

GREAT LAKES/ATLANTIC REGION

BIG RIVERS INITIATIVE



★ COLEMAN LAKE AT DONNELLY-DEPUE SFWA

With funds from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) State Waterfowl Stamp program, DU and the IDNR were able to enhance 220 acres of wetland habitats within the Coleman Lake waterfowl management unit. The project replaced four large water control structures that manage the water levels on over 200 acres of emergent, forested, scrub-shrub, and open water wetlands. The completion of this project will provide improved public waterfowl hunting, fishing, boating, and bird-watching opportunities.

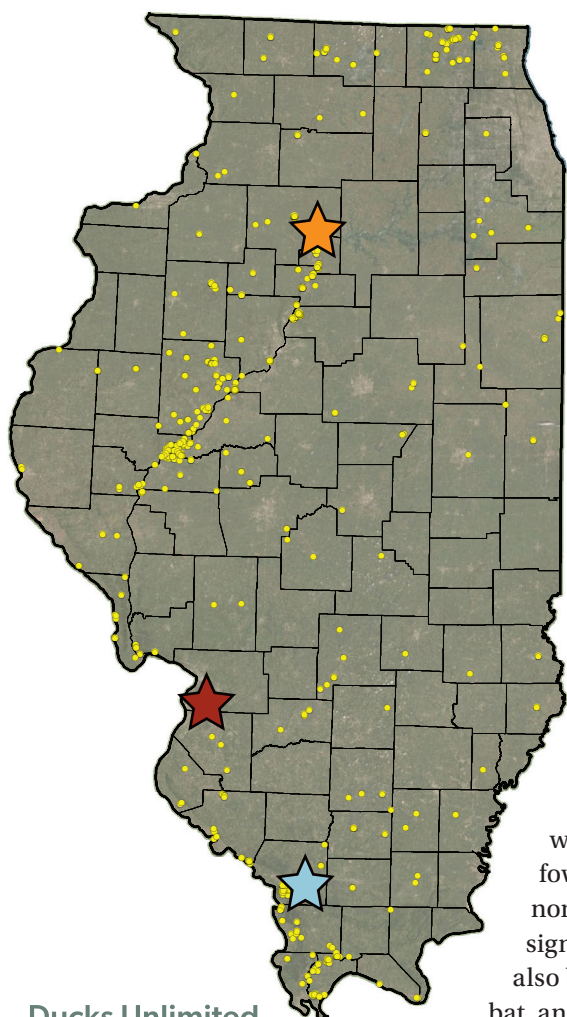
★ RASKEY SLOUGH AT HORSESHOE LAKE STATE PARK

Ducks Unlimited and the IDNR, with funds from Phillips 66 and the IDNR's State Habitat Stamp program, completed the enhancement of Raskey Slough at Horseshoe Lake State Park. The area is one of two waterfowl refuge areas at Horseshoe Lake. Damage and erosion to the berm had reduced the size of the wetland area and dramatically limited wetland management capabilities of the site. The completed project greatly improved water management techniques and expanded the wetland from 28 to 58 acres in size.



★ BIG MUDDY UNITS AT SHAWNEE NF

With funds from a NAWCA grant, DU and the U.S. Forest Service were able to restore hydrology to 125 acres of bottomlands within the Big Muddy River floodplain. Project work included the construction of a series of small, rock-reinforced berms to stabilize the natural grades and stop erosion, capturing floodwater and preventing it from draining out of the three independent wetland basins. The use of restored wetlands by migrating and wintering waterfowl species, including wood ducks, mallards, northern pintails, and gadwall is expected to be significant. The restored floodplain wetlands will also benefit both the federally endangered Indiana bat, and other important bottomland forest wildlife, such as red-headed woodpeckers and wild turkeys. The cumulative effect of projects such as these reduces the damage caused by floodwaters farther downstream.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed Project(s)

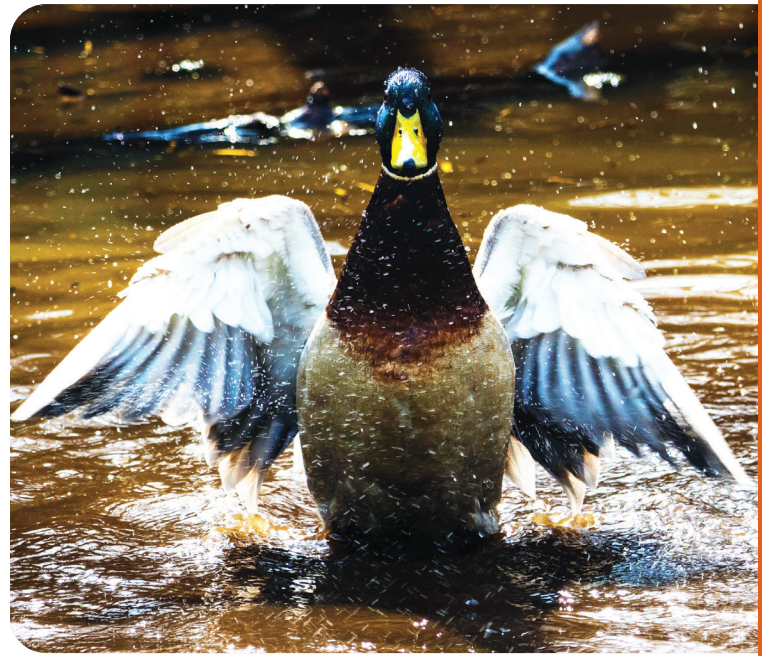
Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

GREAT LAKES MALLARD NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT

Mallard populations in the Great Lakes region have exhibited a recent decline, and estimates indicate their current population is 18% below the long-term average. Population levels have previously been shown to be coupled with water levels in the Great Lakes; however, this trend did not follow the most recent return of the Great Lakes to record high water levels. These home-grown mallards are a primary component of waterfowl harvest in the Great Lakes.

The Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Region Joint Venture has estimated an annual 1.5% increase in population size over the next 15 years will be required to eliminate the current population deficit of Great Lakes mallards. DU submitted and was awarded a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant based on the tenet of the Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Region Joint Venture that habitat conservation is the primary means to achieve bird population objectives.

The proposed work is focused on meeting the habitat needs of breeding mallards in the Great Lakes region, which will also directly benefit other wildlife on both public and private lands.



Thanks to the regional, multi-state Great Lakes Mallard NAWCA grant funding, DU and partners will be supporting work across Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, including projects on Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge and Forest Preserve District of Kane County's Burlington Prairie Preserve in addition to a significant investment into private lands work in Illinois.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Rivers and Prairies of Northwest Illinois NAWCA grant is the first of its kind in Northwest Illinois, and with funds secured, project implementation is expected to begin as soon as spring 2022. All told, DU and its partners at the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, Natural Lands Institute, Illinois Conservation Foundation, Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Audubon Society, Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, The Conservation Foundation, The Wetlands Initiative, Wetlands America Trust, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program to protect, restore, enhance, and create nearly 1,700 acres of waterfowl breeding and migration habitats across northwestern Illinois.

Illinois by the Numbers

2021

- 12 projects
- 718 acres conserved
- \$1,180,392 invested

HISTORICAL

- 67,388 acres conserved
- \$23,516,641 invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/illinois

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Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.DUCKS.ORG/ILLINOIS



**GREAT LAKES &
ATLANTIC REGION**

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