



## Volunteer Opportunities

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge  
5437 West Jefferson Ave., Trenton, MI 48183  
Telephone: 734-365-0219

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge represents a new model for conservation, one that restores fish and wildlife habitats in an urban area through innovative public-private partnerships, while serving as a model for bringing conservation to cities across the nation. We welcome and work with many dedicated volunteers to achieve our mission. The following is a list of current opportunities. Which positions appeal to you?!

**To apply:** Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Aleigha Alexander, at [driwr\\_volunteer@fws.gov](mailto:driwr_volunteer@fws.gov) or (734) 362-3725 (If emailing, in the subject line, type in your name followed by the position you are applying for.)

1. **Visitor Center Greeter and Nature Store Volunteer** – Become a refuge ambassador as you cheerfully greet visitors; provide recreation information; give orientations on the work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; assist visitors with refuge rules and regulations; answer telephones; answer questions; distribute brochures; respond to visitor correspondences; and sell and tend to items in the Canvasback Nature Store.
2. **Nature Navigator Volunteer** – Do you love nature so much you want to share it with others? Navigators lead guided hikes and nature education programs and assist with school groups. Training includes an overview of the refuge and all necessary material to present programs. Once trained, volunteers commit to leading programs and hikes out of the visitor center and in the community. No prior experience necessary!
3. **Volunteer Photographer** – Using your own equipment, take photographs of native flora and fauna, special events, refuge staff, and volunteers working in the field. Close up and macro photographs preferred. Photos are credited to photographer and become property of the refuge. Images may be used in outreach materials.
4. **Detroit River Hawk Watch Raptor Volunteer** – In the fall, the lower Detroit River becomes a corridor for the passage of hundreds of thousands of migrating hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures. Trained volunteers conduct a standardized count of this spectacular migration of raptors on the lower Detroit River. Come learn the skills to become a seasoned counter! Position available September through November of each year.
5. **Detroit River Hawk Watch Raptor OUTREACH Volunteer** – If you are excited about raptors and enjoy sharing your enthusiasm, join the Hawk Watch counters above as an outreach volunteer. Learn about counters' sightings and survey methods and share this information with the array of visitors that stop by.
6. **Trail Upkeep Volunteer** – Perform all aspects of trail maintenance and construction including clearing brush and fallen logs; picking up litter; and constructing new segments of trail. Volunteers may work alone or in groups and must be in good physical condition.

7. **Event Volunteer** – The Refuge hosts a variety of events throughout the year varying in themes and activities. As an event volunteer you will educate the public about the refuge, nature, wildlife conservation, and recreational opportunities. Main duties include staffing a variety of educational booths, children’s craft activities, and informational tables at acquaint event attendees with the refuge. They also may include set up and take down of event space.
8. **Speakers Bureau Volunteer** – Help share information about U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Wildlife Refuge System, refuge history, local wildlife, nature topics, and opportunities of recreation to the public. You will shadow refuge park ranger at speaking locations until ready to present programs independently. There is a preexisting PowerPoint that you will use once you present independently.
9. **Stewardship Crew Volunteer** – Assist with a variety of habitat management activities including forest rehabilitation and invasive species control. This type of work requires heavy physical labor in natural areas and in challenging environments. Stewardship crews may also assist with trail maintenance, kiosk construction and interpretive sign repairs. Participants must be in good physical condition. All necessary tools are provided.

