



**NEWS RELEASE**

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# **HUMBUG MARSH PROTECTED AS A PLACE OF WILDLIFE AND CHILDREN**

*Gibraltar and Trenton, Michigan* – Today, school children, elected officials, corporate leaders, grassroots organizations, and citizens came together to celebrate the protection of Humbug Marsh and to realize a “dream come true” by cutting the ribbon on a brand-new environmental education shelter, trails, and a stream crossing in Humbug Marsh. In the late 1990s, Humbug Marsh was slated for residential development. Thousands of citizens spoke out in opposition to the proposed development of the last mile of natural shoreline of the Detroit River on the U.S. mainland. This grassroots opposition, in turn, led to the acquisition of Humbug Marsh as the cornerstone of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

During 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many partners created an “educational triangle” to promote environmental education and sustainability, featuring:

- An environmental education shelter (32’ x 20’), equipped with skylights and an enclosed storage space;
- Barrier-free trails constructed out of recycled crushed concrete excavated from Old North Gibraltar Road;
- Rustic trails built with wood chips by volunteers;
- A wetland boardwalk made out of recycled plastic decking; and
- A stream crossing made with recycled utility poles, hand rails made out of dead ash trees, and mechanically stabilized earth for wing walls.

These features are located adjacent and south of Wayne County’s Refuge Gateway that will be the future home of the visitor center for North America’s only International Wildlife Refuge.

“Humbug Marsh was a place that I visited with my father when I was a boy. It is extremely gratifying for me to see this educational shelter open up new opportunities for children to again appreciate the incredible beauty that continues to be available along the Detroit River,” said Congressman John D. Dingell. “This project will make the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge accessible to thousands of students annually with exceptional programming for environmental education and conservation. I am proud of the work that we are doing on this refuge, and this shelter is just another step in our list of accomplishments; but there is still much more to do.”

This \$500,000 project could not have happened without the significant contributions of over 30 partners, including engineering support from NTH Consultants, construction support from the Naval Construction Battalion 26 of the Navy Seabees and Mid-American Group, and financial support from DTE Energy and many others. Indeed, this project manifests the region's growing reputation for public-private partnerships for conservation, sustainability, and close-to-home outdoor recreation.

"DTE Energy is pleased to support this important project that protects a valuable natural resource and provides children with an opportunity to develop a sense of wonder and excitement about nature and the environment," said Gerard Anderson, DTE Energy president and chief operating officer.

"NTH Consultants is honored to provide engineering technical support to this project that will truly leave a conservation legacy and improve the quality of life in southeast Michigan," notes President Keith Swaffar of NTH Consultants.

The Detroit River 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, 65 kinds of fish, and 300 species of migratory 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 mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

For more information, contact John Hartig (734-692-7608) or Becca Sowder (734-692-7672) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or Laura Ziegler (248-324-5347) or Bill Reader (248-324-5252) of NTH Consultants.

#### **Project Partners**

American Drilling and Testing, AT&T, BASF Corporation, Carbon Credit Environmental Service, Inc., City of Gibraltar, City of Trenton, Comcast, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan's GreenWays Initiative, Congressman John D. Dingell, Detroit Edison's Monroe, Trenton and River Rouge Power Plants, Disposal Management, Downriver CAER Council, Downriver Community Conference, Environmental Quality Company, General Motors Corporation, George Mans Family, Great Lakes Aggregates, Grosse Ile Township, Hoppert Farms, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 17, Inland Waters, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, ITC Holdings Corp., John Carlo, Inc., Kappan Tree Service, Klochko Equipment Rental, La-Z-Boy, Logs to Lumber and Beyond, Lowe's Companies, Inc., MPS Group, Masserant Farms, Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, Mid-American Group, Molly Luempert-Coy, National City Bank, Osburn Industries, Inc., Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival, Praxair, Rotary Club of Trenton, Steven Sczytko, Stoneco, Summit Academy, Total Community Credit Union, Utility Workers Union of America Local 223, Wilson Trucking and Excavation, LLC, Young's Environmental Cleanup Inc.

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