

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alligator River/Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge
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 Manteo, North Carolina 27954



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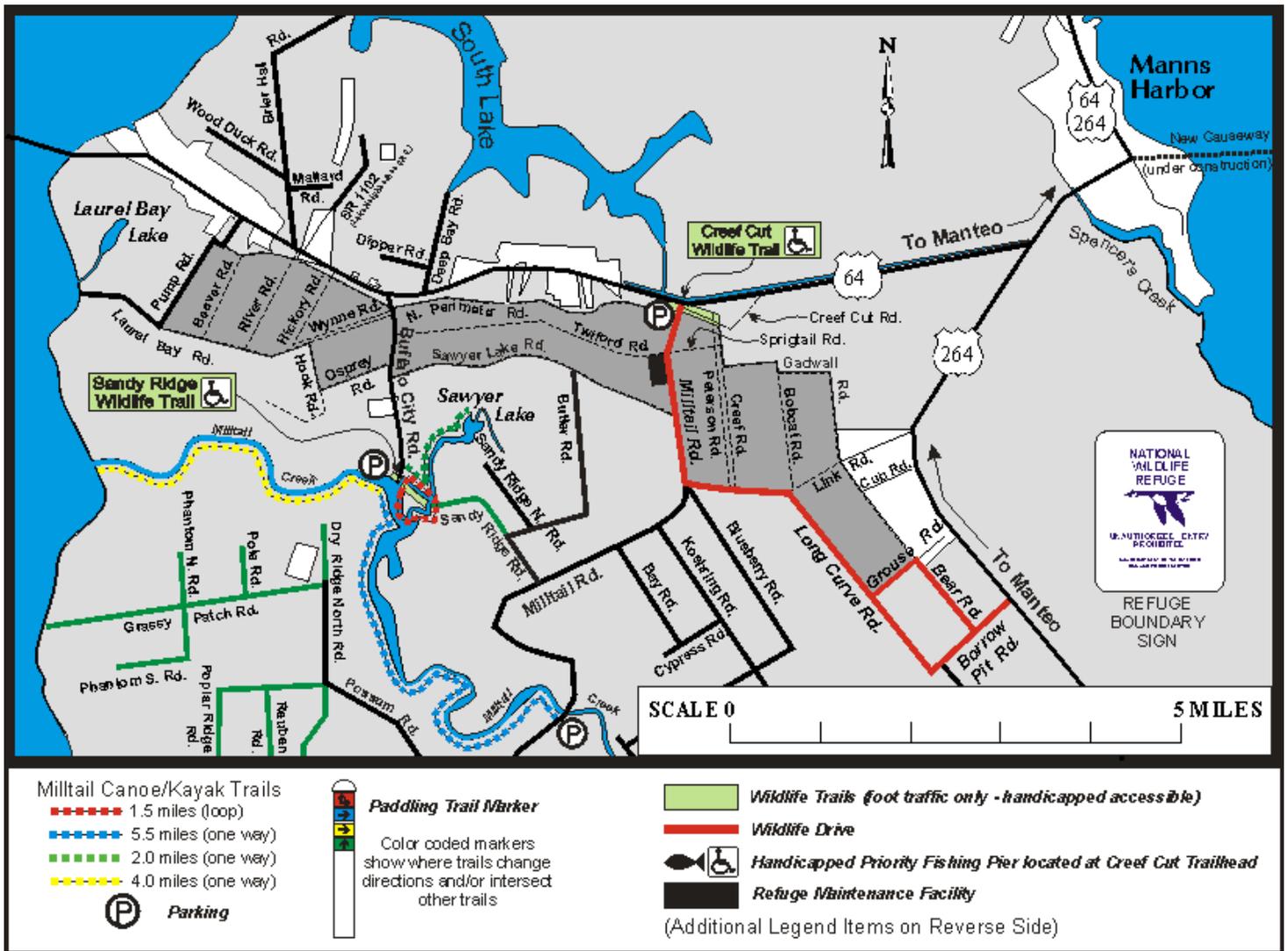
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News Release

March 20, 2008

Volunteer Work Day Scheduled March 29 to Clear Paddling Trails on Alligator River Refuge

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge has over fifteen miles of marked paddling trails that have grown to be quite popular with OBX residents and visitors, alike. But, some native aquatic plants have all but taken over the main canal heading toward Sawyer Lake. On Saturday, March 29 from 1-4 pm, the public is invited to come and be a part of the solution to this access problem.



Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge offers over 15 miles of marked paddling trails. The focus for the Saturday, March 29 clean-up is the canal that parallels Sandy Ridge Wildlife Trail. The clean-up will cover about 3/4 mile of waterway.

"We've never tried this before," commented Abbey Reibel, Volunteer Coordinator for the refuge, "so we'll just have to see if it works. If it doesn't, we'll try something else!"

During the week prior to the Saturday work day, refuge maintenance staff will cut the vegetation, leaving it floating in the canal. The Saturday job will be to drag the floating vegetation to the banks where it can be hauled off. "We're afraid it will continue to float and clog the trail even more, if we leave it in the water," explained Reibel.

Volunteers may bring their own boats for the Saturday trail clean-up or plan to use canoes provided by the refuge. Work gloves and rakes or gaffs to grab the vegetation will also be useful. Those interested should plan to meet at the south end of Buffalo City Road, in East Lake around 1 pm. For more information, contact Abbey Reibel at 252-987-1118 or abbey_reibel@fws.gov



The public is encouraged to come out and volunteer to help clear vegetation from a section of the Milltail Creek Paddling Trails on March 29 from 1-4 pm. For more information, contact Abbey Reibel at 252-987-1118 or abbey_reibel@fws.gov
Photo credit: FWS