



Please observe the following while you enjoy visiting the Nature Center

- The Nature Center and boardwalks open at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Cat Point Trail and Millender Park are open sunrise to sunset.
- Dogs are welcome on the boardwalks and beach, but must be kept on a leash at all times and picked up after. Only service dogs are allowed in the building.
- Camping, overnight parking, and fires are not allowed.
- Observe wildlife from a distance and respect posted signs. "Be Bear Aware!"
- Contact FWC's Wildlife Alert line at 888-404-3922 if you observe a fish, wildlife, or trespassing concern.

Updated Summer 2019

Contact Us

Apalachicola National Estuarine
Research Reserve
Nature Center & Staff Offices
108 Island Drive
Eastpoint, FL 32328

Phone: 850-670-7700

On the web:
<http://apalachicolareserve.com/>

Find Us On:  

★ Visit Us

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!



Nature Center Trails

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

Recreational Opportunities



Part of DEP's Office of
Resilience and Coastal Protection



Apalachicola
National Estuarine
Research Reserve



Welcome to the Reserve

The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve's headquarters, Nature Center, and adjacent public lands are located just northeast of the St. George Island Bridge in Eastpoint, Florida. The Reserve manages 90+ acres that stretch along the bayshore of St. George Sound. This peninsula is known locally as "Cat Point." Like many other historic landmarks, this area was probably named after the frequent encounters with native wildlife present during initial settlement. Cat Point reefs, located just to the south, have historically been some of the most productive oyster harvest areas in the Apalachicola Bay System.

From 1983 to 2001, the state acquired these lands in order to conserve the shoreline and contribute to the overall protection of Apalachicola Bay. The parcels are currently managed by the Reserve within the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection.



Exploring the Center

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 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.



① Boardwalks

Nearly a half mile of elevated boardwalks meander through the natural communities surrounding the Nature Center. Visitors are invited to grab a plant guide, explore marsh and flatwoods habitats, ponder inspirational quotes and spot unique wildlife. An observation platform at the boardwalk end not only provides a view of the beach at St. George Sound, but also takes visitors along the "Watershed Walk."



② Millender Park

Millender Park offers picnic pavilions, access to the bayshore beach, small parking area (handicap accessible) as well as an information kiosk. Kayaks and canoes can be carried to the water from the road end.



③ Cat Point Trail

Across Island Drive, the Cat Point Trail loops for a half mile around the palmetto flatwoods and turpented pines at the 60 acres around the true peninsula of Eastpoint. Crosswalks and sidewalks are present from the Reserve's entrance drive to access the trailhead and kiosk off of South Bayshore Dr.

