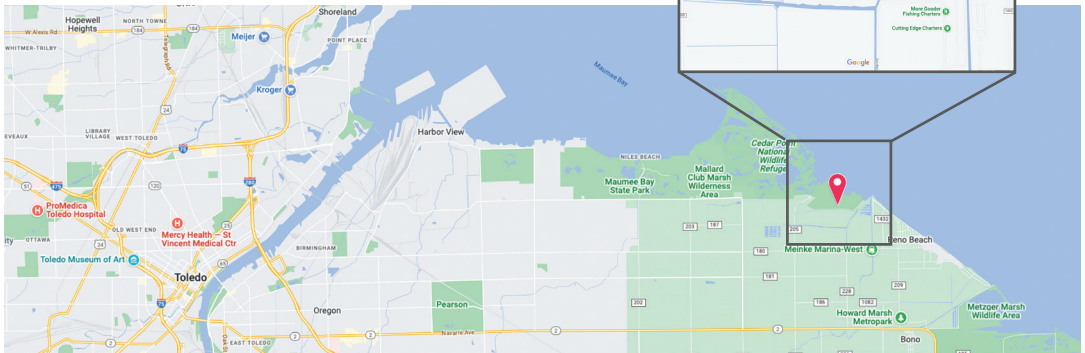
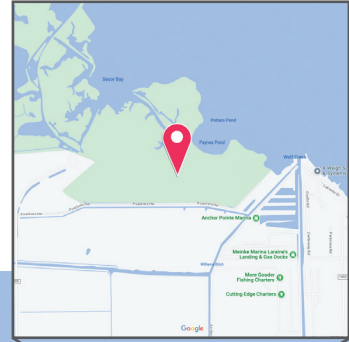


Restoring Coastal Wetlands at Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge

WHAT'S BEING ADDRESSED:

BUI 3: Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations
BUI 14: Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

The Cedar Point Pool 2 project, now known as John Gradel Marsh, is located along the western basin of Lake Erie at Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose of this project is to enhance 155 acres of preserved coastal wetland habitat for fish and wildlife and to restore hydrological connectivity to Lake Erie.



Photos courtesy of USEWS

PARTNERS:

This project was a collaborative effort between the John Gradel & Sons Farms Inc., and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, with financial support provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Learn more at maumeeao.org



Photo courtesy of USFWS



Photo courtesy of Chris Kanipe



Photo courtesy of USFWS

PROJECT BENEFITS:

The John Gradel Marsh project reintegrates coastal wetland components that were lost with the introduction of industry and agriculture. Historically, this area of Northwest Ohio was a vast network of swamps, marshes, and forests known as the Great Black Swamp. Reconnecting refuge wetlands to Lake Erie has been a primary management goal for the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

- Re-establishes high-quality habitat for fish, migratory birds, and other wildlife to rest, raise young, and thrive.
- Provides coastal wetlands for rearing, nursing, and cover habitat for native fish species to spawn and raise their young.
- Improved management of coastal wetlands with a new water control structure that has the ability to capture agricultural runoff, carry it through the Pool 2 wetlands, filter the water, and release it ultimately into Lake Erie.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Restore and enhance 155 acres of coastal wetlands
- Benefit fish and wildlife populations with access to high-quality habitat
- Provide water quality benefits to Lake Erie by restoring hydrological connectivity

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

- When managed as an open connection, the water control structure will provide direct hydrologic connectivity to Lake Erie water level seiche fluctuations, continuously exchanging water between the lake and the wetland. This will result in more natural wetland hydrological cycles and provide water quality benefits to Lake Erie through sediment and nutrient retention within the wetland.
- An installed fish passage structure provides access for fish from Lake Erie to coastal wetlands.
- Pump structures installed:
 - One pump moves water between the wetland and Lake Erie
 - The other pump collects water from the Gradel Family Farm into a ditch that can be taken into a wetland or Lake Erie.



Photo courtesy of Chris Kanipe



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