

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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
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**Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore
Announce an Open House Public Meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2017
for the Proposed Space Coast Trail in Coordination with the
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
and the Florida Department of Transportation**

Background

The proposed Space Coast Trail is a federal planning project for a multi-use (e.g., bicycling, walking, and hiking) recreational trail on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS) and Canaveral National Seashore (National Park Service, NPS), located along Florida's central east coast in Brevard and Volusia counties. The proposed Space Coast Trail would be the eastern end of Florida's Coast-to-Coast Trail that connects the Gulf of Mexico in St. Petersburg with the Atlantic Ocean. The USFWS and NPS are the co-lead agencies for the Environmental Assessment (EA) under development to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the proposal in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is a cooperating agency on the EA and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is a key partner in the planning, funding, and construction of the proposal. The USFWS, NPS, NASA, and FDOT are coordinating very closely on this proposal to meet all applicable rules, regulations, and policies and to facilitate public involvement.

Proposal

The purpose of this study is to evaluate a proposed multi-use trail from Parrish Park along the A. Max Brewer Memorial Parkway and at the entrance to the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge to Parking Area No. 1 within the Canaveral National Seashore (east-west segment) and following Kennedy Parkway from Beach Road (State Road 402) to U.S. 1 (north-south segment). The proposed Space Coast Trail would be a key component in both the Florida Coast-to-Coast Trail and the local River-to-Sea Loop Trail.

Open House Public Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 2017
Anytime between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm
City of Titusville City Hall, 555 S. Washington Avenue, Titusville, FL, 32796

During the scheduled open house, attendees may stop by any time between 5:00 and 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 7, 2017 to review project information and discuss the proposed Space Coast Trail with staff from USFWS, NPS, NASA, and FDOT.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Lorena Cucek, by phone at 386-943-5392, or via email at lorena.cucek@dot.state.fl.us at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact us by using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice).

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns relative to FDOT compliance with Title VI may do so by contacting Jennifer Smith, FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator at Jennifer.Smith2@dot.state.fl.us.

Public Scoping Comments due January 12, 2018

An EA would be anticipated to be available for public review and comment by the Fall of 2018. In compliance with NEPA and to inform the development of the EA, we request your input at this early stage in the planning process. Written comments may be submitted:

- in person at the Open House Public Meeting;
- by mail to Cheri Ehrhardt, Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 2683, Titusville, FL 32781-2683; or
- at NPS's Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC) website at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=67041>.

In addition, the information that will be presented at the Open House Public Meeting will be available on NPS's PEPC website. To ensure consideration of your comments and concerns in the development of the EA, we request that we receive comments by January 12, 2018.

All comments received during the public scoping period will be reviewed and considered in the development of the EA.

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, 566 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.

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