



## Greening of Detroit Work Crew Assists with Habitat Restoration at Refuge Gateway

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**Detroit and Grosse Ile, Mich.** – Greening of Detroit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, and a consortium of public and private partners teamed up to restore habitat at the Refuge Gateway in Trenton, Michigan, the future home of the Refuge’s Visitor Center. Through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Green Corps high school students ages 14-18, planted 70 native trees, 91 native shrubs, and 76 Hibiscus plugs at the Refuge Gateway over a two-week period in August under the direction of Refuge landscape designer Robert Primeau. Funding for the trees and other supplies were provided by the Americana Foundation and the Great Lakes Clean Communities Network. Additional supplies were donated by the City of Trenton, while staff from both DTE Energy and Barton Malow donated equipment and labor to excavate holes for the trees.

The work undertaken by Greening of Detroit helps implement the master plan for the Refuge Gateway. Further, this restoration effort at the Refuge Gateway has been described as transformational for the southeast Michigan region by restoring an industrial brownfield into high quality wildlife habitat that expands the ecological buffer for Michigan’s only “Wetland of International Importance” identified under the international Ramsar Convention – Humbug Marsh.

“It is indeed an honor for the Greening of Detroit to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others to help restore the Detroit River and to provide jobs for our young people,” notes Rebecca Salminen Witt, President of Greening of Detroit. “These green jobs are an important part of our region’s strategy to conserve our natural capital, enhance quality of life, and provide sustainable employment in the world-class metropolitan area.”

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is honored to work with Greening of Detroit to provide a compelling conservation experience at the Refuge as part of a strategy to help develop the next generation of conservationists in urban areas because that is now where most U.S. citizens live,” notes Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is proud to be the only international refuge in North America and one of only 14 priority urban refuges in the nation charged with bringing conservation to cities. It covers 48 miles of shoreline along the lower Detroit River and western basin of Lake Erie -- stretching from southwest Detroit to the Ohio-Michigan border. The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 300 species of birds and 117

species of fish. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently owns or cooperatively manages 6,107 acres of unique habitats and partners Michigan Department of Natural Resource on conservation of 7,897 acres of state-owned land. A Canadian registry of lands now includes 3,797 acres of Essex Region Conservation Authority lands and 981 acres of City of Windsor lands. In total, over 18,782 acres of land in southwest Ontario and southeast Michigan are now being cooperatively managed for conservation and outdoor recreation for nearly seven million people living in a 45-minute drive. More information can be found at: [www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit\\_river/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river/).

About the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.” For more information on the Service, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

About The Greening of Detroit: The mission of the Greening of Detroit is to guide and inspire others to create a “greener” Detroit through planting and educational programs environmental leadership, advocacy, and by building community capacity.

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Green Corps high school students plants trees and shrubs at Refuge Gateway in Trenton (photo credit: Greening of Detroit).