Please observe the following while you enjoy visiting the Nature Center

- The Nature Center and boardwalks promptly open at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m.
- Dogs are welcome on the boardwalks and beach, but must be kept on a leash at all times. Dogs are not allowed in the buildings.
- Beach access is available at the fishing pier and Millender Park only.
- Observe wildlife from a distance and respect posted signs. Be Bear Aware!
- Camping and fires are not allowed on the Cat Point tract in Eastpoint.
- Contact FWC’s Wildlife Alert at 888 404 3922 if you suspect a fish, wildlife, boating, or environmental violation.

Nature Center
Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
Recreational Opportunities

Visit Our Nature Center
Open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aquatic tanks, historical and cultural exhibits, and outdoor boardwalks are featured and admission is free. Come check us out!
Welcome to ANERR

The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve’s (ANERR) headquarters, Nature Center, and adjacent public parcels are part of the “Cat Point” tract and are located just northeast of the St. George Island Bridge in Eastpoint, Florida. Cat Point is a 90+ acre property that stretches along the north bayshore of St. George Sound. The tract is named after the oyster harvest area located just to the south, which is one of the most productive approved oyster harvest areas in the entire Apalachicola Bay System.

From 1983 to 2001, the state acquired the parcels that make up Cat Point in order to conserve the shoreline and contribute to the overall protection of Apalachicola Bay. The parcels were incorporated into ANERR and are currently managed by DEP’s Florida Coastal Office.

Visitors can enjoy a variety of educational, interactive and live exhibits at the state-of-the-art Nature Center. Aquariums highlight a connected watershed message and local fauna from the river, estuary, bay and Gulf. Other exhibits depict the ecological, cultural and historical aspects of the region. Staff coordinate educational programs for local K-8 and high school groups in addition to professional workshops and public programs at the center.

Nature Boardwalks

Nearly a half mile of elevated boardwalks meander through the natural communities surrounding the Nature Center. Visitors are invited to explore marsh and flatwoods habitats as well as spot unique wildlife. An observation platform is found at the end of the boardwalk and provides a view of the beach and St. George Sound. A fishing pier, remnant of the old St. George Island Bridge, is located at the base of the new bridge off of Island Drive and has a paved parking area.

Exploring the Center

Millender Park

Millender Park provides public access to picnic pavilions and the bayshore beach. There is a small parking area as well as an information kiosk. Visitors may carry kayaks or canoes to the water (non-motorized), although there is no designated launch at this location. ANERR hosts National Estuaries Day at the park every September with games and activities for kids of all ages. Facilities are located in the nearby Nature Center.