

News Release

Midwest Region



Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

9311 Groh Road Grosse Ile, MI 48138

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2018

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Refuge Gateway buried drum removal to begin next week

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is leading an effort to clean up and remove buried drums from the Refuge Gateway site located in Trenton, Michigan. Work will begin on Monday, March 13th and will be completed mid-May.

The drums were discovered on Wayne County land near the construction site for the new Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge [visitor center and headquarters](#), which will be opened later this year. The site, previously occupied by the Chrysler Corporation from 1946 to 1990, was purchased by Wayne County in 2002 to become the future home of the refuge facility and a county park.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a long-standing, administrative order (2002) on consent with Wayne County and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for this project. During this time, the Refuge Gateway has undergone a dramatic landscape transformation from former industrial site to wildlife habitat. Restoration efforts have included a filed restricted covenant that includes an agreement that restricts activities on the areas designated as “Monitoring Well No. 9 area, North Back Lot Area, Soil cover system area, Concrete slab cover system area, and former Tank farm areas,” all of which require strict soil management practices, as outlined in the agreement and can be located on Attachment 1 of the restrictive covenant. All existing exposure barriers must remain in place in these restricted areas, along with the installation of native seed and the planting of large native trees. The 12,000 square-foot facility overlooks the Trenton Channel of the Detroit River, and once completed, will include public trails connecting to Humbug Marsh, overlooks and a fishing pier in partnership with Wayne County Parks.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality plans to mobilize on-site on Monday, March 12, 2018, with cleanup to begin the following day. The cleanup will involve an area approximately a quarter of an acre in size. For more information about the cleanup effort, please contact: Patricia Thornton, project manager at thorntonp@michigan.gov.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>.

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