

Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

New Visitor Center and Headquarters



Site plan for the new visitor center and administrative facility located at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley, N.Y.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received \$9.775 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to invest in the construction of a headquarters/visitor center building for the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The new energy-efficient facility, sited at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley, N.Y., will be a hub for the eight refuges located on Long Island and within close proximity to many communities and future refuge visitors.

The proposed 12,500-square-foot building includes a visitor center and office space for the refuge complex employees, other Service programs and agency partners. The visitor center portion of the building will include educational and interactive exhibits,

and a multi-purpose room to support partnership projects and other visitor services opportunities.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, strives to improve the energy-efficiency of our infrastructure and to leave the lightest possible footprint on the lands we protect. Our efforts help to “green” the federal government and demonstrate our commitment as a natural resources agency to “walk the talk” of reducing carbon consumption as we plan management of fish and wildlife resources in the face of climate change. The center will meet the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification criteria for sustainability and energy efficiency.

The refuges’ current headquarters at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge is in a former hunting lodge built in 1905. The tiny building provides insufficient space for current staff and inadequate facilities to host refuge visitors. It is plagued with safety and health hazards. To accommodate refuge staff, two houses on the refuge have been converted into office space. Both of these buildings will revert back to refuge housing once the new facility is completed.

In the fall of 2006, the Service completed a 15-year comprehensive conservation plan for the refuge complex. Local governments, conservation organizations, refuge neighbors and other interested individuals were involved in the



The existing facility, a century-old hunting lodge, is insufficient to support current staff and refuge visitors.

process, which identified the need for the new administrative and visitor facility, among other management goals.

The national wildlife refuges on Long Island are located within an hour drive of more than 7.5 million people. They provide important habitat for migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, and other wildlife. From rare grasslands to maritime tidal areas, the habitats are rich and diverse. In addition to Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley, other units include Amagansett, Conscience Point, Lido Beach, Morton, Oyster Bay, Sayville, Seatuck, and Target Rock national wildlife refuges.

Project Status

- Surveys have been done to determine the location of existing infrastructure and archeological resources at the site.
- A contract to complete the architectural and engineering design for the building was awarded to C&S Companies of Syracuse, N.Y., and the plans are well underway. The building will be built within the Service's standard energy-efficient design.
- A contract for planning and producing exhibits for the visitor

center was awarded to Lyons and Zaremba, Inc., a design firm based in Boston, Mass. Exhibit concepts and content are being discussed.

Construction Timeline

Winter 2010 – Architectural design complete

Spring 2010 – Construction contract awarded

Fall 2011 – Estimated completion of project

For further information about the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

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For updates on this economic stimulus project

<http://recovery.doi.gov/press/bureaus/us-fish-and-wildlife-service/long-island-national-wildlife-refuge-complex/>

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October 2009

