

NEWS RELEASE



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65 Acres at the Mouth of Swan Creek Added to Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Monroe, Michigan – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, Monroe County, City of Monroe, Monroe Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. announce the acquisition of 65 acres of Monroe County lands at the mouth of Swan Creek for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. These critical habitats are important for both waterfowl and fish, and include well known American Lotus beds, the Michigan symbol of clean water.

The property includes 25 acres of upland habitats and 40 acres of wetlands. Some of the uplands of this property have recently been farmed. The wetlands are part of a unique coastal embayment at the mouth of Swan Creek. Interestingly, in the early 1900s, a commercial fishing operation was operated on this property.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has acquired these lands with federal funding from the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, and a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant administered by Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

“This land acquisition is an important milestone for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in that the refuge now includes over 5,000 acres,” notes Congressman John D. Dingell. “It is also another outstanding example of conservation partnerships to protect wildlife and to further wildlife-compatible public uses like hunting and fishing.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be working with Ducks Unlimited to restore wetlands on this property for waterfowl. “Such wetland restoration is critical in Monroe County because we have lost to development over 90% of the coastal wetlands along the shoreline of Lake Erie,” notes Michigan State Representative Kate Ebli of Monroe. “We also recognize the importance of this acquisition to maintaining our outstanding quality of life in Monroe County and to protecting our culture of hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation.”

The Detroit International Wildlife Refuge covers 48 miles of shoreline along the Detroit River and western Lake Erie (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/>). The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 23 species of raptors, 31 species of shorebirds, over 100 species of fish, and a total of over 300 species of birds. The Detroit River International Refuge is the first international refuge in North America. Unique habitats being managed within the Refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals and riverfront lands.

The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance is a non-profit 501(3)(c) organization that builds the capacity of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deliver the mission of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Major Alliance funding partners in 2007 include ITC Transmission, BASF Corporation, DTE Energy Foundation, General Motors Corporation, and Praxair.

With more than a million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization, with almost 12 million acres conserved. The United States has lost more than half of its original wetlands—nature's most productive ecosystem—and continues to lose more than 80,000 acres each year.

For more information, contact John Hartig, Refuge Manager at (734) 692-7608 or Steve Dushane, Assistant Refuge Manager at (734) 692-7604.

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