



For Immediate Release: October 22, 2009

VOLUNTEERS PLANT TREES AT WAYNE COUNTY'S REFUGE GATEWAY IN TRENTON

Trenton, Michigan – University of Michigan students, local boy scouts, and refuge volunteers will plant native species of trees at Wayne County's Refuge Gateway in Trenton on Saturday, October 24, 2009 as part of a major restoration of this brownfield site. The Refuge Gateway is the future home of the visitor center for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and is located adjacent to Humbug Marsh, the last mile of natural shoreline on the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River.

Native trees with up to 200-300 pound root-balls will be planted under the direction of arborists from Global Releaf of Michigan. Currently, Wayne County and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are completing a daylighting project at the Refuge Gateway which will restore the natural flow of Monguagon Creek by removing it from an underground culvert and restoring its flow overland into a constructed storm water pond and an associated prairie wetland. As part of the daylighting project, native trees will be planted around the storm water pond and prairie wetland.

Funding for this project was provided by Global Releaf and the Downriver CAER Council. Other project partners include: DTE Energy, Friends of the Detroit River, City of Trenton, Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, Solutia, Hamilton Anderson Associates, Applied Science & Technology, Inc., JFNew, University of Michigan, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Global Releaf provides hands-on opportunities to individuals and organizations to plant trees that result in the improvement of quality of life and community revitalization efforts,” said Melinda Jones, executive director of Global Releaf of Michigan. “To date Global Releaf has collaborated with over 300 communities throughout the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan to plant 25,000 trees.”

“Our hope is to involve members of the community in hands-on experiences that will restore wildlife habitat on the Refuge Gateway,” said Rebecca Robinson, landscape designer for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. “These activities can build long-term support and stewardship for the Refuge and the natural resources in this area.”

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge covers 48 miles of shoreline along the Detroit River and western Lake Erie (www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/). The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 65 kinds of fish, and 300 species of migratory birds. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is the first international refuge in North America. Unique habitats being managed within the Refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals and riverfront lands.

For more information, contact Melinda Jones, Executive Director of Global Releaf of Michigan (voice: 800.642.7353; mjones@uniquetreesandshrubs.com) or Rebecca Robinson, Landscape Designer of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (voice: 734.692.7672; Rebecca_Robinson@fws.gov).

Event information:

October 24, 2009

10am - 1pm

5437 West Jefferson Avenue, Trenton, Michigan 48183

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