Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Where Wildlife and People Meet
The Detroit River has long served the United States and Canada as a vital transportation corridor and center for industries that helped forge the economies of both nations. But the river and its ecosystem have paid a high price for human progress. Indeed, in our mind and in reality, most of what was natural in and around the Detroit River is gone. Yet special places exist alongside the concrete, steel, and groomed gardens of this vast metropolitan area; North America’s only International Wildlife Refuge. A place where wildlife and humans can meet. Come and connect with nature!

Things to Do at the Refuge
The Refuge welcomes people with all levels of comfort in nature. Check out the exhibits in the Visitor Center. The Visitor Center will introduce you to the habitats and wildlife signs you may find out in nature. After your exhibit tour, you may enjoy sitting by the fireplace, with views of the Detroit River and backyard bird feeders.

If you are ready to jump right into nature, stop by the Visitor Center to borrow a fishing pole from the welcome desk to test your luck at the fishing pier. Or walk some of the nature trails winding through the forest of Humbug Marsh, where you can try to wrap your arms around 300 year old oak trees!

Refuge staff, volunteers, and partners are always planning interactive programs. Check out the latest schedule, enjoy the fun, and maybe even learn something new!

For More Information Contact
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
5437 West Jefferson, Trenton, MI 48183
734-365-0219
734/692-7603 FAX
fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river
#DetroitRiverIWR

What to Expect
There are two trails located out the back door of the Visitor Center. The Orange Trail is wheelchair and stroller friendly, as it follows a solid path with views of Humbug Marsh, Humbug Island, and the Detroit River. The Orange Trail is a half mile long. The Green Trail is a rustic path that covers three miles. The Old Growth Forest is about a mile down this trail. This stand of trees date back over 300 years! Can you imagine the changes these trees have lived through along the river?

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Enjoy Your Time Here!
The refuge is a fun and safe place to visit! Here are some suggestions to make your visit more enjoyable...

- Bring a reusable bottle for water, you can fill it up at the water filling station located inside the Visitor Center.
- When insects (such as mosquitoes) are out in large numbers, long sleeves and insect repellent can help protect you from bites.
- During the winter, be sure to dress warmly. The Refuge is located along the Detroit River where winds blowing off the water can be cold. After a walk in the winter woods, the fireplace at the Visitor Center is an inviting place to warm up and share stories of what you saw on the Refuge trails!

- While the Refuge belongs to all of us, many types of wildlife call it home. Please respect the refuge and other visitors, and be sure to take out your litter. Take plenty of photos to share with your family and friends!
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Photo Credits
- Snapping Turtle/Thomas Kachelmeyer USFWS Volunteer
- Child peeking out from behind a tree/Tandem, USFWS
- Goldfinch/Thomas Kachelmeyer USFWS Volunteer
- A happy family after fishing on the Detroit River/USFWS
- Monarch butterfly on flowert/Thomas Kachelmeyer, USFWS Volunteer
- Child climbing on tree/Tandem, USFWS
- A group of kids using binoculars to observe nature/USFWS
The Detroit area is full of opportunities to connect with nature! Check out some of these beautiful spots:

- Rouge Park
- Belle Isle
- River Walk Park
- Belanger Park
- Dingell Park
- Bishop Park
- Elizabeth Park
- Huron-Clinton Metroparks
- Huroc Park
- Crosswinds Marsh
- Gibraltar Bay Unit
- Humbug Marsh Unit
- Sugar Island
- Pointe Mouillee State Game Area
- Strong Unit
- Branchau Unit
- Fix Unit
- Pointe Aux Peaux State Game Area
- River Raisin National Battlefield
- Plum Creek Bay Unit
- Erie State Game Area
- Erie Marsh Preserve
- Ojibwa Prairie Complex
- Holiday Beach Conservation Area

Please follow local hunting rules and regulations when participating in hunting. For locations that permit hunting please take caution when visiting during the hunting season.

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