

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Welcome to Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, 145,189 acres or 221 square miles, one of over 566 national wildlife refuges that form a network of United States lands and waters managed specifically for wildlife. Refuges provide habitat — food, water, cover, and space — for millions of migratory birds, over 70 endangered species, and thousands of other species of native plants and animals.

The Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge provides habitat and protection for endangered and threatened wildlife such as the American alligator, snail kite, and wood stork. Migratory birds such as neotropical songbirds, secretive marsh birds, shorebirds, and waterfowl winter at the refuge along with year-around resident herons, egrets, and ibis.

Through refuge programs and facilities, visitors can enjoy a variety of educational and wildlife-oriented recreational opportunities. Contact the refuge office for teaching pavilion reservations and for educational group visits.

The refuge is open to the public from 5 am - 10 pm every day of the year. The Visitor Center is open from 9 am - 4 pm seven days a week. The Visitor Center is closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

An entrance fee of \$5 per vehicle or \$1 per pedestrian is charged daily. Senior Pass, Access Pass, Annual Pass, Military Pass, EKIP Pass, Duck Stamp, and Refuge Specific annual passes are available upon request. Entrance fees apply at all three Refuge entrances.

Special Events and Calendar of Events Activities

Everglades Day-2nd Saturday in February

International Migratory Bird Day
2nd Saturday in May

Kid's Fishing Day-2nd Saturday in June

Alligator Hunting (Refuge Permit Required)
August through October on specified days

Waterfowl Hunting (Refuge Permit Required)
November through January on specified days

Facilities

Public access is available at the Headquarters Area (Lee Road off US 441/SR 7), Hillsboro Area (at the west end of Loxahatchee Road), and at 20-Mile Bend (off CR 880 and 20-Mile Bend Boat Ramp Road). See map.

Activities

To protect the natural and cultural resources of the Refuge and protect and safeguard visitors, activities that are not specifically permitted are prohibited, including collecting of all animals, plants (dead or alive), and artifacts. This visitor information will insure that your Refuge visit is safe and enjoyable.

Additional information concerning recreational activities, refuge programs and facilities is available at the Visitor Center.



Permitted

- Hiking, wildlife-observation, and photography only in areas open to public use and on designated trails. See map.
- Boating, canoeing, and kayaking in canals and public use area There is an idle speed no wake zone at each boat launch area. There is a speed limit of 35 MPH in all waters of the refuge and the STA-1 Distribution Canal is a slow speed zone for safety. All boaters must fly an orange flag 10 feet above the waterline when outside the main canals.
- Biking is permitted on designated trails (see map). All biking trails are recommended for mountain and hybrid bikes. It is recommended that you bring water, helmet, sunscreen, and light snacks. There is no shelter along any of these trails.
- Sport fishing permitted year round. Fishing tournaments are allowed by permit only. Only the use of rods and reels or poles and lines is permitted, and they must be attended at all times. State and refuge regulations apply.
- Waterfowl and alligator hunting by permit only in designated area. Special refuge dates, times, and regulations apply. Call the administrative office at 561/732 3684 for permit information.

- Firearms and weapons may be possessed in compliance with Federal and State law.

Prohibited

- Feeding, harassing, injuring or taking any wildlife, plants or artifacts (except lawfully taken fish, waterfowl and alligators).
- Releasing animals or plants.
- Pets or domesticated animals.
- Fires, camping or spotlighting wildlife.

- Airboats and boats with air cooled engines or jet drives.
- The use of aircraft, manned or unmanned, including drones, over Refuge lands to disturb, harass, drive, rally, or hunt wildlife. Landing of aircraft is permitted only in emergencies.
- Commercial activity.
- Swimming, water skiing, snorkeling and diving.

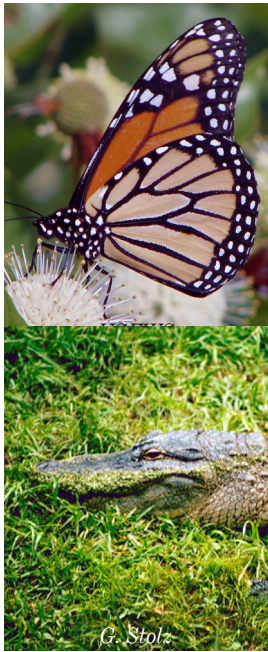
For Your Safety

Do not leave valuables in vehicles. Leave them home or take them with you.

- Allow time to return to your vehicle and exit before the Refuge closes. Gates close automatically.
- Be prepared for emergencies and changing weather conditions as well as floating vegetation that may block trails and canals.
- If canoeing or boating, carry water, food, and foul weather clothing. Ensure your boat is equipped with all required safety equipment, including life vests, fire extinguisher, whistle or horn, orange flag, emergency light and first aid kit. Make sure your vessel is “seaworthy” and have plenty of fuel. Carry a Global Positioning System (GPS) and a phone, and let a friend or family member know where you are going and when you will return.
- If you become lost or disabled, stay with your boat.

Inspections

Hunters, anglers and boaters are subject to inspection of permits, licenses, equipment, bag limits and vehicles, vessels and their contents by law enforcement officers.





The “blue goose” is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System whose mission is to administer a national network of lands and waters for conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

