

Erie NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan Draft Vision

Nested in the Upper Allegheny River drainage, Erie National Wildlife Refuge is an exceptional complex of meandering streams, forested bottomland wetlands and glacially influenced plant and animal communities. These “little river” ecosystems serve as habitats and corridors for vast numbers of native wildlife, fish, and plants. Management efforts result in healthy and thriving natural systems that protect and conserve the rich biodiversity that once characterized Pennsylvania’s Western Allegheny Plateau. Management actions focus on threatened and endangered species and migratory birds including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and migratory song birds.

Education, interpretation, and wildlife-dependent recreation activities are designed to enhance the public’s understanding and appreciation of the importance of the refuge’s role in the National Wildlife Refuge System and in the conservation of natural resources. We foster partnerships with local, state and Federal agencies, community organizations and individuals and build community relationships outside the refuge boundary to increase the refuge’s contribution to landscape level conservation.

Erie NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan
Draft Goals

- Goal 1. Restore and maintain the biological diversity, integrity, and environmental health of the riverine and riparian ecosystems of the Seneca Division, including streams, scrub-shrub habitat, wetlands, riparian and upland forests, and other rare plant communities.
- Goal 2. Restore and maintain a healthy and dynamic riverine and riparian ecosystem in the Sugar Lake Division, including streams, scrub-shrub habitat, wetlands, riparian and upland forests, open lands, and other rare plant communities.
- Goal 4. Visitors will enjoy, understand, and appreciate conservation of wildlife and their habitats, as well as the role of the refuge in conserving trust species, through high quality wildlife-dependent recreation, education and interpretive programs.
- Goal 5. Hunters and anglers will enjoy and value opportunities designed to provide high quality hunting and fishing experiences.
- Goal 6. Enhance partnerships and volunteerism to garner support and promote refuge programs and resources, and increase the refuge's contribution to landscape level conservation.