



DETROIT METRO • WILLOW RUN
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News Release

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Raccoon rescued by Willow Run Airport workers finds new home at Crosswinds Marsh

--Masked mammal removed from aviation watch list

A raccoon decided to make Ameristar Jet Charters at Willow Run Airport, his new home last month. After several sightings of the raccoon peeking through the cargo carrier's ceiling tiles, employees came in to work one morning to find that he had maneuvered his way into a parts cage full of sensitive equipment.

"Fortunately, he didn't sabotage the equipment," said Airport Operations Supervisor Rick Taig. "And though we didn't deem him a terrorist threat, we realized that we needed to help him find a more fitting residence."

Airport Operations set up a live trap in the Ameristar hangar and used peanut butter crackers to entice the raccoon into the cage. After just two days, the trap was successful and the masked mammal was on his way to a virtual raccoon paradise at Crosswinds Marsh, a 1,000-acre wetland preserve constructed and maintained by the Wayne County Airport Authority.

"Ameristar employees were extremely helpful throughout this entire process," said Taig. "They even fed the raccoon while he was caged to make sure that he was healthy for his journey."

The day after he was captured, Airport Operations transported the raccoon to Crosswinds Marsh and set him free. "I tried to snap a picture while he was exiting the cage, but he quickly ran off and disappeared into the wilderness," said Taig.

See attached photos.

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