

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Newsletter - January 2009

Comprehensive Conservation Planning

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) has started work on a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The plan will establish management goals and objectives for all refuge programs over the next 15 years. Wildlife, habitat, land protection, and visitor services programs will all be evaluated during the planning process.

This planning project provides a unique opportunity for the Service to involve all of those interested in the long-term management of the refuge. You can play a significant role in the development of this far-reaching plan!



USFWS

Winter brings quiet splendor on the refuge

Where We've Been...

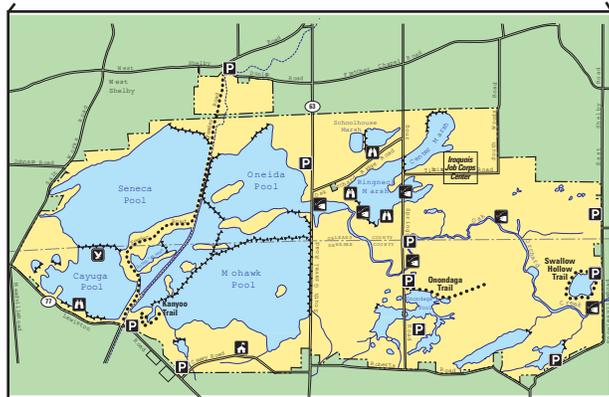
The core committee finalized the draft vision statement and six goals that support the vision. The draft vision statement and goals are on page 2. Currently, committee members are drafting the objectives and strategies to meet those goals. Here is an overview of how these pieces work within the CCP process.

The **Vision** is a broad statement which reflects why the refuge was established and where we see it in the future. In writing the vision statement, the committee looked at the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, the establishing purpose of the refuge and guiding legislation. **Goals** provide a target to shoot for. They are what we will do on the refuge to reach the vision. Our goals focus on habitat management, public use opportunities and working with partners. **Objectives** are measurable steps we will take to reach those goals. They have specific results we must achieve. Finally, **Strategies** are actions and tools we will do to accomplish the objectives. These can include specific ways that we manage the habitats, and what we offer as public use programs.

Think of it as a pyramid. The strategies support the objectives which support the goals which support the vision. The vision points the way.



We hope to have a draft document with full objectives and strategies ready for public comment sometime in the spring.



Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

Our Vision

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, known locally as part of the “Alabama Swamps” will be a ecological “puzzle piece” for western New York by creating and maintaining unsurpassed habitats including open and forested wetlands, grasslands, shrublands and forests for migratory birds and other wildlife. By encouraging compatible wildlife dependent recreation and working with partners, a deep understanding and appreciation for the refuge’s ecological integrity will be fostered in its visitors, regardless of generational, economical, or social boundaries. Through these efforts, future generations will cherish Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge’s interconnectivity to the much larger National Wildlife Refuge System.



USFWS

Grasslands provide food and shelter for mammals and birds



USFWS

Sugar maple, American beech, and white ash dominate the 1,738 acres of upland forest on the refuge

Our Goals

- Goal 1:** Provide high quality freshwater wetland migration stopover and breeding habitat for waterfowl, marsh birds, shorebirds in refuge impoundments through water level control.
- Goal 2:** Maintain the environmental health and integrity of Oak Orchard Creek and associated bottomland floodplain forests and wetlands as a natural free-flowing habitat with a diverse assemblage of native plants and animals.
- Goal 3:** Provide a diverse mix of grassland, shrubland and forested upland habitats arranged to reduce fragmentation and edge effects and enhance habitat quality for priority species of conservation concern.
- Goal 4:** Refuge visitors will understand and appreciate fish and wildlife conservation through high quality recreation, education and interpretive programs.
- Goal 5:** Hunters and anglers will enjoy and support programs designed to provide high quality hunting and fishing experiences.
- Goal 6:** Enhance partnerships with local communities and various organizations to garner support and promote refuge programs and resources.

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