

# DISCOVER OUR WILD SIDE



SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN | RICH IN WATER,  
WILDLIFE, HERITAGE AND RECREATION



# Table of Contents

Southeast Michigan – Rich in Water, Wildlife, Heritage and Recreation	3
The Greening of Southeast Michigan	4
Right in Our Backyard	5-6
Water – Enhancing Economic Opportunities and Quality of Life	7-8
Wildlife – World-class Wildlife Preserved	9-10
Heritage – Culture and History Preserved	11-12
Recreation – Opportunities Galore	13-14
Sustainability – Balanced and Continuous Economic, Environmental and Social Progress	15-19
Discover our Wild Side	20
Back Cover	21
Quality of Life Diagram	22
Discover Our Wild Side Adventure Guide	23



Photos on cover:  
 upper left: The Grosse Ile High School varsity girls rowing team, (Greg Shamus and the News-Herald Newspaper). Lower left: Scaup duck, (Ducks Unlimited, Inc.). Center: Humbug Island and Marsh, (BASF) Right: American Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) flower bed, (Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority [HCMA]).



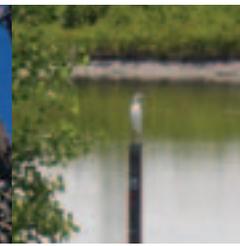
Woodhaven Parks and Recreation



Woodhaven Parks and Recreation



Don Sionelli – Michigan Travel Bureau



Auto Alliance International (AAI)

From far left: bike trail in Woodhaven. Stream in Woodhaven. American Bald Eagle nesting in Metro Detroit Area. Blue Heron in Flat Rock.

# Southeast Michigan-rich in water, wildlife, heritage and recreation



“Citizens, businesses, organizations and government leaders all recognize that our region's natural features are the foundation of our economies, our quality of

life and the legacy we leave to future generations. We are filled with pride by our magnificent rivers and lakes and the establishment of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, the first international refuge in North America. Southeast Michigan is a great place to live, work, play and raise a family, and it's only getting better.”

**John Dingell**  
**U.S. Congressman**  
**16th District of Michigan**

There is a change happening in Southeast Michigan. Maybe you noticed it walking along a riverfront pathway or watching hawks swoop over the Great Lakes coast. Or maybe you haven't realized yet what great things are going on around you. But they're here. The birds. The fish. The boats. The trails. The waterways. Our wild side. It's all here. Ready to be discovered.

The change started a while ago – when people, organizations, companies and government officials realized that we had to do something to protect the things that make this region so special. We've come a long way since then – our environment is cleaner, our citizens are calling for conservation and protection, our wildlife is returning, and our quality of life is on the rise.

It's no secret that our region has suffered from pollution and other negative impacts of industrialization over the years. For many people, that's the image of Southeast Michigan that takes precedence over visions of glistening water and boats sailing into the sunset. But that image is no longer reality. In many cases, our industries are the ones who are leading the charge to recapture the grandeur that is endemic to this region. The groups, companies and individuals that have worked so hard to help this region rise from a history of environmental carelessness are seeing the fruits of their labors in the area today.

Southeast Michigan offers world-class water, wildlife, heritage and recreational opportunities that are right in our backyard. The region has become an international model for preserving and enhancing this quality of life, which helps businesses achieve competitive advantage because they can offer employees opportunities available in few other places. This is a great place to live, work and play. If you haven't discovered it yet, you should.

Look around. Visit one of your local waterfront parks. Go bird watching, biking, sailing or hunting without driving for hours for the privilege of enjoying nature. Visit one of many historical sites. Tell your friends. Tell your family. Tell everyone. It's here. Waiting for you to discover.





*Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy*

Stretching from Lake St. Clair, through the Detroit River, and down to Lake Erie, the region was first settled because of the transportation route provided by abundant water resources. Today, those same water resources, including tributaries like the Clinton, Rouge, Huron and Raisin Rivers, serve not only as a transportation corridor, but also provide the backbone of our economy and a superior quality of life based on numerous recreational opportunities.

*Top left: Nature trail at Lake Erie Metropark. Middle left: Detroit Lighthouse at the mouth of the Detroit River. Middle right: Ducks fill the Michigan sky.*



*George Voulemenous*



*Ducks Unlimited, Inc.*

# The Greening of Southeast Michigan

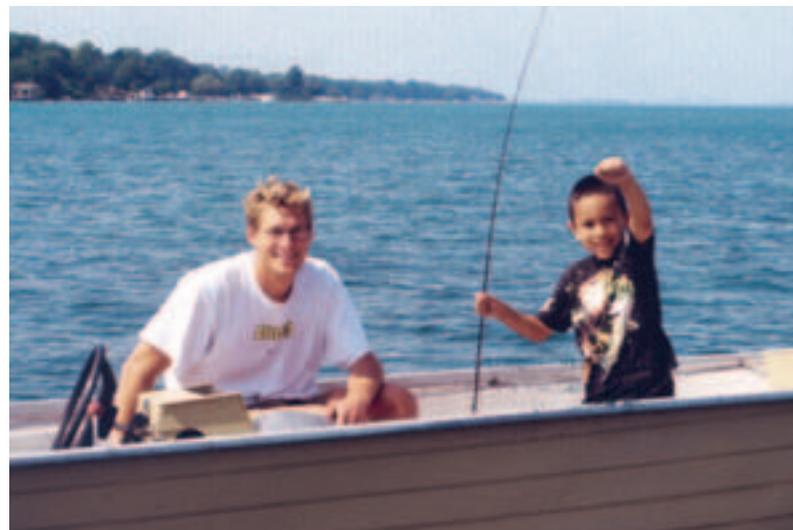
Bald Eagles. Black-Crowned Night Heron. Walleye. Sturgeon. Great Blue Heron. Diving Ducks. Coots. Common Egrets. Common Tern. Yellow Legs. Sandpiper. Just a few examples of the prolific wildlife patrolling the waters of Southeast Michigan.



*Don Breneman, National Park Service*

Historically known for its automotive and manufacturing facilities, Southeast Michigan has recently resurfaced as a premiere destination for water, wildlife, heritage and recreational activities. Our citizens and businesses are helping us recapture the natural elegance of the region once threatened by pollution and degradation. Bald eagles have returned to the shores of our waterways. Sturgeon are successfully spawning in the Detroit River after decades of absence. People throughout North America come to fish for walleye, hunt for waterfowl, sail our lakes and bird watch. Southeast

Michigan's wild side is once again front and center in the hearts and minds of its people.



*Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy*

*Bottom left: Great Blue Heron. Bottom right: Fishing on the Detroit River with Grosse Ile in the background.*





Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy



AAI



Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy

Far left: South Hennen Marsh.  
Middle top: Goatsbeard flower growing in the wild (*Tragopogon dubius*).  
Right top: Stoney Island.

Middle left: Students participate in hands-on science learning with the Great Lakes Education Program on the Detroit River, coordinated by Michigan Sea Grant.



Michigan Sea Grant



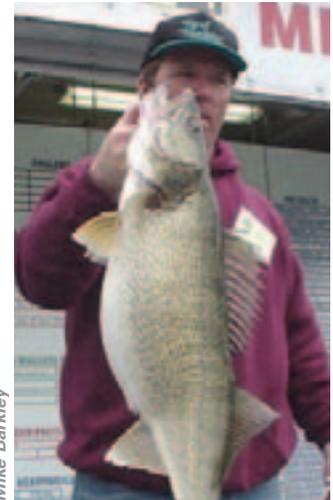
Bottom left: Egrets on a misty September morning at Lake Erie Metropark.



HCMA

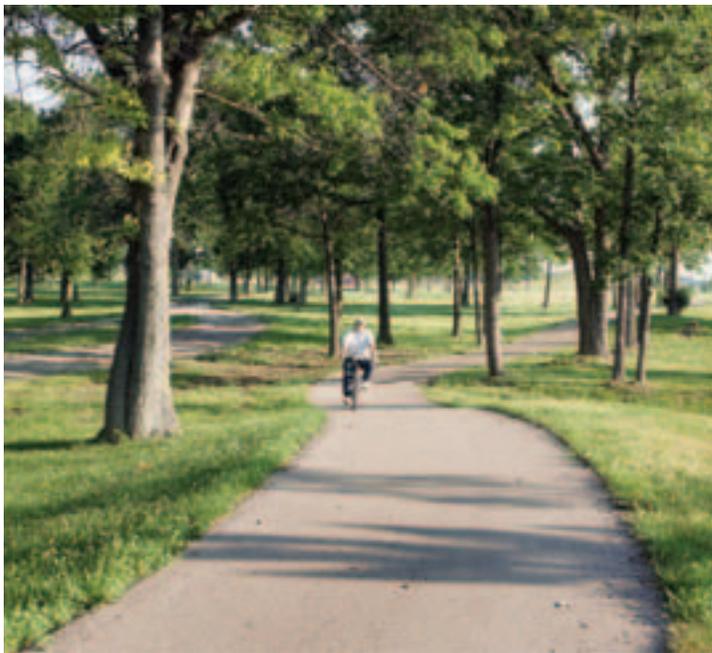
# Right in Our Backyard

- Attend the annual HawkFest held on the lower Detroit River and around western Lake Erie, which has an international reputation as one of the three best spots to watch hawks in North America, and the premier site east of the Mississippi River. On some days during the annual migration, thousands of hawks and raptors practically block out the sun.
- Win big money fishing in the national walleye tournament with prize money in the \$250,000-350,000 range.
- View the majesty of rowing regattas held along the Detroit River throughout the summer.
- Sail in one of over 1,000 sail boat races held throughout the summer each year, including the start of the prestigious Port Huron to Mackinac Race.
- Join the thousands of people who attend the annual Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival to see the latest hunting equipment, participate in a decoy contest and view wildlife art.
- Step back in time with the Detroit River Cruise, featuring classic Gar Wood, Chris Craft and hydroplane boats.
- Visit the terminus of the Underground Railroad, which attracts thousands of tourists each year to learn about the 40,000 men, women and children who gained their freedom from slavery crossing the Detroit River to Canada.



Mike Barkley

National Record Walleye



Woodhaven Parks and Recreation

- Visit The Henry Ford, America's greatest history attraction, where authentic American people, places and things captivate and inspire visitors of all ages.
- Go picnicking, fishing or biking on Belle Isle and visit the oldest municipal aquarium in America.
- Stroll along the Detroit RiverWalk in downtown Detroit and stop by the Wintergarden in General Motors Global Headquarters.



Gerald Laura



AAI



Greg Shamus and the News-Herald Newspaper



The Henry Ford



HCMA



Essex Region Conservation Authority



George Voulemenos

Far top left: The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Michigander Bike Tour has toured the Downriver region because of its greenway trails. Top right: Sunrise on the Detroit River at the Walleye Trail Tournament. Center right: Whitetail fawn napping in wooded area. Center left: The Grosse Ile High School varsity girls rowing team winning first place at the Hebda Memorial Challenge Cup race in April 2003. Five Rowing Clubs use the Detroit River for Regattas and races.



Far bottom left: American lotus blossom will soon be designated as the official state symbol for clean water in the State of Michigan. Middle: The Roundhouse at The Henry Ford. Middle bottom: Canard River Marsh in Essex, Ontario, Canada. Right bottom: Classic wooden sailboat on the Detroit River.

Top left: Sugar Island.  
Center top: High school students planting marsh plants in Grosse Ile Nature Area. Top right: Peche Island.  
Center below: The Woodtick Peninsula in Erie State Game Area.  
Bottom: Kayaking in Thorofare Canal, Grosse Ile.



Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy



Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy



Visual Image Productions

## Water - Enhancing Economic Opportunities and Quality of Life

Michigan, surrounded by twenty-percent of the world's freshwater, is renowned for water-based activities, including boating, fishing, bird watching and international shipping. The Great Lakes and the tributaries that feed them not only sustain Michigan's industries and tourism, but also enrich our quality of life beyond measure.

### Southeast Michigan - Rivers and Lakes Abound

- St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair –The 40-mile St. Clair River forms the upper most portion of the corridor between Lakes Huron and Erie, serving as a connecting channel between Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair. The St. Clair River empties into the 430-square mile Lake St. Clair that, in turn, empties into the Detroit River. While not technically one of the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair's shape and important position in the waterway system have earned it the title of "heart of the Great Lakes."
- Clinton River –This 80-mile long river drains 760-square miles of southeast Michigan before it empties into Lake St. Clair. The Clinton is a key gateway to the lakes for thousands of pleasure boaters.



Monroe County



Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy



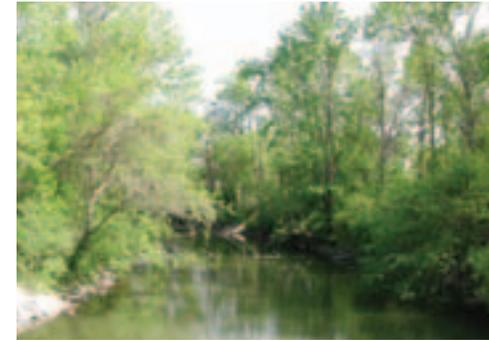


Woodhaven Parks and Recreation

■ Detroit River – This 32-mile connecting channel links Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie. Recently designated both an American Heritage and Canadian Heritage River, it serves as the source of drinking water for approximately five million people and is a key link for commerce in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system. The lower Detroit River and western Lake Erie are part of the first International Wildlife Refuge in North America.

■ Rouge River – This 125-mile long river drains 438-square miles of Southeast Michigan before it empties into the Detroit River. The river flows through more than fifty miles of public parklands, making it one of the most publicly accessible rivers in the state. Once known for the high levels of industrial pollution found in its waters, conservation efforts along the Rouge are reclaiming its natural essence.

■ Huron River – This 125-mile long river drains 908-square miles of Southeast Michigan before it empties into western Lake Erie, near the mouth of the Detroit River. The Huron is well known for canoeing and fishing and has been designated a State Scenic River.



City of Flat Rock



Monroe County Convention and Tourist Bureau

■ Lake Erie – This is the eleventh largest lake in the world (by surface area) and the warmest and most biologically productive of the Great Lakes. Portions of the western basin are included in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

■ River Raisin – This 115-mile long river drains 1,072-square miles of Southeast Michigan before it empties into western Lake Erie. The watershed of the Raisin is rich in agriculture and history, dating back to the 1600s, when French missionaries came to this territory.



Mark Larson

Top left: Huron Park in the City of Flat Rock. Top right: a creek of the Huron River that runs through Woodhaven.



Middle: Summertime at Sterling State Park. Bottom: Fall splendor along the River Raisin.

Top left: Lake sturgeon are once again spawning in the Detroit River for the first time in 50 years. Top center: Hooded Merganser Duck. Top right: Wildlife at Pt. Mouillee State Game Area.



© John G. Shedd Aquarium, P. Ceisel



Ducks Unlimited, Inc.



Michigan DNR

## Wildlife - World-class Wildlife Preserved

Southeast Michigan is one of the most biologically diverse areas in North America. Our waterways and shorelines are teeming with hundreds of species of fish, plants and fowl. Conservation efforts over the past decade and more have led to the resurgence of species previously thought to have disappeared from the region.

### Fish and Waterfowl and Raptors, Oh My!

- 27 species of waterfowl frequent Michigan's coastal wetlands.
- 17 species of raptors, including eagles, hawks and falcons are found in the region.
- Bald eagles are reproducing for the first time in 50 years.
- 48 species of non-raptors, including loons, warblers, neo-tropical songbirds, cranes and shorebirds can be seen along our coastlines.
- 35 species of dragonflies and butterflies float through the summer air.
- 117 species of fish are found in or migrate through the Detroit River.



Richard Whitwam



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



J. Paynter, National Park Service



Center left: In March 2003, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers donated 168 acres of wetlands to the International Wildlife Refuge, complete with a bald eagle's nest. Bottom left: Spotted turtle. Right bottom: Hunting at Pt. Mouillee Waterfowl Festival Duck Hunters Tournament.

## Biodiversity - Recognized and Preserved

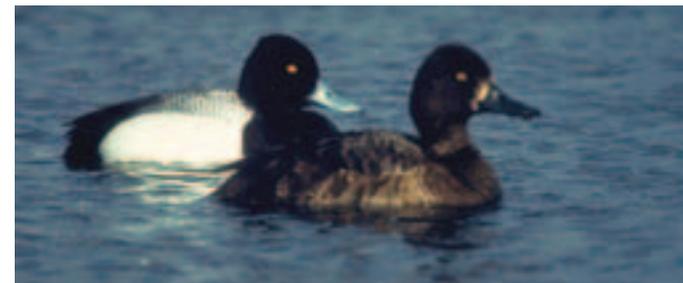
- The region has been identified as one of 34 unique habitat areas in the United States and Canada by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
- Parts of the Detroit River and western Lake Erie have been designated the first International Wildlife Refuge in North America.
- In 1992, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the Michigan Biodiversity Conservation Act recognized the area as having significant biological diversity that should be conserved and enhanced by both Canada and the United States.
- The area is included in a Regional Shorebird Reserve by the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network.
- Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and the western portion of Lake Erie have been designated one of 20 Biodiversity Investment Areas in the entire Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada because it contains exceptional diversity of plants and animals and the habitats to support them.



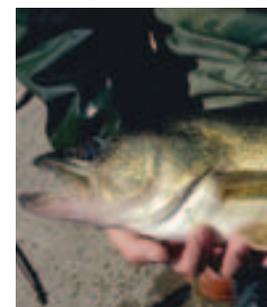
- For over 50 years alkaline by-products, predominantly from the manufacture of soda ash and other lime-based products, were disposed in beds on Fighting Island. BASF Corporation has devoted significant resources over many years to transform this 1,200-acre island from a brownfield site into a unique island ecosystem of grasses, trees, shrubs, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, and aquatic shoreline habitats. In 2002 BASF received Wildlife Habitat Council certification for its wildlife management program on Fighting Island.



- The 1,200-acre Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Plant, owned by DTE Energy's electric utility subsidiary, Detroit Edison, is home to literally hundreds of species of wild animals, birds, trees and plants. The company recently reached a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) so that more than 600 acres of the plant's property will become part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, the largest such parcel in the Refuge. Fermi 2's Wildlife Habitat Program is certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council and the site has also been certified as a Clean Corporate Citizen by the State of Michigan.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office and the Minnesota Sea Grant



Top right: Aerial of the property included (color areas) in the Cooperative Agreement between the USFWS and DTE Energy at the Fermi Energy Center.



Center right: Lesser Scaup ducks.

Left bottom: Michigan walleye. Right bottom: An estimated 10 million walleye migrate annually through the Detroit River/St. Clair River System.

Top left: Reenactors salute the U.S. 17th Infantry campsite from the War of 1812. Top center: The Rosa Parks Bus in the Henry Ford Museum. Top right: The Mme. Cadillac Dancers bring history to life as they perform the authentic music and dances of the region's early French settlers.



La-Z-Boy



The Henry Ford



Mme. Cadillac Dance Theatre



American Museum of Natural History



Detroit Historical Society

Middle left: Depiction of early Native American life along the Detroit River. Bottom left: Historic Fort Wayne and Fort Malden are located on the banks of the Detroit River.

## Heritage - Culture and History Preserved

The history of Southeast Michigan is as varied as the wildlife that roams it. From shipbuilding to automotive manufacturing, major engagements in a war for freedom to helping slaves seek freedom across the Canadian border, our region is abundantly rich in heritage.

- Long before Europeans began exploring the Southeast Michigan region in the 17th Century, the Detroit River area was a center for resource gathering, culture and trade among the Native American people.
- In 1701, the first French settlement was established in Detroit by Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac.
- For a period of time in the 1800s more ships were built along the Detroit River than anywhere else in North America.
- General George Custer was born and attended school in Monroe, Michigan.
- The Henry Ford in Dearborn is referred to as America's greatest history attraction – a place where authentic American people, places and things captivate and inspire visitors of all ages.
- The Detroit area is the world leader in automobile manufacturing.
- During World War II, Detroit was the "Arsenal of Democracy" and manufactured tanks, jeeps, ships, airplanes and other military equipment necessary to win the war.

- In 1883 Frederick Law Olmstead, designer of New York's Central Park, designed Belle Isle, the crown jewel of Detroit's park system.
- Detroit was the terminus of the Underground Railroad – at least 40,000 freedom seekers from the United States entered Canada across the Detroit River.



Wyandotte Museum



Pointe Mouillee



HCMA



Metropolitan Affairs Coalition



Belle Isle



The Henry Ford

Far left: The Detroit Shipbuilding Company in Wyandotte, Michigan. The "W.K. Bixby" was launched November 15, 1905. Top right: The River Raisin Battle was fought in Monroe County on January 22, 1813 – one of the largest engagements of the War of 1812.



Middle right: British Regulars face off during the War of 1812 reenactments. The Canadian border along the Detroit River was a battle ground early in the War, from June 1812 - September 1813. Bottom left: The Gateway To Freedom monument located in Hart Plaza, downtown Detroit on the riverfront. Bottom center: The James Scott Fountain at Belle Isle. Bottom right: The Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn.

Top left: Sterling State Park, located on Lake Erie in Monroe, completed a \$17 million renovation in 2003. Sterling State Park features new camping facilities, three fishing piers, a trail system, restored wetlands and lakeplain prairie, new picnic shelter and restroom facilities, and a wonderful sand beach. Top right: Enjoying the water at Sugar Island Channel.



Monroe County Convention and Tourist Bureau



Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy



Center left: Fishing boats depart for the walleye competition. The Detroit River has an international reputation for walleye fishery. It is estimated that walleye fishing brings in \$1 million to the Downriver economy each spring. Bottom left: Fishermen measure a walleye. Far right: A beautiful Michigan sunset to close out a day of walleye fishing on the Detroit River.



Gerald Laura



Mike Barkley

## Recreation - Opportunities Galore

The waters surrounding Southeast Michigan provide a plethora of recreational opportunities. Boating, birding, fishing, hunting, biking, blading – any sport or activity you select. This area provides some of the best options for fun and relaxation.

- Some of the oldest rowing clubs in the United States are located along the Detroit River. In 2002, the Detroit River hosted “Regatta 2002 – An American Heritage River Fall Classic,” a U.S. Rowing Association regatta.
- The Lake St. Clair-Detroit River-Western Lake Erie system is internationally recognized for birding. The Detroit Audubon Society has identified over 300 species of birds that frequent the area.
- The largest walleye ever caught in a Professional Walleye Trail Tournament, anywhere in the U.S., was caught in the Detroit River (13.2 pounds).
- The region has an international reputation for duck hunting.
- The Detroit River has hosted international hydroplane races for 100 years.



Gerald Laura

- The Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is a regional special park district encompassing Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties. The Authority currently manages 13 Metroparks covering almost 24,000 acres and serving about 9.5 million visitors annually.

- Belle Isle is a 980-acre island park located in the Detroit River within close proximity to downtown Detroit. Belle Isle is situated on one of America's busiest waterways and provides spectacular views of Detroit and Windsor, freighter traffic and the Ambassador Bridge. Other unique features include: the oldest municipal aquarium in America; the Nancy Brown Peace Tower; the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, which has the world's largest collection of scale model Great Lakes ships; the James Scott Fountain; and the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory.

- Construction has begun on a regional greenway trail system. These wonderful recreational resources are being built right in our backyard.

- Over 960,000 watercraft are registered in Michigan (ranking #1 in the U.S.) and 40% of Michigan residents are boaters. About half of the registered boats are used on Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River.



Metropolitan Affairs Coalition



Metropolitan Affairs Coalition



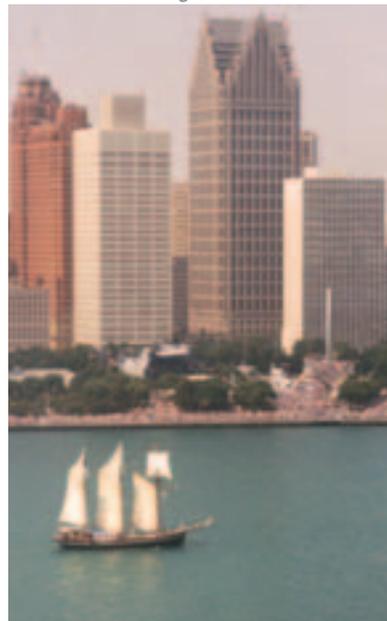
Michigan DNR



SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments



George Voulemereous



La-Z-Boy



HCMA

Top left: The Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory at Belle Isle. Top right: The James Scott Fountain on Belle Isle. Middle left: Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. This game area comprises 4,800 acres along the shoreline of western Lake Erie in Rockwood, Michigan. It is known for birding, hunting, fishing and an annual waterfowl festival that attracts thousands of visitors.



Middle right: The International Freedom Festival fireworks display. The Festival is one of the largest in North America and occurs each year in downtown Detroit and Windsor over the Detroit River. Bottom left: Sailing on the Detroit River. Bottom center: Tall ships sail the Detroit River for the Detroit 300 celebration. Bottom right: Hawkwatchers at Lake Erie Metropark boat launch.

Top left: Wyandotte Chemical Company's Southworks Plant in 1970. Middle left: Southworks site converted into BASF Park in 2003.



BASF

# Sustainability - Balanced and Continuous Economic, Environmental and Social Progress

Southeast Michigan businesses are providing international as well as regional leadership in sustainable development – development that meets the needs of the present generation, without compromising the prospects of future generations. From sustainable design and manufacturing, to cutting-edge technologies, to brownfield redevelopment and regional greenways, our businesses are world leaders in achieving the triple bottom line – economy, environment and society. This commitment to sustainable development is reflected in the many contributions business and industry are making to enhance and protect Southeast Michigan's natural resources.

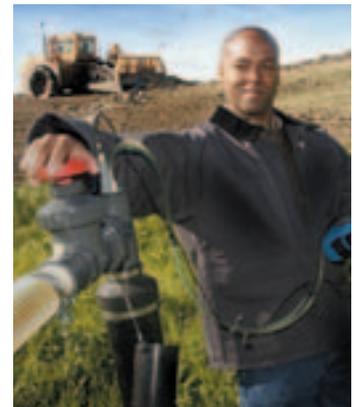
■ DTE Energy has a long history of environmental stewardship and is one of the most progressive energy companies in the country with regard to renewable energy and sustainability. This sensitivity and concern for the environment is demonstrated in a wide variety of projects and initiatives. DTE Energy contributes money, materials and muscle to environmental improvements in the region, providing matching funds for Greenways grants and for soft engineering at Belle Isle's Blue Heron Lagoon and Lake Muskoday, coal cinders for lake sturgeon spawning research, and its Green Team volunteers for stream cleanups, butterfly gardens and tree plantings. DTE Energy partners with the Wildlife Habitat Council at a number of its facilities and has planted more than 20 million trees throughout Michigan.



BASF

■ BASF Corporation, which operates a facility in the City of Wyandotte along the Detroit River, is an industry leader in sustainable development, including environmental protection, safety and health, and social responsibility. As the world's leading chemical company, BASF appropriately balances commercial as well as societal interests. Its concern for and contributions to enhancing Southeast Michigan's natural resources are significant. For example, BASF Corporation helped convert a former brownfield site along the Detroit River into a park, golf course, and nationally recognized rowing facility. Also impressive are BASF Corporation's efforts in restoring Fighting Island in the Canadian portion of the Detroit River for wildlife habitat.

DTE Energy is aggressively pursuing alternative energy forms, from solar energy to fuel cells. Because of its work with fuel cells, the U.S. Dept. of Energy has awarded DTE Energy a hydrogen demonstration project to establish the viability of hydrogen as a clean alternative to conventional fuels. DTE Energy creates another alternative fuel by capturing landfill methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and turns it into usable energy.



DTE Energy



Bottom right: Bryan Lawrence, Landfill Gas Production Manager at DTE Biomass Energy's Riverview, MI facility. DTE Biomass Energy operates over 30 landfill gas recovery facilities around the country.



DTE Energy

DTE Energy has shown that energy production and environmental protection can successfully and productively co-exist. Its electric subsidiary, Detroit Edison, has four power plants within the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge: the River Rouge, Trenton Channel, Fermi 2 and Monroe Power Plants. Together these facilities with their adjacent grounds and waters are home to more than 450 species of plants and animals that inhabit the meadows, ponds, wetlands, woodlands and shores of these sites.



DTE Energy

Top left: Certified as a wildlife site by the Wildlife Habitat Council since 1999, Fermi 2 is home to many species of animals and plants. Species include birds, plants, frogs, turtles, snakes, peregrine falcons, great horned owls, bald eagles and the endangered American Lotus. Top right: Trenton Channel Power Plant Green Team works with Detroit Riverkeeper to restore common tern nesting habitat on the Detroit River.

■ Protecting the environment and the natural foundations of life is reflected in DaimlerChrysler's conservation efforts in Southeast Michigan as well as in its world-wide automotive manufacturing processes. A wonderful example is DaimlerChrysler's donation of a portion of the value of its 44-acre former paint plant site along the Detroit River in the City of Trenton to become part of the

recently formed Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. This brownfield site is being redeveloped as the Detroit River International Wildlife Center that will serve as the headquarters and visitors center for the refuge and will offer an outstanding opportunity for observing and becoming educated about the amazing variety of wildlife that exists in the lower Detroit River.



Metropolitan Affairs Coalition

DaimlerChrysler's close connection with and appreciation for our area's great natural resources also reaches across the border to our Canadian neighbors. The Canadian headquarters of DaimlerChrysler is located right on the shore of the Detroit River in downtown Windsor, Ontario.



BASF

Far bottom left: DaimlerChrysler Canadian Headquarters on the Windsor shore. Bottom right: Former Chrysler paint plant in Trenton, now being developed into the gateway to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.



Top left: World's largest living roof at Ford Motor Company's Dearborn Truck Plant. Bottom left: Close-up of the world's largest living roof. Top right: Mason Run Brownfield Development in Monroe.



■ The environmental spirit that Henry Ford instilled in his company is still alive and strong and is reflected in Ford Motor Company's commitment to 21st century sustainable manufacturing as well as its innovative conservation and redevelopment efforts in Southeast Michigan. Nowhere is that more clear than on the Rouge River in the city of Dearborn where Ford Motor Company is rebuilding its Rouge Complex.

The company is redeveloping this historic automobile manufacturing facility using principles of sustainable design. This includes the recent installation of the world's largest living roof on top of its new Dearborn Truck Plant – more than 10 acres of plants covering the roof that will save millions of dollars in maintenance, replacement, and water quality compliance costs. Ford Motor Company is also helping to create linked greenway trails and enhance habitats along the Rouge River. These greenway trails will connect to the Detroit River and major historic attractions such as The Henry Ford, which includes Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum.



Right: Aerial view of the Detroit Riverwalk. Inset: Metro-Detroiters experiencing the tall ships on the Detroit RiverWalk.



■ Communities in Southeast Michigan have garnered national attention in returning formerly abandoned brownfield sites into vital economic, housing and recreation centers.



City of Monroe

Numerous organization awards as well as competitive financial awards have been given to the Downriver Area Brownfields Consortium (9 municipalities), the City of Detroit, Wayne County and others in Southeast Michigan recognizing the job creation, cleanup and wise re-use of land and existing infrastructure.



Hines

Hines

■ General Motors Corporation's commitment to corporate responsibility and sustainability in its automobile manufacturing operations, as well as its appreciation for Southeast Michigan's great natural resources, is evident in the relocation of its global headquarters to the banks of the Detroit River in the heart of downtown Detroit. General Motors undertook a massive renovation of its new Renaissance Center global headquarters, including building a new "front door" on the riverfront called the Wintergarden.

General Motors is also helping to transform the entire downtown Detroit waterfront. This includes helping to redevelop brownfield sites along the river into a 3.5-mile Detroit RiverWalk that will connect Joe Louis Arena to Belle Isle. In addition, General Motors has assumed a leading role in forming the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy that will guide ongoing efforts to revitalize and maintain the riverfront and encourage public access and use of this tremendous natural asset.



La-Z-Boy, Inc.

■ La-Z-Boy, Inc., one of the world's leading residential furniture makers, is recognized in Southeast Michigan and beyond for protecting the environment and conserving natural resources as well as for its world-class furniture making. The corporation's interest in conservation efforts is best reflected in its strong support of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and planting projects to help create

sustainable hardwood forests and educate students and private landowners about the importance of sustainable forest management.



La-Z-Boy, Inc.

La-Z-Boy, Inc. is a leading contributor to the Hardwood Forestry Fund that establishes healthy forests for future generations. Healthy forests benefit wildlife habitat, soil and water conservation, air quality, recreation, environmental education and timber production. La-Z-Boy, Inc. has also championed numerous projects to enhance habitat on properties near its Monroe County headquarters and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.



Solutia

■ Solutia – a national leader in films and glass products, pharmaceutical services, nylon and acrylics, and specialty products – uses its world-class skills in applied chemistry to create innovative solutions for its customers in a way that ensures business sustainability and improves health and safety, as well as enhances the environment and wildlife habitat. At its plant in Trenton on the Detroit River, Solutia has rehabilitated 25 acres of waterfront property for wildlife habitat. This has included plantings of shrubs, trees, and prairie grasses, as well as soft engineering of the shoreline for aquatic habitat.

Also significant was Solutia's efforts that have served to benefit the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Calf Island, an 11-acre, uninhabited island in the Trenton Channel of the lower Detroit River, was purchased with a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant in 2001 with the help of Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy. Solutia's habitat rehabilitation work at its Trenton Plant was used to make the match requirement for this key conservation acquisition. The island is now preserved in perpetuity as part of the refuge.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Top left: La-Z-Boy, Inc. helps plant trees to create a sustainable forest. Bottom left: La-Z-Boy, Inc. employee plants a new tree. Top right: Solutia prairie under development at their Trenton facility. Bottom right: Calf Island, which is now part of the International Wildlife Refuge.



Top left: U.S. Congressman John Dingell speaking at the Mud Island donation ceremony. Bottom left: Dignitaries on U.S. Coast Guard boat in front of Mud Island.



U.S. Steel Corporation

United States Steel Corporation manufactures and sells a wide variety of steel sheet, plate, tubular and tin products, coke, and taconite pellets to customers around the globe. The corporation is continually seeking ways to make products better and faster with an attention to safety and environmental protection that is evidenced in its contributions in Southeast Michigan. National Steel Corporation (now U.S. Steel Corporation), located in the Cities of Ecorse and River Rouge, was an important partner in supporting the designation of the Detroit River as an American Heritage River and has been actively involved in the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative.

Most significant is U.S. Steel's contributions to the new Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The corporation donated Mud Island to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for conservation purposes to become part of the refuge. U.S. Steel has also developed plans for environmentally sensitive shoreline treatment at its plant on the Detroit River.



U.S. Steel Corporation



Visteon

Visteon Corporation is a leading full-service supplier that delivers consumer-driven technology solutions to automotive manufacturers worldwide. Environmental stewardship is among Visteon's highest corporate priorities. Visteon pledges to work in a way that does not jeopardize the future of our world, or the ability for future generations to grow and prosper. At its Monroe, Michigan facility, in the heart of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Visteon has been a leader in wildlife habitat rehabilitation and conservation.



Visteon



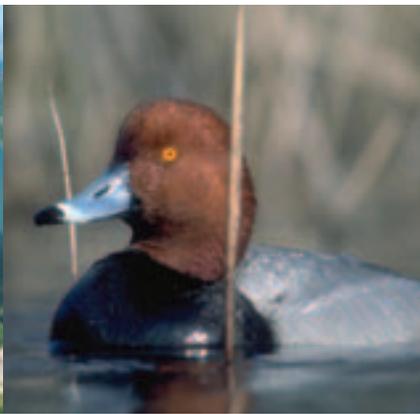
Visteon



Top right: Visteon employees band a raptor at its Monroe plant. Bottom right and inset: Visteon has been a leader in wetland rehabilitation and conservation.



Visual Image Productions



Ducks Unlimited, Inc.



Detroit Historical Society



HCMA

Top left: Aerial of Humbug Island and Marsh. Second from left: Redhead Duck. Third from left: Fort Wayne. Top right: Hawk-watchers at Lake Erie Metropark boat launch. Right bottom: Bird house in Woodhaven.

# Discover our Wild Side

Can you see it? The water, the wildlife, the heritage, the recreation. The change is taking over. Southeast Michigan is recapturing the natural beauty and wonder that earned it the name "The Great Lakes State." Our lakes and rivers are the heart of this premium region and we're working to preserve them for generations to come.

So, look around again. Sometimes the best things are right in front of us and we don't even notice them in the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives. The hawks flying overhead. The parks and greenways that line our waterways. The shores of the greatest lakes on earth. The graceful ships floating quietly to ports around the world. It all comes together right here in our backyard.



Woodhaven Parks and Recreation

*This document is dedicated to the memory of Peter W. Stroh, an outstanding conservationist and the founding Chairman of the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative.*





# DISCOVER OUR WILD SIDE

This document was produced by partners of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge for the 2003 Centennial Celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Financial support was provided by the following sponsors:

- ASG Renaissance
- BASF
- Canadian Consulate
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- DaimlerChrysler Corporation
- Detroit Audubon
- Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative
- Downriver Community Conference
- DTE Energy Foundation
- Ford Motor Company
- General Motors Corporation
- Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative
- La-Z-Boy, Inc.
- Masco Corporation
- Metropolitan Affairs Coalition
- National Wildlife Federation
- Presentations One
- Solutia
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Steel Corporation - Great Lakes Works
- Visteon

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For more information, contact  
Metropolitan Affairs Coalition  
313.961.2270 • [www.mac-web.org](http://www.mac-web.org)





Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy

Essex Region Conservation Authority

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Metropolitan Affairs Coalition

Visual Image Productions

# Quality of Life

**The Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative** of the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition is a unique public-private partnership that sets the Detroit River priorities and delivers resources that foster environmental stewardship, promote economic development, and celebrate our unique history and culture. The Detroit River was honored to be designated by Presidential Executive Order in 1998 as one of 14 American Heritage Rivers in the United States. In its first four years of existence this Initiative leveraged over \$28 million for Detroit River projects.

[www.tellusnews.com/ahr](http://www.tellusnews.com/ahr)

**The Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative** is a collaborative effort amongst 21 communities adjacent to the lower portion of the Detroit River. In 2001, the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative received a Michigan Society of Planning: Outstanding Planning Project for a Plan Award for its greenways master plan. This wonderful greenway trail system is being built right in our backyard.

[www.tellusnews.com/ahr/greenways.html](http://www.tellusnews.com/ahr/greenways.html)

**MotorCities-ANHA-Automobile National Heritage Area (MotorCities-ANHA)**, located in Southeastern and Central Michigan, U.S.A., is an affiliated area of the National Park System and one of twenty-three national heritage areas designated by the U.S. Congress. MotorCities-ANHA is dedicated to preserving, interpreting and promoting Michigan's rich automotive and labor heritage. MotorCities-ANHA works in partnership with others to provide citizens educational opportunities about our heritage, increase tourism, encourage revitalization, and improve the quality of life in our region.

[www.autoheritage.org](http://www.autoheritage.org)

**The Canadian Heritage River Initiative** is designed to identify and celebrate the unique rivers within Canada that best reflects our Canadian history and society. This cooperative government program is designed to preserve the future of significant national rivers through management and conservation strategies. In 2001, the Detroit River was designated a Canadian Heritage River, making it the only international heritage river system in North America.

[www.erca.org](http://www.erca.org)

**The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge** is the only international wildlife refuge in North America and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge is managed for the following recreational uses: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

<http://midwest.fws.gov/planning/detroitrivertop.htm>

**Detroit Riverfront Conservancy** is undertaking the establishment, operation, maintenance, improvement, and conservation of public parks, the Detroit RiverWalk (a three mile stretch of Detroit riverfront from Joe Louis Arena to the Belle Isle Bridge), and other public green spaces for the recreation and enjoyment of the general public in perpetuity. Programming activities to foster community participation and encouraging consistent and integrated planning for development of adjacent property are also part of the Conservancy's purpose.

[www.detroitriverfront.org](http://www.detroitriverfront.org)



**The Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan's GreenWays Initiative**, launched in 2001, is a comprehensive effort aimed at expanding and enhancing our region's natural landscape. The GreenWays Initiative is about linkage, leverage and collaboration: linking communities...leveraging vision, resources and people...and collaborating to promote and protect the health and well-being of the community for the present and the future. This initiative is expected to put a minimum of \$75 million to work to create and expand greenways in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Livingston counties. Through up to \$25 million in foundation and private contributions, the GreenWays Initiative will help communities and organizations develop and implement greenways plans and projects that will leverage another \$50 million of matching investments from government and other sources.

<http://greenways.cfsem.org>



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Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy

Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority

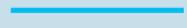
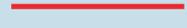
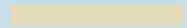
Greg Shamus and the News-Herald Newspapers

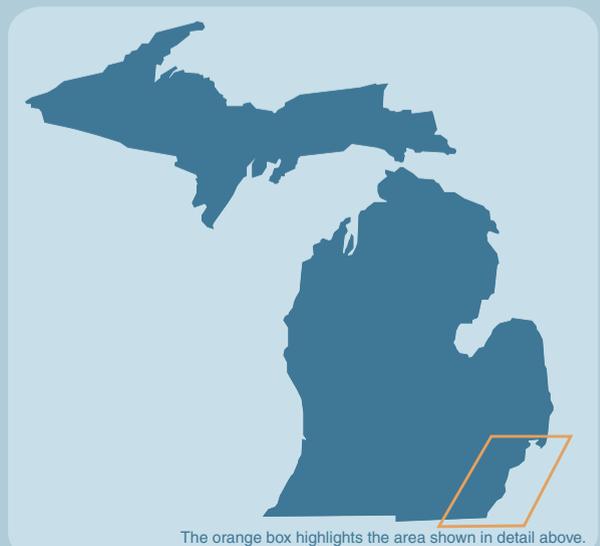
Greg Voulemenus



# DISCOVER OUR WILD SIDE ADVENTURE GUIDE

## Legend

-  Watershed Boundry
-  River
-  Highway/Freeway
-  Regional Greenways
-  International Wildlife Refuge
-  Locations include Water, Wildlife, Heritage & Recreation
-  Wildlife Areas
-  Boating Areas
-  Historic Locations
-  Historic Native American Locations
-  Historic Shipbuilding Areas
-  Rowing Clubs
-  Fishing Areas
-  Hunting Areas
-  Bird Watching Areas



The orange box highlights the area shown in detail above.