

St. Johns

National Wildlife Refuge



photo: USFWS



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1971.
- Acres: 6,194.
- Located in Brevard County, FL.
- Headquarters location: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, five miles east of Titusville on State Road 402.
- Administered by Merritt Island NWR.

Natural History

- St. Johns NWR was established to protect and provide habitat for the Dusky Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus nigrescens*). However, in December 1990, the critical habitat was delisted and the species was officially declared extinct.
- The refuge lies adjacent to the St. Johns River, a major watershed in the State of Florida. Because of its value as a protected natural resource and a buffer zone for the river, the St. Johns NWR is being managed for biological diversity.

Refuge Objectives

- Restore and maintain remnant salt marsh habitat adjacent to the St. Johns River to maintain biodiversity and benefit all native plant and wildlife species.
- Provide habitat and management for migratory birds including several species of special management concern.
- Provide breeding habitat for species of special concern including black rail, loggerhead shrike and eastern meadowlark.

Management Tools

- Prescribed fire.
- Chemical and mechanical control of exotic plants.
- Public education and outreach to help instill conservation ethics.
- Research projects.

Public Use Opportunities

- Public use such as birding is allowed only under a special use permit at this time. Plans are currently underway to allow more types of compatible, wildlife-oriented uses in conjunction with Brevard County and potentially other cooperators.

Questions and Answers

Where is the St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge located?

The St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge is actually divided into two tracts of land. The first, the Beeline Unit, is located on the south side of SR 407 (which connects to SR 528 or the Beeline) west of exit 212 off Interstate 95. The Highway 50 Unit is located just west of Titusville on the north side of SR 50. There is a sign on Highway 50 near the entrance to the refuge.

Is the refuge open to the public?

At the present time, the refuge is only open to the public under a special use permit which may be applied for by contacting Merritt Island NWR at 407/861 0667. Plans are underway to open the St. Johns NWR to some compatible, wildlife-oriented public uses.