

# Erie

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Fact Sheet

#### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Arlen Specter (R)  
Senator Rick Santorum (R)  
Rep. Phil English (R-3rd)

#### Contact

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#### Purpose

Erie National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect and enhance habitat for waterfowl and migratory birds, threatened and endangered plants and animals, and other native species. Portions of the refuge are open for wildlife related recreation and education, research and environmental study.

#### Public Use Notes

- Interpretive visitor contact station and 6.5 miles of trails
- Cultural attraction (hand-cut sandstone spring house)
- Fully accessible fishing pier, boardwalk and wooded drive

#### Management Activities

- Managing forested, wetland and upland habitats for waterfowl and migratory birds by regenerating forests, providing nest boxes, prescribed fire, manipulating water levels on 19 impoundments and cooperative farming
- Working with landowners to protect and conserve wetland habitat
- Providing nesting boxes for wood ducks and bluebirds
- Protecting habitat and conserving for rare and endangered freshwater mussels, fish and nesting bald eagles

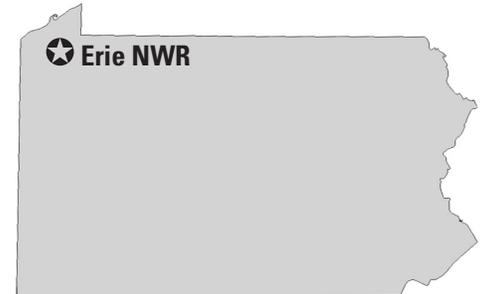
#### Highlights

Erie National Wildlife Refuge has an opportunity to play a significant role in conservation efforts for the federally listed endangered northern riffleshell and clubshell mussels.

The Mohawk Run shrub fen that occurs on the refuge is a globally rare natural community in Pennsylvania. The refuge also has three designated natural area reserves.

The refuge has been designated as an important bird area by the National Audubon Society.

The refuge is one of only a few places in Pennsylvania where mergansers nest.



#### Issues

Urban encroachment, pollution, sedimentation and the spread of the invasive zebra mussel threaten biological diversity and water quality in Muddy Creek, a major tributary of French Creek.

Oil and gas production and urban development remain as threats to the refuge and strengthen the need for acquiring inholdings and key parcels of land surrounding the refuge.

The spread of invasive weeds within pristine and natural areas of the refuge remains a high priority issue.

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

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