



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **U.S. Silica, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partner in Celebrating History and Conserving Natural Resources at the Mouth of the Huron River**

June 26, 2017

Brownstown Township – Today, U.S. Silica, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a public-private partnership to preserve and celebrate a corduroy road dating back to the War of 1812 and 95 acres of coastal wetlands at the mouth of the Huron River.

The biologically diverse and historically significant site contains a ¼ mile (1,346 foot) long remnant of corduroy (log) military road constructed by over 2,300 U.S. troops to supply food, weapons and other goods to the Michigan Territory during the War of 1812. The road followed well established Native American trading routes and stretched over 200 miles linking Ohio to the Post of Detroit in Michigan (now downtown Detroit, Michigan). The road was a critical supply route that was traveled by at least 13 Native American Nations, the United States, Great Britain, and French settlers before, during, and after the War of 1812. The logs bear witness to the creation of Michigan as a State and the forced removal, relocation and assimilation of Great Lakes Native Nations in the Aftermath of the Battles.

U.S. Silica is planning to donate approximately two acres immediately to the south of the cooperative management agreement tract, called Hull's Trace, to the National Park Service for the River Raisin National Battlefield Park to preserve, protect and interpret the internationally significant history relating to the Battles and their Aftermath. U.S. Silica also helped start the Ticket-to-Float Youth Kayak Explorer program where over the past three years 3,600 Metro Detroit youth have enjoyed full-day kayak, history and natural resource based field trips touring the 95 acre coastal wetlands area, Huron River and corduroy road.

U.S. Silica owns 95 acres of high quality coastal wetlands along the lower Huron River and Silver Creek in southern Wayne County that were part of a historical freshwater delta at Pointe Mouillee – one of the most significant freshwater coastal wetland areas in the Great Lakes. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Silica have entered into a Cooperative Management Agreement for conservation of these high quality fish and wildlife habitats as part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. These wetlands contain a state-threatened plant (giant arrowhead - *Sagittaria montevidensis*) and exhibit a high quality coastal ecosystem with relatively high biodiversity. Further, these ecological communities are rare, unique, and characteristic of the unusual climate and environmental conditions of the western Lake Erie

coast. Examples of cooperative conservation efforts that will be undertaken include: invasive species management, wildlife habitat management, ecological inventories, and monitoring.

This unique public-private partnership will allow the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Silica to work together to interpret and celebrate history and natural resources from an adjacent public access site for all citizens in southeast Michigan.

"Protecting and preserving Michigan's historical heritage and natural beauty is a priority for all of us who call this state home," said Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. "The public-private partnership we celebrate today is a reflection of our shared commitment to preserving both our history and our natural resources, ensuring that people are able to enjoy the outdoors and learn at the same time. Thank you to U.S. Silica, the National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for your leadership in conserving this important site for generations to come."

"U.S. Silica continuously looks to enhance our commitment to the communities in which we work, and this Cooperative Management Agreement is another great example," noted Chris Coppens, Plant Manager at U.S. Silica. "Together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service we are able to preserve and protect this land that is both environmentally- and historically-significant to the region."

River Raisin National Battlefield Park preserves, commemorates, and interprets the January 1813 battles of the War of 1812 and their aftermath in Monroe and Wayne counties in Southeast Michigan. The Battles of the River Raisin resulted in the greatest victory for Tecumseh's Confederation and the greatest defeat for the United States during the War of 1812. Although American forces were victorious in the first battle, the second ended in what was described as a "national calamity" by then General William Henry Harrison, and later President of the United States. The battle cry, "Remember the Raisin!" inspired a massive U.S. victory at the Battle of the Thames, which sealed the War of 1812 in the western theater for the U.S., claimed the life of the great Shawnee War Chief, Tecumseh, and resulted in the end of the American Indian Confederation. The aftermath of the Battles resulted in the implementation of Indian removal from the Northwest Territory at the conclusion of the War of 1812, an aftermath that continues to influence the United States today. For more information about the Battlefield please visit [www.nps.gov/rira/](http://www.nps.gov/rira/) or [www.battlefieldfoundation.com](http://www.battlefieldfoundation.com).

River Raisin National Battlefield Park is a unit of the National Park System that preserves, commemorates and interprets the War of 1812 Battles in Southeast Michigan and their Aftermath. Battles that cleared the way for westward expansion resulting in the creation of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin as States and an Aftermath that resulted in the forced removal, relocation and assimilation of Native American Nations. <http://www.nps.gov/rira>

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 6,202 acres

of unique habitats and partners with other organizations like Michigan Department of Natural Resource and Essex Region Conservation Authority and the City of Windsor in Ontario to cooperatively manage other lands. In total, over 18,700 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/).

U.S. Silica is an industrial silica and sand proppants company that has continuously worked to develop new and groundbreaking ways to support its customers' success. U.S. Silica has over a 117-year history as an innovator in and supplier of industrial silica products and solutions that support the nation's economic strength and energy independence. In addition to being a leading producer of industrial minerals, U.S. Silica operates as a research and development specialist for customized products and solutions utilizing silica raw materials. U.S. Silica operates on a platform of ethics, safety and sustainability. For more information about U.S. Silica visit <http://www.ussilica.com/>.

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