

*Many people believe  
that the fate of the  
environment will be  
determined in this decade.*

*Take this opportunity  
to save your world.*

*Do it now,  
before it's too late.*

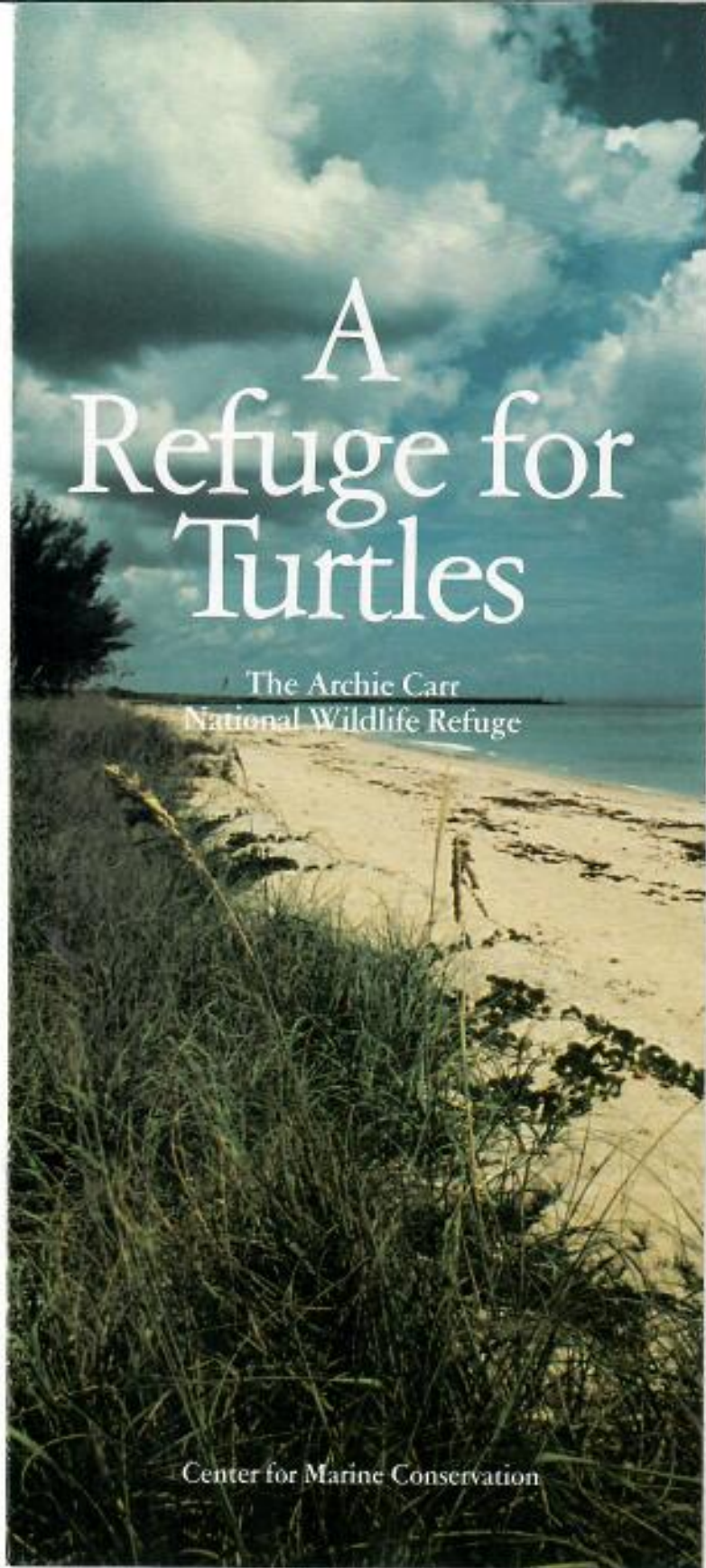


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# A Refuge for Turtles

The Archie Carr  
National Wildlife Refuge

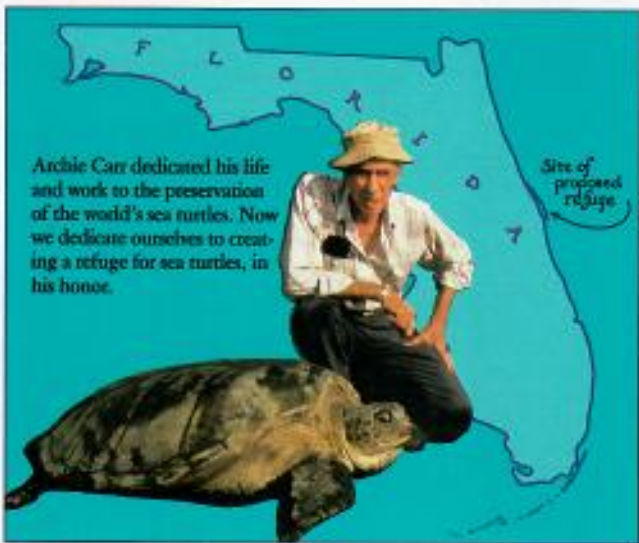


Center for Marine Conservation

**W**inds, waves, and rising seas have been shaping the barrier islands of central Florida for tens of thousands of years. And for as many summers, loggerhead and green sea turtles have renewed their ancient link with the land by emerging from the Atlantic surf to dig nests in the sand to lay their eggs.

Now, the enormous number of people moving to Florida threatens to destroy this extraordinary natural heritage. Finding the beaches drastically altered from their natural state, crowded with hotels and condominiums, nesting sea turtles simply refrain from coming onto the shore to lay their eggs.

By protecting key beaches on barrier islands in east central Florida from development and other human activities, we can save depleted sea turtle populations and other special species of birds, reptiles and plants. In doing so, we can also pay living tribute to an extraordinary Floridian, Archie Carr, whose life inspired efforts to conserve sea turtles around the world.



Archie Carr dedicated his life and work to the preservation of the world's sea turtles. Now we dedicate ourselves to creating a refuge for sea turtles, in his honor.



Female loggerhead nesting  
John J. Domene



Loggerhead hatchlings  
Andrew Young

## Why a Special Refuge?

*Sea turtles need these beaches to continue to survive*—Our Atlantic beaches, especially those in central Florida, attract the world's second largest population of nesting loggerhead turtles. One quarter of all loggerhead nests in the United States are laid on the 20.5 miles of Florida beach from Melbourne Beach in Brevard County to Wabasso in Indian River County. Forty percent of the green sea turtle nests laid in the continental United States are laid on these same beaches.

*Sea turtles are in serious trouble*—In fact, seven of the world's eight sea turtle species are seriously imperiled by incidental capture in fisheries, the alteration of habitat, and marine pollution. But the loss of nesting habitat is the greatest long-term threat to the survival of these prehistoric creatures. If we do not act now, we may witness their extinction in our lifetime.

*Other species depend on these areas, too*—Endangered and threatened species such as manatees frequently swim in the surf zone near Sebastian Inlet. The threatened Florida scrub jay lives in the area. Coastal hardwood hammock vegetation, once common from South Florida to North Carolina, still thrives on these islands. Cabbage palm and marlberry mark the transi-

tion from temperate to tropical life zones here. Sanderlings, great blue herons, ring-billed gulls, osprey, and brown pelicans live here year-round. Ninety species of fish, including pompano and blue fish, depend on the clean waters off the adjacent islands. For humans, too, these beaches still offer the peace and quiet that are so quickly vanishing from our lives.

## An Uncertain Future

The proposed Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge lies on barrier islands off Florida's eastern shore. Today development threatens to destroy these beautiful beaches. And with development comes the human desire to resist the natural movement of the beaches with seawalls, riprap, and other structures. If development is allowed we will destroy the beaches that turtles need and humans seek.

In the decade to come, demographers predict that over 4.2 million people will move to Florida's coast. We must act now to protect these beaches—for the turtles and for ourselves.



Manatees

Jim Serfin

## A Cause for Hope



Loggerhead hatchling

Andrew Young

In 1987, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state agencies decided to protect key beaches in east central Florida between Melbourne Beach in Brevard County and Wabasso in Indian River County. In 1988, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formally proposed that these beaches be included within a national wildlife refuge. This refuge would:

- protect endangered and threatened wildlife
- protect and manage migratory birds
- protect and manage other species and their habitats
- provide compatible public education, interpretation, and recreation opportunities.

Soon afterwards, Congress named the proposed refuge after Dr. Archie Carr as a tribute to his great contribution to the scientific understanding and conservation of sea turtles. The Governor, the Florida congressional delegation, Brevard County Commission, conservationists, and many residents of the area have all expressed strong support for the refuge.

## The Challenge

If the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge is to become a reality, state and federal governments must allocate funds to acquire 500 acres of land along the 9.3 miles of undeveloped beach that make up the core of the refuge. Governments can do this in two ways.

The state may acquire lands through the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program. The federal government may use money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which comes from offshore oil and gas lease sales, sale of surplus federal lands, and motorboat fuel taxes. Each year, Congress allocates millions of dollars from the fund for acquisition of park and refuge lands.

Because beachfront property is expensive, the core segments of the refuge will cost about 90 million dollars. As a result, acquisition of refuge lands will take place over a period of years. But the longer we wait, the more expensive it will be.

Construction on these fragile barrier islands threatens endangered sea turtles and our coastal heritage.



Michael Weber

## Your Help is Needed

We hope you will help to establish the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. In protecting these extraordinary beaches, we will be securing a future for sea turtles, for many other important species, and for ourselves.

Concerned citizens can make the difference. Please call or write your Senators and Representatives to ask that they place the Carr Refuge high on their list of priorities. Remember the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

The following are among those that have worked to make the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge a reality.

Brevard County Commission \* California Turtle and Tortoise Society \* Caribbean Conservation Corporation \* Center for Marine Conservation \* Columbus Zoo \* Defenders of Wildlife \* Disney Corporation \* Florida Audubon \* Florida Defenders of the Environment \* Greenpeace \* International Fund for Animal Welfare \* National Audubon Society \* National Wildlife Federation \* New York Turtle and Tortoise Society \* Sea Turtle Preservation Society \* Sierra Club \* The Nature Conservancy \* The Sea Turtle Center \* The State of Florida \* The Wilderness Society \* Turtle Coast Sierra Club

*The Center for Marine Conservation (CMC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protection of the marine environment and its wildlife.*



Loggerhead turtle

John J. Demont