



John Heinz at Tinicum National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Purposes

- For the purpose of preserving, restoring, and developing the natural area known as Tinicum Marsh
- As a wildlife interpretative center for the purpose of promoting environmental education, and to afford visitors an opportunity for the study of wildlife in its natural habitat
- For particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program
- For the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources
- For the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services



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Draft Vision Statement

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum is a green respite nestled within the urban setting of the City of Philadelphia. Refuge lands are a thriving sanctuary teeming with a rich diversity of fish, wildlife, and plants native to the Delaware Estuary. Healthy and productive expanses of freshwater tidal marsh, open waters, mudflats, and forests support the hundreds of species that breed, rear their young, rest during migration, and call the refuge home year-round.

With partners' support, the refuge leads by example in the restoration and conservation of freshwater tidal marsh within the Delaware Estuary. Also, given its accessibility and visibility to over 35 million Americans living within a 2-hour drive, the refuge serves as a prominent ambassador of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Its high quality programs promote natural and cultural resource stewardship, demonstrate the conservation of urban wildlife habitat, encourage compatible outdoor public use, and serve as a living classroom to connect people with nature and local history. Those who visit John Heinz NWR are inspired to take action to improve the quality of life for themselves and those around them.

Draft Goals

Coastal Plain Ecological Communities Goal: Protect, maintain, and restore where possible, the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of southeastern Pennsylvania coastal plain ecological communities that are unique to the refuge and sustain native plants and wildlife, including species of conservation concern.

Managed Open Waters and Grassland Habitats Goal: Contribute to the enhancement of native species diversity in the Delaware Estuary, including migratory birds and other species of conservation concern, within the refuge's managed open waters and grasslands.

Environmental Education Goal: Provide a wide range of environmental educational opportunities, accessible to the full spectrum of the American public, which raises awareness of the National Wildlife Refuge System, inspires appreciation and stewardship of our natural and cultural resources, and expands understanding of Tinicum Marsh as a unique component of the Delaware Estuary and the local community.

Interpretation Goal: Visitors, students, and local residents of all ages and abilities enjoy their refuge experience, understand and appreciate the refuge's natural and cultural resources and its contribution to conserving those resources in the Delaware Estuary, and are inspired to become better stewards in their everyday lives.

Wildlife-Dependent Recreation Goal: Provide quality, wildlife-dependent recreation that allows a diversity of visitors to connect with nature in the outdoors.

Outreach and Partnerships Goal: Communicate and collaborate with local communities, Federal and State agencies, Tribal governments, academic institutions, and conservation organizations throughout the Delaware Estuary to promote natural and cultural resource conservation and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.