



Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Midwest Region

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EMU student receives fellowship to work on Detroit River Wildlife Refuge

YPSILANTI – Janae' Reneaud, a graduate student at Eastern Michigan University (EMU), has been awarded a one-year fellowship to work on projects common to MAC's Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

Reneaud is pursuing a masters degree in public administration at EMU. She has undergraduate degree in fisheries and wildlife management, and practical work experience, with Washtenaw Land Trust, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Peace Corps.

"Eastern is very proud that one of its graduate students has been selected for this prestigious fellowship. This is an excellent example of our commitment to educational excellence and our commitment beyond the campus boundaries to the wider community through service initiatives and partnerships," said Dr. John A. Fallon, president of EMU.

Janae's fellowship responsibilities will include working with partners to develop a bird driving tour for the refuge, coordinating volunteers to build a wildlife observation deck at the refuge's Humbug Marsh, and helping further a regional ecotourism or nature tourism strategy. This is a unique fellowship opportunity because it gives a student an opportunity to work on North America's only International Heritage River System and only International Wildlife Refuge. Recently, southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario have received international acclaim for their innovative use of public-private partnerships to promote conservation, further environmentally-sustainable economic development, provide exception close-to-home recreational opportunities, and enhance quality of life.

"This fellowship is an outstanding example of the kinds of partnerships necessary to build the capacity to manage North America's only International Wildlife Refuge and International Heritage River System," said Congressman John D. Dingell. "This fellowship is also significant because it places a premium on educating and developing the next generation of leaders and managers for our natural resources."

Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (MAC) is a regional public-private partnership dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and economy of Southeast Michigan. Under its Greater Detroit American Heritage Initiative, MAC undertakes projects that protect and enhance environmental resources, promote economic development, and celebrate history and culture along the Detroit River. <http://www.mac-web.org/>

The Detroit International Wildlife Refuge covers 48 miles of shoreline along the lower Detroit River and the western basin of Lake Erie. It focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 65 kinds of fish and 300 species of migratory birds.