

EEL Program Overview



Nature Sanctuaries of the Brevard County EEL Program



EEL Program Office
Open Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Map Inside...

Brevard County Environmentally
Endangered Lands (EEL) Program

Conservation Lands Work For You!

Conservation lands work for the **ENVIRONMENT** by

- preserving biodiversity
- providing the wild places that wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, need
- moderating our climate



Conservation lands work for the **INDIAN RIVER LAGOON** by

- enriching commercial and game fish populations
- enhancing water quality and the health of the entire ecosystem
- offering public access to Lagoon waters
- providing the tranquility of an undeveloped shoreline

Conservation lands work for **CLEAN AIR AND SAFE WATER** by

- allowing for natural water filtration
- providing aquifer recharge areas
- facilitating stormwater runoff management
- using lands for flood control
- filtering pollutants from the air

Conservation lands work for the **ECONOMY** by

- building eco-tourism
- increasing property values
- improving quality of life, which attracts new businesses

Conservation lands work for **EDUCATION** by

- providing a living classroom for study trips, adult education, summer camps, and family outings
- enhancing teacher training opportunities
- creating research opportunities for local students
- providing career education and volunteer opportunities
- inspiring people of all ages

Conservation lands work for **RECREATION** by

- offering over 60 miles of trails, overlooks, boardwalks, and water access
- providing opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, paddling, fishing, nature photography, wildlife observation, and more...
- encouraging family fun and quality time together
- granting stress relief and solitude



Why are lands burned?
Fire is a natural and common event in Florida. Many plants and animals have adapted to and even depend on fire for survival.
It is often necessary to conduct a prescribed fire to restore a habitat to a healthy state. Prescribed fire is only conducted under specific weather conditions to protect neighboring homes. Areas that have been managed through prescribed fire are much less likely to burn when wildfires occur.



When the natural cycles that keep habitats healthy are interrupted, land managers must use a variety of tools to restore a habitat to its original state. This may involve removal of exotics, vegetation reduction, prescribed fire, hydrological restoration, and/or a combination of the above.
Reduction of vegetation is required when the habitat has become severely overgrown. This opens up feeding areas for wildlife and reduces the risk of wildfire.

You asked... We Answered!

The Pine Island Management and Education Center/Sams House
The Sams House at Pine Island is located off State Road 3 at the south end of the Pine Island Conservation Area in Merritt Island. Come inside the oldest standing home in Brevard County. The 1875 Sams Cabin has been restored complete with interactive exhibits both inside and along a short paved walking trail. Exhibits interpret the history (from mastodons to Native Americans to pioneers) and ecology of Merritt Island. Archaeology and history come alive at Sams House! Participate in a community program, become a volunteer, or just spend the day exploring this 900-acre site.

The Barrier Island Sanctuary Management and Education Center
The Barrier Island Center (BIC) is located in south Melbourne Beach, within the heart of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge - the nesting site of tens of thousands of sea turtles each year. The Center showcases these unique animals and the beauty and diversity of the barrier island.

With interactive exhibits and access to habitats from ocean to lagoon, the BIC is the place to be! Educational adventures include study trips, summer camps, turtle walks, and special events.



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The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (EFS) is located in south Titusville. The EFS includes interpretive exhibits, a Discovery Room, gift shop, library, and classrooms. Also featured is a screened porch, an outdoor amphitheater, award-winning butterfly garden, and the Enchanted Crossing, an interpretive nature trail with a stabilized surface for universal accessibility.

With its ideal arrangement for visitors, field trips, research projects, and teacher training - educational and volunteer opportunities abound at EFS!



The EEL Program works closely with school groups, local organizations, and volunteers to provide quality environmental education programs for all ages.

Management and Education Centers serve as regional hubs for environmental education, land management, and public access. Each Center provides volunteer programs, study trips, community events, and showcases universal access features.

