



2020 Volunteer Opportunities

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
5437 W. Jefferson Ave., Trenton, MI 48183

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge represents a new model for conservation, one that restores fish and wildlife habitats in an urban area through innovative public-private partnerships. We welcome and work with many dedicated volunteers to achieve our mission.

Let us know which of the following volunteer opportunities interest you!

To apply: Email Volunteer Coordinator, Shannon Nelson, at driwr_volunteer@fws.gov.
(Please type your name in the subject line followed by the position you are applying for)

-
1. **Stewardship Crew Volunteer** – Assist with a variety of habitat management activities including forest rehabilitation and invasive species control. This type of work requires heavy physical labor in natural areas and in challenging environments. Stewardship crews may also assist with trail maintenance, kiosk construction and interpretive sign repairs. Participants must be in good physical condition. The work periods are 9:00 AM to noon on Wednesdays at the Humbug Marsh Unit and Mondays from 9:00 AM to noon at the Gibraltar Bay Unit. All necessary tools are provided.

 2. **Detroit River Hawk Watch Raptor Volunteer** – In the fall, the lower Detroit River becomes a corridor for the passage of hundreds of thousands of migrating hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures. Trained volunteers conduct a standardized count of this spectacular migration of raptors at the lower Detroit River. Come learn the skills to become a seasoned counter! Position available September through November each year. Volunteers will be responsible for the entrance fee at Lake Erie Metropark (\$10/day or \$40/year) and need to provide their own 8X or 10 X binoculars.

 3. **Detroit River Hawk Watch Raptor OUTREACH Volunteer** – If you are excited about raptors and enjoy sharing your enthusiasm, join the Hawk Watch counters above as an outreach volunteer. Learn about counters' sightings and survey methods, and share this information with an array of visitors that stop by. Volunteers will be responsible for the entrance fee at Lake Erie Metropark (\$10/day or \$40/year).

 4. **Volunteer Photographer** – Using your own equipment, take photographs of native flora and fauna, special events, and Refuge staff and volunteers working in the field. Close up and macro photographs preferred. Photos are credited to photographer and become property of the Refuge. Images may be used in a variety of outreach materials in print and on the web.
-

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER POSITIONS - *We are currently onboarding for the following positions:*

5. **Visitor Center Greeter and Nature Store Volunteer (*Coming soon*)** – Become a Refuge ambassador as you cheerfully greet visitors, provide recreation information, give orientations on the work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, assist visitors with Refuge rules and regulations, answer telephones, answer questions, distribute brochures, respond to visitor correspondence, and sell and tend to items in the Nature Store.

6. **Fishing Pier Volunteer Monitor (*Coming soon*)** – If you love to fish, tell your fish stories and get others interested in fishing, this position is for you! Soon the Refuge will open a new fishing pier that extends 740 feet into the river and connects to a 150-foot-long pier. Monitors guide visitors, answer questions, and pick up litter. There is no expectation of providing law enforcement coverage, just a welcoming face!

7. **Trail Upkeep Volunteer (*Coming soon*)** – Perform all aspects of trail maintenance and construction including mowing grass, clearing brush and fallen logs, trimming brush, picking up litter, and constructing new segments of trail. Volunteers may work alone or in groups and must be in good physical condition. All necessary tools are provided.
