



# Urban Wildlife Refuge Encroachment: Buffer Zone

Presented by: Lucy Crespo, National Wildlife Refuge Association



NATIONAL  
Wildlife Refuge  
ASSOCIATION

## **OUR MISSION**

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America's wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, promote, and enhance the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries.

## **OUR VISION**

Inspire nationwide support for the National Wildlife Refuge System, its wildlife, and its habitats.

# Urbanization and Wildlife Refuges

**Loss of habitat for fish, wildlife, native plants, and birds**

- **Car traffic**
- **Noise Pollution**
- **Light Pollution**

- **Decrease in surrounding tree canopy, increasing heat island effects**
- **Flooding**



Northern Long-Eared Bat

# Refuge Species



Black Duck



Bald Eagle

# Impact on Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health

- Development can prevent USFWS from fulfilling the directives of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act
- Buffer zones often aren't substantial enough to prevent ecosystem-wide effects, which require more resources to mitigate, including staff time, volunteer labor, etc.



# Additional Impacts

Increase in invasive species

Fragmentation of nesting habitat

Increase in pollution and trash in the tidal marsh

# Urban/Wild Interface

Buffer areas between developed parcels and refuge lands need to be protected and increased wherever possible.

In a heavily urbanized area like the greater Washington DC metro, we cannot afford to lose more habitat. These wildlife refuges are essential to the health of the environment for both animals and people.

The unique habitat in Occoquan has incredible biological diversity, many different kinds of habitats, and is accessible to millions of residents nearby. It's a valuable teaching tool for conservation and the importance of migratory birds and flyways.



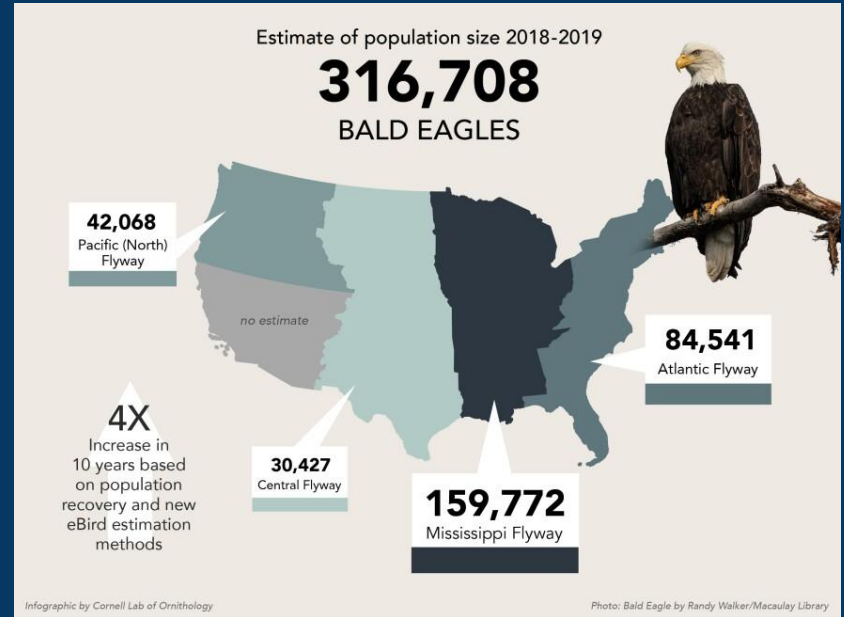
# Success Stories: Protecting Wildlife Refuges

In 1970, there were only 80-90 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in Virginia. Now there are more than 3,000 along the Chesapeake Bay!

Thanks to the combined efforts of conservationists and activism over the years, bald eagles have recovered in many parts of the country.

New wildlife refuges like Valle de Oro in Albuquerque have been established in urban areas to provide more habitat along critical flyways

Buffer zones from development are vital for the protection of ALL species, and they work!





# CONTACT



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**Thank you!**

