



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Detroit River *International Wildlife Refuge*

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Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
John D. Dingell Visitor Center
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Background

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is located along the lower Detroit River and western shoreline of Lake Erie. It was established in 2001 as the first International Wildlife Refuge in North America. The authorized refuge boundary includes islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands along 48 miles of shoreline. Its location is unique – situated in a major metropolitan area.

Refuge Vision

“The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, including the Detroit River and Western Lake Erie Basin, will be a conservation region where a clean environment fosters health and diversity of wildlife, fish, and plant resources through protection, creation of new habitats, management, and restoration of natural communities and habitats on public and private lands. Through effective management and partnering, the Refuge will provide outstanding opportunities for quality of life benefits such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and environmental education, as well as ecological, economic, and cultural benefit for present and future generations.”

Cooperative Management

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has developed a Comprehensive Conservation Plan to guide management of the Refuge for the next 15 years. The preferred

management alternative is to focus on cooperative management – where the Refuge would grow primarily through management agreements with industries, government agencies, and other organizations. More information is available on-line at <http://midwest.fws.gov/planning/detroitrivertop.htm>.

Priority Uses

The Refuge will facilitate and promote hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education, and wildlife interpretation. These are the priority wildlife-dependent public uses for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Canadian Partnerships

In Canada, the Refuge does not have a formal boundary designated by a government, but conservation efforts are being guided in concert with the goals for the Refuge and the binational Conservation Vision for the Lower Detroit River Ecosystem. Canadian agencies are working in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other U.S. partners to achieve a compatible, mutually-shared, binational focus on fish and wildlife habitat protection, conservation, and rehabilitation. Canadian partners include Essex Region Conservation Authority, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Canada, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Canada South Land Trust, and others.



Humbug Marsh



Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Wayne and Monroe Counties, Michigan

