

From Ocean to Lagoon All Things Are Connected

Doc Ehrhart Sanctuary
Management & Education Center
8385 S Hwy A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951
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Center Hours

Tuesday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

Trail Hours

October-April: 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
May-September: 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Travel Directions

From I-95 take Melbourne Exit-180/US-192 east across the Melbourne Causeway to SR-A1A. Turn right and go 14.5 miles south on Hwy-A1A.

From Sebastian Inlet go to 2.6 miles north to the Center.

The Center is on the east side of Highway A1A, and the trail is across the street. Parking for trail on Mondays, holidays, and after-hours available at Bonsteel Park 500 feet south of the Center.



Scan the QR code to learn more at our website!



Scan the QR code to follow us on Facebook!



Management & Education Center

- Interactive Exhibits**
- Hiking Trail**
- Educational Programs**
- Gateway to Archie Carr Refuge**
- Volunteer Opportunities**

Brevard County
Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
www.eelbrevard.com



Opportunities Aboard at Doc Ehrhart Sanctuary

The 34-acre Sanctuary offers visitors an invitation to explore the barrier island's diverse habitats through interactive exhibits at the Center, and along a 1-mile hiking trail that winds from the ocean to the Indian River Lagoon.

The Center

Visitors will discover a modern educational facility with an interactive exhibit hall, auditorium, gift shop, classroom, office, restrooms, and observation deck—all meeting accessibility standards. The Center schedules guided sea turtle walks in June and July and year-round public programs.



Scan the QR code for guided sea turtle night walk registration



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers play a very important role in keeping the Sanctuary up and running. Join us and share in the excitement! Volunteers are needed as docents, in the gift shop, leading and assisting with education programs, turtle walk scouting, sanctuary preservation, and much more!

Education Programs

From school field trips to family activities to teacher resources, environmental education programs are a priority at the Sanctuary. Guided hikes, speakers, film series, special events and workshops—a variety of programs offer memorable opportunities for all ages.



Environmentally Endangered Lands

The Doc Ehrhart Sanctuary is home to the Management and Education Center for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program's South Beaches Region. The EEL Program was established in 1990 to protect the natural habitats of Brevard County by acquiring environmentally sensitive lands for conservation, passive recreation, and environmental education. This initiative made conservation history when citizens voted to tax themselves for the acquisition and maintenance of Brevard's natural areas.

The EEL Program mission is to protect and preserve biodiversity through responsible stewardship of Brevard County's natural resources.

Conservation Lands Work to...

- Protect rare and endangered species
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Protect aquifer recharge areas
- Provide passive recreation
- Serve as living classrooms
- Improve our health and quality of life
- Benefit our local economy



From Ocean to Lagoon...

All Things Are Connected

Brevard County's barrier island is a unique place where the temperate climate of the north meets the sub-tropical climate of the south. This meeting of climates allows for a rich diversity of habitats, plants, and animals. From east to west, five habitats are found: nearshore, dune and coastal strand, maritime hammock, intertidal lagoon, and subtidal lagoon.

Sanctuary Trail

The Doc Ehrhart Sanctuary 1-mile hiking trail begins at the Center and winds through several habitat types with spectacular views of beach and lagoon. It features a small picnic pavilion and a kayak launch area. Wildlife can often be seen and heard along the trail, including ospreys, great blue herons, gopher tortoises, and great land crabs



Sea Turtles Dig the Archie Carr Refuge!

The Barrier Island Center serves as the primary visitor and education center for the Archie Carr Refuge and is dedicated to increasing public awareness of this special place.

What Is the Archie Carr Refuge?

The Archie Carr Refuge (ACR) is the first national wildlife refuge dedicated to the protection of critical sea turtle nesting habitat. The ACR encompasses a 20-mile stretch of coast from Melbourne Beach in Brevard County south to Wabasso Beach in Indian River County. Three species of sea turtles regularly nest here: loggerheads, green turtles, and leatherbacks. The ACR is the most important nesting site for loggerheads in the Western Hemisphere. More green turtles nest here than anywhere else in the continental United States.

Who Is Archie Carr?

Dr. Archie Carr, Jr., was a graduate professor of ecology and an award winning author. Dr. Carr formed the nonprofit Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) in 1959 to study and protect sea turtles and their habitats. In appreciation of his lifelong efforts, the Archie Carr Refuge was named in his honor.

The Doc Ehrhart Sanctuary is pleased to have STC as a partner in achieving these goals.



Nearby Places of Interest EEL Program Sanctuaries...

Coconut Point Sanctuary

Located approximately 8 miles north of the Barrier Island Center, this sanctuary features a 1-mile trail through coastal strand habitat where gopher tortoises, raccoons, Florida Scrub-Jays, and bobcats can be spotted regularly.



Maritime Hammock Sanctuary

Located approximately 4 miles north of the Barrier Island Center, this sanctuary features 3.5 miles of hiking trails through maritime forest to the Indian River Lagoon. Look for wildlife like bobcats,

ospreys, alligators, and great land crabs.

Other Natural Attractions...

Sebastian Inlet State Park

One of Florida's most popular state parks, Sebastian Inlet is just 2.6 miles south of the Center. The park offers unforgettable fishing, boating, and surfing, along with many recreation opportunities for the whole family, including hiking and biking trails.

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge

Established in 1903 by Theodore Roosevelt as the nation's first National Wildlife Refuge, Pelican Island features several hiking trails, an observation tower, and stellar bird watching opportunities. The refuge is accessed from Historic Jungle Trail 6.8 miles south of the Center.