

# News Release

## *Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge*

1324 Sandbridge Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Date: July 26, 2021  
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### Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Proposes Fee Changes in 2021

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public input on a potential change to entrance fees in 2021 for the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). In accordance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004, the proposed fee schedule for the refuge will be open for public comment. The public comment period will last until Friday, August 27, 2021.

The current refuge fees have been in place since 2000. Back Bay NWR proposes eliminating the \$2.00 Hiker/Biker Daily Entrance Fee and increasing the Refuge Annual Pass from \$15.00 to \$20.00. There will be no changes to the \$5.00 Daily Entrance Fee.

The proposed fee modifications are as follows:

Hiker/Biker Daily Pass		Refuge Annual Pass	
current	proposed	current	proposed
\$2	\$0	\$15	\$20

Eighty percent of all money collected by the refuge from fees and passes, with the exception of the Federal Duck Stamp, remains at the refuge to be used for visitor services and facility improvements. Entrance fees have supported a wide range of projects that improve refuge conditions and visitor experience including, regular maintenance of trails and boardwalk hiking trails, exhibits in the Visitor Center, fee collection operations, ranger-led programs and special events.

Acting Refuge Manager Kathy Owens encourages interested parties to provide feedback on the proposed fee changes, which will help the refuge gain a better prospective of the visitors who enjoy the refuge. Comments may be emailed to [Kathryn\\_Owens@fws.gov](mailto:Kathryn_Owens@fws.gov), or mailed to Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, 1324 Sandbridge Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23456.

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 [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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