

Congressman John D. Dingell

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Dingell Announces \$300,000 in New Funding for Detroit International Wildlife Refuge

Money Will Go to Land Acquisition and Habitat Restoration

Monroe, MI - Today, Congressman John D. Dingell (MI-15) announced \$300,000 of new funding for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in Monroe County. This funding was secured through a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant coordinated by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. The NAWCA provides matching grants to organizations that have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Recently, a \$1 million NAWCA grant was awarded to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. to conserve unique wetland habitats in Michigan from Saginaw Bay to Western Lake Erie. For the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge portion of this NAWCA grant, \$100,000 will be provided for habitat restoration at the Lagoon Beach Unit of DTE's Fermi Power Plant in Monroe County. In addition, \$200,000 is being provided for land acquisition in Monroe County.

“This funding is the perfect example of NAWCA’s purpose: to encourage partnerships among public and non-public interests to protect, enhance, restore and manage wetlands for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife in North America,” said Congressman Dingell. “The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is creating a new paradigm of conservation enhancing quality of life and helping to attract and retain the next generation of employees for businesses in our region.”

For each dollar of federal funding provided through NAWCA, two dollars in non-federal match must be provided. Key partners helping make match on this grant include DTE Energy, International Transmission Company, Trust for Public Land, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Pheasants Forever, Waterfowl USA-Southwestern Lake Erie Chapter, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These federal funds would not be secured without the significant match funding provided by partners.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is a major source of community pride throughout the region. It was established in 2001 and now includes more than 2,100 acres. The International Wildlife Refuge brings a significant conservation effort to a major urban doorstep, providing an exceptional conservation and outdoor recreational experience to more than 5 million people. Further, it will conserve and restore wildlife habitats in the industrial heartland where more than 95% of the coastal wetlands have been lost to development.

For more information, please contact Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (734.692.7608).

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