

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 NWRS - Refuge Planning  
 300 Westgate Center Drive  
 Hadley, MA 01035



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum

## Planning Newsletter

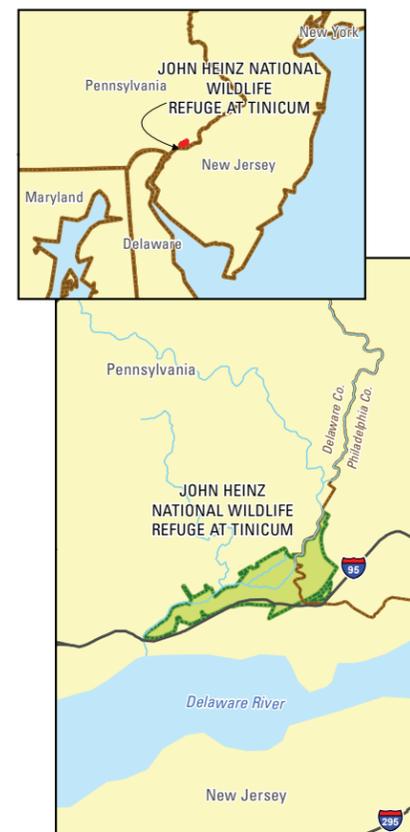
### Comprehensive Conservation Planning

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) is starting work on a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) at Tinicum. The plan will establish management goals and objectives for all refuge programs over the next 15 years. For example, our 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 individuals and local communities in the long-term management of the refuge. You can play a significant role in the development of the this far-reaching plan!



*Wild rice in bloom across the freshwater tidal marsh at the refuge/USFWS*



*John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum*

### Who will be involved in developing the plan?

John Heinz NWR staff in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will lead the effort, with assistance from planners in the Service's Northeast Regional Office. We have also invited other Service experts, as well as representatives from other federal and state agencies and Tribal governments, to serve on our core planning team.

We hope that you, and other interested groups and individuals, will participate in this planning process. We would like to hear your thoughts on current management, your vision for the future of the refuge's biological and public use programs, or any other issues of importance to you. We hope to engage local residents and community leaders in discussing ways the refuge could become a welcome and integral part of the community. Please contact us (see contact information included in this newsletter), or stop by the visitor center, to let us know of your interest and to make sure you are on our mailing list.

### How Can I Get Involved?

We are providing several opportunities to facilitate public participation. Below is a list of options we intend to use. We would be interested to know if you have other ideas you would like us to pursue.

- Hold open houses (see next page)
- Develop informational newsletters
- Write feature articles
- Participate in civic and professional group events
- Give presentations at town and community leadership meetings
- Hold working group sessions and technical expert meetings
- Continue partnerships
- Provide status updates on refuge website

## Public Open Houses

You may also wish to participate in one of our two public open houses to be held at the Cusano Environmental Education Center in Philadelphia (see details below).

The purpose of the open houses are to identify preliminary issues to be considered in the development of the draft CCP. At the open houses, there will be a short presentation on the planning process and then we will record any comments you would like to provide.

### May 11th, 2010 - Philadelphia, PA

2:00-4:00 PM and 6:30-8:30 PM  
(Presentations at 2:15 PM and  
and 6:45 PM, respectively)

Cusano Environmental Education  
Center located at the John Heinz NWR  
8601 Lindbergh Blvd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19153  
phone: (215) 365-3118

Directions: <http://www.fws.gov/heinz/welcome.htm> or feel free to call the refuge.

If you are unable to attend the open houses, but would like to provide your comments and concerns, please share them with us via fax, phone, email or letter using the contact information included in this newsletter. Please provide all issues-identification comments by **June 11th, 2010**.



USFWS  
Cusano Environmental Education Center

## Draft Goals

We developed the following goals to describe the desired future conditions of the refuge and to establish a framework within which to develop management objectives.

**Goal 1. Coastal Plain Ecological Communities** - 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.

**Goal 2. Managed Open Waters and Grassland Habitats** - 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.

**Goal 3. Environmental Education** - Provide a wide range of environmental educational opportunities, accessible to the full spectrum of the American public, which raise awareness of the National Wildlife Refuge System, inspire appreciation and stewardship of our natural and cultural resources, and expand understanding of Tinicum Marsh as a unique component of the Delaware Estuary and the community.

**Goal 4. Interpretation** - Visitors, students, and local residents of all ages and abilities enjoy their refuge experience, understand and appreciate the refuge's natural and cultural resources, its contribution to protecting those resources in the Delaware Estuary, and are inspired to become better conservationists in their everyday lives.

**Goal 5. Wildlife-Dependent Recreation** - Provide quality, wildlife-dependent recreation that allows a diversity of visitors to connect with nature in the outdoors.

**Goal 6. Outreach and Partnerships** - 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.

## Preliminary Issues and Categories

The CCP Team has already identified several categories of issues to be addressed within the planning process. We welcome your input and comments as it relates to these categories we have already identified. Feel free to offer additional considerations as well.

- Landscape Scale/Ecosystem-wide Issues (e.g. climate change, roles within regional land protection, water quality)
- Land Management Issues (e.g. management, restoration, monitoring, inventories, research)
- Public Use Programs (e.g. range or quality of programs, access, conflicts, impacts)
- Use Conflicts and Compatibility with Refuge System Mission (e.g. appropriate uses in line with wildlife protection mandates required on refuges)
- Facilities, Infrastructure, Staffing Issues (e.g. safety, suitability, accessibility, additional needs)
- Community Relations/Outreach/Local Economy (e.g. tourism, quality of life, local impact)
- Agencies and Partner Coordination (e.g. regional planning, technical assistance, volunteer opportunities)

## 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."*

## About the Refuge

The John Heinz NWR is located near the confluence of Darby Creek and the Delaware River within the City of Philadelphia approximately one-half mile north of Philadelphia International Airport. It is one of the most urban refuges managed by the Service. The refuge was established in 1972, when Congress passed a law authorizing the purchase of up to 1,200 acres to preserve Tinicum Marsh. In November 1991, Congress formally named the refuge "John Heinz NWR at Tinicum" to honor the late Senator who helped preserve Tinicum Marsh. The purposes of the refuge include: preserving, restoring, and enhancing habitat; providing opportunities for the public to study wildlife in its natural habitat; and promoting environmental education.

The refuge contains a variety of ecosystems unique to Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia metropolitan area. A variety of habitats such as freshwater tidal marsh, impounded water, woods, and meadows are found here. The freshwater tidal marsh on the refuge comprises approximately 80% of Pennsylvania's coastal wetlands. The refuge is an important migratory bird stopover along the Atlantic Flyway and also provides protected breeding habitat for state-listed threatened and endangered species within the Delaware Estuary.

While wildlife and habitat conservation come first on refuges, John Heinz NWR also maintains excellent opportunities for wildlife observation, photography, fishing, hiking, paddling, environmental education, and interpretation. In January 2001, the award-winning, state-of-the-art, Cusano Environmental Education Center was opened. Its mission is "to demonstrate within an urban setting, the importance of the natural world to the human quality of life and inspire visitors to become responsible stewards of the environment."

## Refuge News

In April 2010, the refuge welcomed two new residents: a pair of bald eagle chicks. According to refuge manager, Gary Stolz, this is the first time bald eagles have successfully produced young on the refuge. To learn more about the new eagles at John Heinz NWR, please visit the Cusano Environmental Education Center or contact refuge staff.



B. Buchanan/USFWS

Adult eagle watches over the newly hatched pair of eaglets at the refuge. This pair of eaglets constitutes the first successful breeding of bald eagles at the John Heinz NWR at Tinicum on record.

## Contact Information

To learn more about John Heinz NWR, please visit our website: <http://www.fws.gov/heinz/index.html>.

You may reach refuge staff by telephone at 215/365-3118, or by email at [Gary\\_Stolz@fws.gov](mailto:Gary_Stolz@fws.gov).

To learn more about the planning process contact:

Nancy McGarigal, Refuge Planner  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035  
413/253-8562  
413/253-8468 Fax

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
<http://www.fws.gov>

**April 2010**

