



Friends of the Detroit River
3020 Oakwood
Melvindale, MI 48122-1210
313.388.8892

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CREATING A VISION FOR GRASSY ISLAND:
Public Comment on the Future of Grassy Island**

**Tuesday, January 31, 2006, 7-9pm
Westfield Center, Trenton**

On Tuesday, January 31, the Friends of the Detroit River, the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy, and the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance are hosting a public visioning session on the future of Grassy Island. This meeting follows up the Grassy Island Forum of December 1, which recommended seeking citizen input.

Grassy Island is a 72 acre island in the Detroit River off the shore of Wyandotte, and is owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The area was once a grassy shoal, but was diked to contain contaminated sediments dredged from the Rouge River and deposited there from the early 1960's to the early 1980's. The island is contaminated with heavy metals and other substances, and is currently off-limits to public use or access. It is unclear whether those contaminants are leaching into the Detroit River, and further studies are needed to determine whether that is occurring. USFWS is studying options for the containment and remediation of the contaminant problem on the island.

The purpose of Tuesday evening's meeting will be to discuss and share ideas regarding the Downriver community's vision for desired future uses and features at Grassy Island. We will discuss ideas for habitat restoration and for recreational opportunities that are consistent with Refuge objectives. The USFWS will incorporate these ideas into their remediation efforts.

All citizens interested in the future management and use of Grassy Island are encouraged to attend and to share their thoughts. There will be a brief overview of the issues involved followed by public comments. The results of this session will be reported at the next Grassy Island Forum on March 9 at 7:00 pm at the Wyandotte Boat Club.

For further information, contact:

Bruce Jones, Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy

(734) 676-6657

bjones6657@ameritech.net

David Howell, Friends of the Detroit River

(734) 282-4327

djhowell@earthlink.net

