



# NEWS RELEASE

**National Park Service**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Canaveral National Seashore Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: 1/21/11**

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**OFFICE PHONE: 321-267-1110**

## **Seashore Proposes Change in Current Rate Structure & Refuge Proposes New Entrance Fee at Black Point Wildlife Drive and Boat Ramps**

Beginning July 1, 2011, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is proposing a new Entrance Fee for Black Point Wildlife Drive and for Boat Launching at three improved Boat Ramps within the Refuge (Bairs Cove, Beacon 42, and Bio Lab). Visitors will have the option to purchase a \$5.00 Daily Pass or a \$15 Annual Pass and the passes are interchangeable and may be used at either the wildlife drive or boat ramps. The passes are good for all occupants of the vehicle.

Canaveral National Seashore proposes a modification to their Daily Entrance fee from a \$3.00 per person to \$5.00 per vehicle to align its fee structure with the Refuge's Daily fee to make these two programs as seamless as possible. This proposal will represent a savings to most Seashore visitors and the Seashore and Refuge will honor each other's passes. If you have a valid Canaveral National Seashore pass you may enter a Refuge entrance fee area at no additional cost. In the same manner, if you have a valid Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Day pass you may enter Canaveral National Seashore at no additional cost; and/or apply the \$15 price of the Refuge Annual pass toward the cost of your Seashore Annual pass. In addition, in both fee areas, we honor the America the Beautiful Federal Recreational Lands Passes. A current Federal Duck stamp may be used in place of the Refuge Pass. Canaveral National Seashore will also honor the Federal Duck Stamps, by applying the \$15 price towards the cost of the Seashore annual pass with a \$20 upgrade to match the seashore Annual Pass.

Canaveral National Seashore, Superintendent Myrna Palfrey and Refuge Manager Layne Hamilton recognize the public benefit of integrating the fee programs and have made concessions to make the Seashore and Refuge passes reciprocal. However, we are interested in hearing from you.

Public meetings will be held at the following locations to take comments on the proposed change to Canaveral National Seashore's fee structure and the new Refuge fee. If you have comments, questions or require more information, please visit the Refuge website <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/> or the Seashore website at <http://www.nps.gov/cana/parknews/newsreleases.htm> or you may contact the refuge at 321 861-0667 or the seashore at 321-267-1110.

#### Public Meeting Locations

Monday, January 31 from 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM, at the Titusville Public Library, 2121 South Hopkins Avenue, Titusville, Florida and

Thursday, February 3 from 5:00PM – 7:00PM, at the Coronado Civic Center, 150 S. Pine St, New Smyrna Beach, Florida

If you cannot attend the meeting you may submit written comments by January 31, 2011. Comments may be emailed to [Bob\\_Shannon@NPS.GOV](mailto:Bob_Shannon@NPS.GOV) or mailed to the Seashore:

Canaveral National Seashore  
212 S. Washington Ave.  
Titusville, FL 32796

Eighty percent (80%) of the revenue collected remains at the seashore or refuge to fund visitor improvements. Fees cover part of the cost of maintaining facilities, such as the boardwalks, boat ramps, restrooms, signs, and supporting public education programs, and funding construction of new visitor facilities. Both agencies are experiencing critical budget constraints. The proposed fee will help maintain improve or expand visitor facilities in order to maintain the highest levels of service for our public. We encourage you to make comments on the proposed fee changes and hope to see you at the public meeting.

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