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Contact: Ms. Beth Mabry of Wayne County Parks at 734-261-1990, Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge at 734-692-7608, or Mr. Steve Beyer of Michigan Department of Natural Resources at 517-241-3450

\$1.5 MILLION PROJECT WILL RESTORE WETLANDS AT REFUGE GATEWAY

Detroit, MI – Wayne County Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources announce \$1,530,000 has been raised for a major wetland restoration project along the Detroit River. Funds from the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Program, Natural Resource Damage Settlement Funds, Clean Michigan Initiative, and private support will:

- Restore a natural coastal wetland shoreline at Wayne County's Refuge Gateway in Trenton,
- Restore the natural channel and associated wetlands along Monguagon Creek that flows through the Refuge Gateway and into Humbug Marsh,
- Control invasive species at the Refuge Gateway and Humbug Marsh, and
- Construct educational kiosks and a small boardwalk.

The National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program is a joint federal aid program between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coastal states to acquire, restore, or enhance wetlands in coastal states.

In total, \$746,000 was awarded to the project from the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program following a national competition. Wayne County is providing \$445,000 with funds from a successful Clean Michigan Initiative Grant. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is providing \$249,000 from Natural Resource Damage Settlement Funds. The remaining \$90,000 is being provided by other partners in the form of in-kind support and services. These partners include: Wayne County Parks, ITC Transmission, IVM Partners, Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, Michigan Sea Grant, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, and Friends of Detroit River.

“Michigan’s amazing natural resources contribute significantly to our quality of life,” said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. “We are proud to be home to this important project aimed at conserving this area for generations to come.”

“This is truly a significant project to restore coastal wetlands in an area that has lost 97% of its coastal wetlands to development,” adds Congressman John Dingell.

The intensive development and transformation of the Detroit River has led to the loss of spawning, nesting, and foraging habitat for many resident and migratory fish and wildlife species. Restoration of habitats and these associated species are a priority for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Our agency is a proud partner in the management of Humbug Marsh. Restoring the hydrology and quality of water entering the marsh will greatly benefit the vast array of fish and wildlife species that use the area,” said DNR Director Rebecca A. Humphries.

“This \$1.5 million wetland restoration project will further catalyze the development of our Refuge Gateway that is working to provide an exceptional conservation and outdoor recreational experience to over six million people in an effort to improve quality of life and develop the next generation of conservationists,” notes Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

Wayne County Parks manages more than 7,500 acres of public recreation land, including 391 miles of rivers and streams that provide safe and enjoyable leisure and recreation facilities, and activities, to Wayne County residents.

The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats, for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations.

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