

Green Cay

National Wildlife Refuge



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS ©



photo: S. Furniss



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1977.
- Acres: 14.
- Location: The island is directly off the north coast of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Administered under Caribbean Islands NWR complex.

Natural History

- Thirty-three thousand conch shells buried under volcanic rock tell of almost 1,000 years of human occupancy as early as 1020 A.D.
- This island provides critical habitat for one of only two remaining natural populations of the endangered St. Croix ground lizard. Its extirpation from the mainland of St. Croix is generally attributed to the introduction of the small Indian mongoose.
- Outcrops of lava, tuffs and breccias are prominent geological features.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- No staff.
- No visitors annually.
- Closed to the public.

Refuge Objectives

To maintain the natural island ecosystem, protecting the endangered St. Croix ground lizard and colonial nesting birds.

Management Tools

- Law enforcement.
- Wildlife surveys.
- Exotic species removal.

Questions and Answers

Is the refuge open to the public?

No, this island refuge is closed due to fragile habitat and easily-disturbed wildlife such as the endangered St. Croix ground lizard (extirpated from the main island of St. Croix).

Why was the refuge established?

The refuge was established in 1977 to protect the largest remaining population of the endangered St. Croix ground lizard.