wabasso Beach.
- Administered by Pelican Island NWR.

Natural History

- Refuge is the most important nesting area for threatened loggerhead sea turtles in the Western Hemisphere.
- Refuge is the most important nesting area for endangered green sea turtles in the U.S.
- Refuge is also an important nesting area for endangered leatherback sea turtles.
- Provides habitat for several other threatened and endangered species, including southeastern beach mice and Florida scrub jays.

Financial Impacts of Refuge

- All public facilities are on partner owned lands.
- Shared staff and funding with Pelican Island NWR.
- 195,000 annual visitors, through partner lands.

Refuge Objectives

- Protect nesting habitat for sea turtles.
- Protect, enhance, and restore barrier island habitats for threatened and endangered species.

- Increase public understanding through outreach, environmental education, and compatible recreation.
- Enhance habitat protection and management through partnerships.

Management Tools

- Partnerships through Archie Carr Working Group.
- Monitoring nesting activity.
- Predator control to protect turtle nests.
- Law enforcement.
- Mechanical/chemical control of exotic plants.
- Volunteer program.
- Prescribed fire.
- Financial support through Friends of the Carr Refuge.

Public Use Opportunities

- Beach access and surf fishing through county managed parks and Sebastian Inlet State Park.
- Four interpretive trails on county and state park owned lands.
- Fishing by jetty, catwalk, bank and boat through Sebastian Inlet State Park.
- Seasonal sea turtle watch programs.
- Wildlife observation and photography.
- Interpretation/Outreach/Environmental Education.

Calendar of Events

June and July: Turtle Watch and interpretive programs.

Questions and Answers

Where is it?

The refuge spans 20 miles from Melbourne Beach in Brevard County to Wabasso Beach in Indian River County. Within this area, four segments have been identified for acquisition totaling 9.3 miles. Signs have been posted at the north and south ends of the refuge which helps to delineate the boundaries.

Is the refuge open to the public?

Yes. Indian River and Brevard Counties manage all public access within the refuge. There are no public facilities on Service owned lands within the refuge. Indian River and Brevard Counties manage public beach accesses that are open during daytime hours. Sebastian Inlet State Park is open 24 hours per day, with exception to their beaches which are closed at night. Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and Sebastian Inlet State Park manage a total of four interpretive foot trails and seven miles of mountain bike trails on the west side of Highway A1A in Brevard County.

Can I go there to see a turtle nest?

Yes, but we advise that you make a reservation to go on a guided sea turtle watch program in June or July. Several organizations provide guided turtle watch programs. These programs are very popular and fill up quickly, so it is advised that you make your reservations without delay. To find a guided sea turtle watch program in your area, visit the refuge website. All public beach accesses are closed at night with the exception to these special programs. We advise people not to walk on the beach at night to look for sea turtles. This activity can cause sea turtles to abort their nesting attempts.

Does the refuge have a Visitor Center?

Not yet. The Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program is currently constructing the Barrier Island Sanctuary Management and Education Center within the refuge on Highway A1A. This facility will interpret sea turtles and other wildlife of the barrier island ecosystem. The center is expected to open in late 2007.