

Back Bay

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator John W. Warner (R)
Senator George F. Allen (R)
Rep. Edward L. Schrock (R-2nd)

Contact

Jared Brandwein, Refuge Manager
Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge
4005 Sandpiper Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-4347
Phone: 757/721 2412
Fax: 757/721 6141
TDD: 757/721 0496
E-mail: jared_brandwein@fws.gov
<http://backbay.fws.gov>

Profile

Established:	1938
Current acres:	8,982
Proposed acres:	11,007
Staff:	13
FY 2002 budget:	\$1,095,405
2002 volunteer hours:	7,150
2002 visitation:	110,336

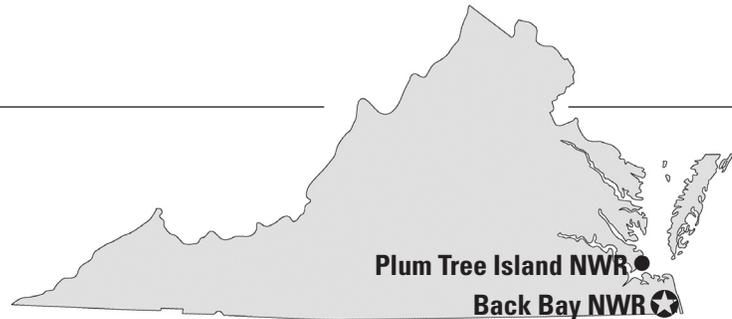
Satellite refuge:
Plum Tree Island 3,502 acres

Purpose

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge was established to provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl, and to protect the Back Bay watershed.

Public Use Notes

- Trails, boardwalks, viewing platforms
- Interpretive visitor contact station and environmental education facility
- Permit hunt for white-tailed deer and feral hogs
- Fishing (salt and freshwater)
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Biking
- Tram tours



Management Activities

- Manipulate water levels and burn and mow areas to enhance fish and wildlife habitat
- Arrest succession to maintain habitat preferred by waterfowl
- Control invasive plants that threaten native species
- Protect endangered and threatened species like loggerhead sea turtles, piping plover and bald eagles.
- Maintain nest structures for wood duck, osprey and purple martin.
- Work cooperatively with city, state and federal agencies and non-government organizations to protect and preserve the Back Bay watershed.

Highlights

Back Bay is in the Atlantic flyway, a major corridor for migratory birds. Ten thousand snow geese and a large variety of ducks frequent the refuge during fall migration.

Several threatened and endangered animals inhabit the refuge, including loggerhead sea turtles, piping plovers and bald eagles.

To help recover loggerhead sea turtle populations, refuge biologists remove eggs from their nests, rebury them in predator-proof cages and release the hatchlings into the ocean.

Two outdoor classrooms on the refuge are designed for the active study of wetlands, marshes and the beach environment.

Issues

Non-native predators, such as feral hogs, damage habitat and disturb migratory birds.

Development in the nearby fast-growing metropolitan area threatens the refuge's water quality and destroys important wildlife habitat.

Restricted access to parts of the refuge to protect sensitive species such as piping plover, sparks controversy.

Back Bay is a 43,000-acre living resource that is in need of restoration and improvement.

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.

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

June 2003

