



For Immediate Release: August 14, 2006

## **\$75,000 SECURED FOR HUMBUG MARSH GREENWAY TRAILS**

Gibraltar, Michigan – All 21 Downriver communities have partnered in developing a Downriver Linked Greenways Plan under the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative. This plan has been very well received, including receiving a Michigan Society of Planning: Outstanding Planning Project for a Plan Award in 2001. The North-South Connector of the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative is a trail system linking Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Lake Erie Metro Park with Wayne County's Elizabeth Park.

Downriver Community Conference and the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance announce \$75,000 from the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan's GreenWays Initiative to construct Phase I of this North-South Connector. The money will be used to match \$880,000 secured earlier from U.S. Department of Transportation for the Humbug Marsh portion of the North-South Connector. In addition, the Downtown Development Authority of the City of Gibraltar has allocated \$6,500 for the architectural and engineering design of the North Gibraltar Road portion of this Humbug trails project.

"These greenway trails will offer the public a unique view into the last mile of undeveloped shoreline on the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River," said Congressman John D. Dingell. "Humbug Marsh is rightly considered a jewel of southeast Michigan and the public will have the opportunity to see 200 year old oak trees, unique coastal wetlands, and hawks, waterfowl, and bald eagles."

Grant writing support for this project was provided by Metropolitan Affairs Coalition. The vision of the partners is to build a linked greenways system from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie, up the tributaries like the Huron, Ecorse, and Rouge Rivers, and across to Canada. The Detroit River, being North America's only International Wildlife Refuge and International Heritage River System, is a major source of community pride, enhancing quality of life and helping attract and retain the next generation of employees for businesses.

The Downriver Community Conference provides leadership in establishing common, positive goals and strategies to develop the human, social and economic assets of the Downriver area; enhance the quality of life for area residents, workers and businesses; shape public policy at federal, state, regional, county and local levels; and identify, obtain and responsibly manage the necessary financial resources to successfully implement this vision.

The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance is a nonprofit organization that supports the first International Wildlife Refuge in North America by working through partnerships to protect, conserve and manage the refuge's wildlife and habitats, and to create exceptional conservation, recreational and educational experiences to develop the next generation of conservation stewards. Major Alliance partners in 2006 include DTE Energy Foundation, BASF Corp., DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Company/AutoAlliance, General Motors Corp., ITC Transmission, Hamilton-Anderson Associates, Praxair, and Wade Trim.

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