



BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Contact Us

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Headquarters/Mailing Address:
1324 Sandbridge Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Visitor Center and Trails:
4005 Sandpiper Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

757-301-7329 ext.4
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/back-bay>
<http://www.facebook.com/backbaynwr>

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov/>

Refuge regulations exist for your safety and for the welfare of wildlife. Visitors are expected to know and comply with all regulations. Please observe all posted signs when visiting the refuge. For further information see the Refuge Regulations page, found on the back of the trail map or the refuge website.

Visitor Center Hours:

Memorial Day – Labor Day:

Thursday – Sunday*: 10:00-3:00

Labor Day – Memorial Day:

Thursday – Friday*: 10:00-3:00

**Saturday and Sunday hours are subject to staffing availability. Please call to check on current scheduling status.*

Outdoor trails are open daily

½ hour before sunrise – ½ hour after sunset.

VISITOR GUIDE



PERMITTED

Visitor Center

During open hours displays, brochures, and exhibits are accessible. Refuge staff and volunteers can answer visitor questions and comments.

Hiking/Walking

The Seaside and Dune Trails lead visitors to the beach. The Sunset Point, Raptor and Kuralt Trails give views of Back Bay. The dike trails are also open seasonally, and the beach is open year-round, providing hiking/biking access to False Cape State Park.

Observing and Photographing Wildlife

Fishing

Surf and freshwater fishing are permitted in specific areas. A Virginia fishing license is required.

Kayaking/Canoeing

Soft launches are available at the Visitor Center and at the Horn Point site, located at the end of Horn Point Road. Be mindful of the wind out on the Back Bay.

Bicycling

The East or West dike is open seasonally open to bicyclists (including e-bikes).

Shell Collecting

Visitors may collect shells and small pieces of driftwood from the beach. These are the only items that may be removed from the wildlife refuge.

Blue Goose Wildlife Tram Tour

The wildlife refuge and False Cape State Park partner operate a seasonal open-air tram that provides visitors with a guided tour through the refuge and the state park.

Commercial activities, such as commercial photography/filming require a Commercial Special Use Permit.

Contact us for more information and to begin the Permit process.

Groups of ten or more must obtain a Special Use Permit

Please contact us for more information.

VOLUNTEER OR JOIN THE FRIENDS GROUP

Volunteers contribute to Back Bay NWR through a variety of activities. By becoming a refuge volunteer, you too can contribute to conserving America's wildlife heritage. It is a great way to get involved with refuge activities and learn more about Back Bay NWR.

You can also join the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Society, which supports the wildlife refuge. More information can be found at www.backbaynwr.org.



NOT PERMITTED

Pets are not allowed at any time of year (effective April 1, 2011)

(Not even in your vehicle)

The North Mile and all dune areas are closed to public access

Migratory birds need undisturbed habitat to feed and rest. The North Mile is the only section of refuge beach completely closed to all activity for these animals. Foot traffic on dunes causes erosion and habitat loss.

Swimming, surfing and sunbathing are not permitted on the Refuge beach

Wildlife related activities are permitted on the refuge, such as fishing and bird watching. Sandbridge Beach, just north of the refuge, offers other forms of recreation that do not directly relate to wildlife.

The Dike Trails are closed seasonally to fulfill habitat management objectives

Back Bay NWR was established for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife. The dike trails are closed to provide undisturbed habitat for wildlife during the sensitive winter migration season.

Do not stray off the marked trails or attempt to handle wildlife

For your safety and that of the wildlife, stay on the trails at all times.

The use of motorized and non-motorized aircraft, including drones and kites, is prohibited

Drones and other non-motorized aircraft are not permitted to launch from or land on wildlife refuge property.

No trailer or overnight parking

There is a limited amount of parking space and no launching facility for larger boats. Overnight campers at False Cape State Park may leave cars at Little Island City Park.

Public vehicle access on the refuge beach and impoundments is not permitted

The use of metal detectors is prohibited



