



## **CN Contributes \$200,000 for Construction of a School Ship Dock and World-Class Fishing Pier at Refuge Gateway in Trenton, MI**

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**Trenton, Mich.** – CN has contributed \$200,000 toward the construction of a Great Lakes school ship dock and world-class fishing pier at the Refuge Gateway in Trenton, Michigan. The 44-acre Refuge Gateway is a former industrial brownfield site that is being transformed into the gateway to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and the future home for the Refuge’s visitor center. The Refuge Gateway will serve as a hub for environmental education and outdoor recreational activities for nearly seven million people living within a 45-minute drive of North America’s only International Wildlife Refuge.

The Refuge Gateway is owned Wayne County and located adjacent to the Refuge’s 410-acre Humbug Marsh Unit. Humbug Marsh is Michigan’s only “Wetland of International Importance” designated under the international Ramsar Convention. It represents the last mile of natural shoreline on the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River. Its habitats are truly exceptional and support remarkable biodiversity, including 51 species of fish, 90 species of plants, 154 species of birds, seven species of reptiles and amphibians, and 37 species of dragonflies and damselflies.

World-class shore fishing will be available at no cost in waters that are considered part of the “walleye capital of the world.” Children and adult anglers will have the opportunity to catch a trophy walleye from deeper waters of the Detroit River or panfish from shallower waters. In addition to shore fishing, a dock will be constructed for Michigan Sea Grant’s Great Lakes school ship that will operate on the Detroit River and western Lake Erie. The school ship will dock at the Refuge Gateway to make use of the river and Refuge as a living laboratory for children. School children from all metropolitan Detroit communities will come regularly to the Refuge Gateway for day-long field trips aboard the school ship. Total project construction costs are \$2.8 million. With CN’s generous contribution, a total of \$1.8 million has been raised to date by project partners. Partners hope to raise the additional \$1 million by year end to be able to go to construction in 2013.

“I applaud CN’s generosity and their \$200,000 gift to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge,” notes Congressman John D. Dingell. “As a boy, I remember wonderful times when I used to hunt and fish in the Downriver area with my dear old Dad and I’m very proud of the restoration work that has been taking place at the site to pave the way for the eventual construction of the visitor center. CN’s contribution toward the boat dock and fishing pier at the Refuge Gateway is critical as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continues to offer more public use at the Refuge. I’m pleased that, with this very generous contribution, generations of families will be able to enjoy world-class fishing on the Detroit River just as my family and I have. Educating our children about the natural sciences with hands-on opportunities is extremely

important. It seems most appropriate that the Refuge will be the home to the Great Lakes school ship to provide these unique educational opportunities. This donation by CN provides an example, once again, of public-private partnerships at the Refuge as we work on the sustainable redevelopment of a brownfield to improve the quality of life and increase the community pride in the Downriver communities.”

“CN is honored to be part of this most deserving project that showcases sustainable redevelopment of a brownfield site into a world-class gateway to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge,” notes John Orr, Vice President and Chief Safety and Sustainability Officer of CN. “We are very pleased to be a partner in building North America’s only international wildlife refuge.”

“Wayne County is proud to be a part of building North America’s only international wildlife refuge in Michigan’s largest county with nearly two million residents,” notes Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano. “World-class assets like the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge improve our quality of life and enhance our competitive advantage.”

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge incorporates more than 5,700 acres along 48 miles of the lower Detroit River and western Lake Erie. The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting, and restoring habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 23 species of raptors, 31 species of shorebirds, over 100 species of fish, and over 300 species of birds. It is the first international refuge in North America and one of the few urban ones in the nation. Unique habitats being managed within the Refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and riparian waterfront lands. Visit [www.fws.gov/midwest/DetroitRiver](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/DetroitRiver) for additional information.

About the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.” For more information on the Service, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

About CN: CN operates the largest rail network in Canada and the only transcontinental network in North America. The company serves close to 75% of the U.S. population and all major Canadian markets. CN provides seamless transportation and intermodal service, and is committed to business practices that protect the natural environment and ensure employee and public safety and health. For more information about CN, visit [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca).

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