

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
and
National Park Service
Canaveral National Seashore
www.fws.gov/refuge/Merritt_Island/
www.nps.gov/CANA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date 04/07/2020

**Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
and Canaveral National Seashore
Announce the Availability of the Finding
of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the
Proposed Space Coast Trail**

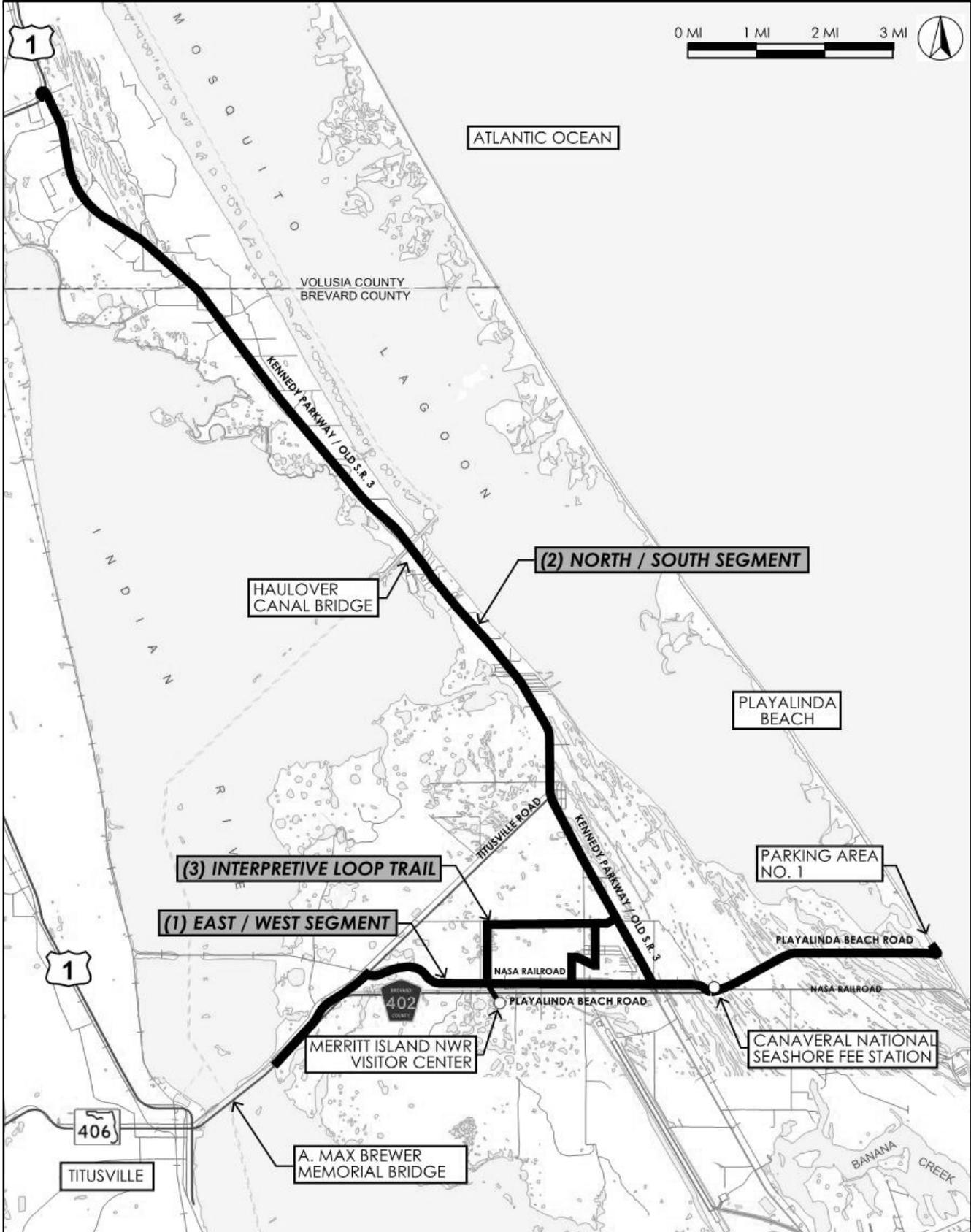
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Working with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Park Service (NPS) are pleased to announce that the FONSI for the proposed Space Coast Trail at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Canaveral National Seashore is now available for public review.

The proposed shared-use path within the Merritt Island NWR and Canaveral National Seashore would serve as a key connector for Florida's Coast-to-Coast Trail. The Proposed Action (depicted in the figure) would include:

- providing an east-west connection from Titusville to the Atlantic Ocean with the proposed construction of a paved shared-use path from the Merritt Island NWR boundary at Parrish Park to Parking Lot 1 within Canaveral National Seashore, connecting to the existing Coast-to-Coast Trail segment currently under construction in Titusville (east-west segment);
- providing a north-south connection with the communities of southern Volusia County with the proposed construction of paved buffered bicycle lanes along Kennedy Parkway North from the intersection of Playalinda Beach Road to US-1 (north-south segment); and
- providing a shorter loop trail experience with the proposed construction of the Interpretive Loop Trail as a previous pathway with a paved section from the Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center to the east-west segment.



The proposed Space Coast Trail would provide opportunities for the enjoyment of appropriate and compatible outdoor recreation; promote awareness and appreciation of natural resources; and protect, conserve, and manage wildlife, habitat, and cultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations, while also meeting NASA operational and security requirements.

In accordance with FWS and NPS guidelines and National Environmental Policy Act requirements, public involvement is an important factor in the development and review of the proposal. The Service initiated public scoping in August 2016. A public meeting open house was conducted on December 7, 2017 at the City of Titusville City Hall to obtain feedback from the public on the proposal, alternative alignments, and potential benefits and impacts. Those scoping comments helped inform the development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Space Coast Trail that was posted for a 30-day public comment period that ended on October 21, 2019.

The FONSI is available for public review on the NPS Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?projectID=67041>. Links to the FONSI are also available on the Merritt Island NWR website (https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Merritt_Island/) and the Canaveral National Seashore website (<https://www.nps.gov/cana/index.htm>).

Please direct any questions and requests for additional information to Kim King-Wrenn (Merritt Island NWR) or Laura Henning (Canaveral National Seashore) through the contact information provided above.

The National Wildlife Refuge System protects wildlife and wildlife habitat on more than 100 million acres of land and 750 million acres of water from the Caribbean to the Pacific, Maine to Alaska, including 7 marine national monuments, 567 national wildlife refuges, and 38 wetland management districts. The Refuge System improves human health, provides outdoor recreation, and supports local economies with over 50 million annual visitors. Visit our home page at: <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/>.

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at www.nps.gov, Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

