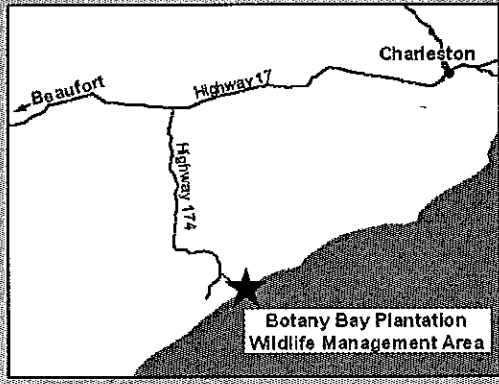
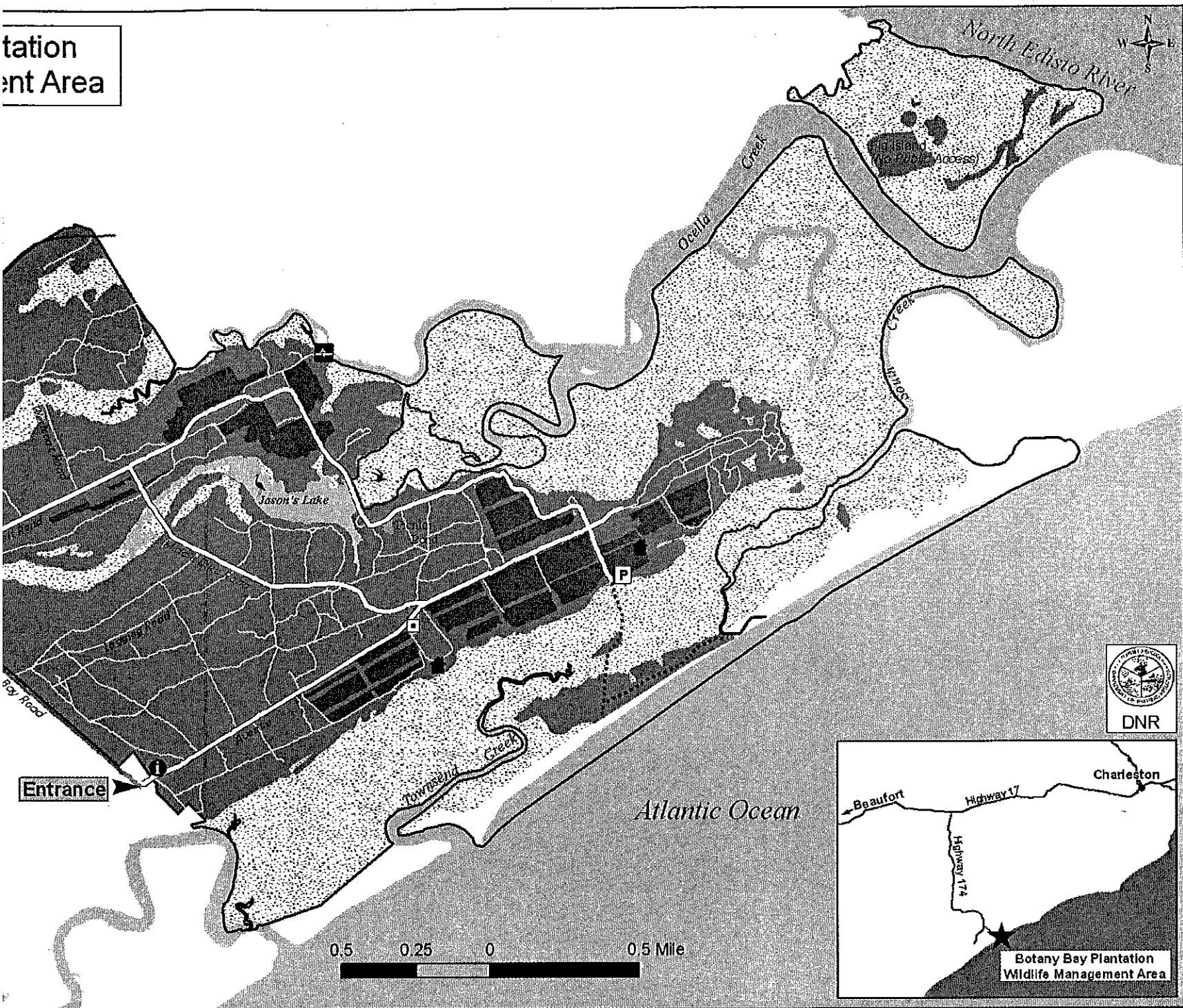


Botany Bay Plantation
Management Area



Botany Bay Plantation
Wildlife Management Area



Botany Bay Plantation Wildlife Management Area

DNR

The 4,360.5 acre Botany Bay Plantation Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is

located adjacent to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean in the southeast corner of Edisto Island in lower Charleston County, South Carolina. The area lies near the North Edisto River just south of the intensely developed resort islands of Kiawah and Seabrook and just north of the rapidly developing Edisto Beach area.

The area's location near the North Edisto river places it within the boundary of the ACE Basin Focus Area, one of the largest remaining relatively undeveloped wetland ecosystems along the Atlantic Coast. Botany Bay Plantation WMA with Botany Bay Island (under conservation easement with The Nature Conservancy), and Deveaux Bank, form a core area of protected habitat in the eastern corner of the Focus Area.

The biological features of Botany Bay Plantation WMA are characteristic of Sea Islands along the lower Southeast Coast. The undeveloped coastal habitats of the management area are important to numerous wildlife species. The beach is utilized for nesting by the Federally threatened loggerhead sea turtle and the state threatened least tern. The maritime forest and coastal scrub/shrub areas provide nesting and foraging habitat for neotropical songbirds including painted buntings and summer tanagers. The uplands support a wide diversity of wildlife. The tidal marshes and managed wetlands contain a variety of fish and shellfish resources and provide foraging habitat for numerous wildlife species.

The cultural resources on Botany Bay Plantation WMA are extremely significant. Cultural resource sites dating from as early as the Late Archaic Period through the 19th century are present. Several sites including the Fig Island Shell Rings, outbuildings from Bleak Hall Plantation, and elements of the Alexander Bache U.S. Coast Survey Line are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

To reach the entrance of Botany Bay Plantation WMA, travel down SC Highway 174 toward Edisto Beach and turn left onto Botany Bay Road, which is about 8.5 miles south of the McKinley Washington Bridge. Follow this dirt road two miles to near where it dead-ends. Turn left at the gate into the property. The kiosk at the main gate contains maps and other important information.

Visitors should be aware that the area has no restrooms, facilities or trash receptacles.

GENERAL PUBLIC USE

- The area is open for general public visitation during daylight hours (from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.) The area is closed during scheduled hunts for deer and wild turkey. All visitors are required to register (sign in and out) at the kiosk located at the main gate off of Botany Bay Road.
- Access to the beach is by foot, bicycle, or boat. No horses or dogs are allowed on the beach.
- No collection, removal or possession of shells, driftwood, fossils or cultural artifacts is permitted except that youth (17 years and under) may collect one quart of shells per day.
- All terrain vehicles are prohibited except those permitted by SCDNR for management activities.
- No camping is allowed.
- Horseback riding is allowed by permit only and according to permit regulations. Permits are free and are available at kiosk and must be in possession while riding. Data cards must be completed and returned to kiosk upon leaving the area. No groups greater than 10 horses are permitted.
- Fig Island is closed to all public access.
- Sea Cloud Landing on Ocella Creek is restricted to non-trailer watercraft.
- All management area visitors are reminded of the presence of venomous snakes and should remain observant when walking. During warmer periods of the year, insect repellent is recommended to minimize annoyance from mosquitoes and biting flies.
- Visitors are reminded it is unlawful to feed or harass alligators.

- DNR reserves the right to close specific areas as needed for management purposes.

HUNTING

- All hunters must possess a WMA permit. Still-deer-gun hunting is by lottery drawing only. Hunting dates for archery deer hunts, small game and raccoon are announced in the annual rules and regulations brochure. There is no open season for fox squirrels or foxes. There is no open turkey season except for adult/youth hunters selected by computer drawing. Public dove hunts are conducted during the season in accordance with the Federally regulated migratory bird hunting regulations. Please consult the DNR's annual listing of statewide dove fields for dates and details.
- Hunting access to the mainland by boat is prohibited. Marsh hen hunting is allowed in the marshes surrounding the area.

FISHING

- In the Jason's Lake complex adult-youth catch and release fishing is allowed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Youth (17 and under) must be accompanied by no more than 2 adults 18 years of age or older, who may also fish.
- Shore-based fishing, shrimping, and crabbing is allowed on the front beach.

**Please direct inquiries to:
SCDNR/Botany Bay Plantation WMA
585 Donnelley Drive
Green Pond, SC 29446
(843) 844-8957**

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, disability, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, S.C. 29202.

www.dnr.sc.gov