

CEDAR CREEK CORRIDOR PROTECTION AIDS WOOD DUCKS

Ducks Unlimited provided financial support to ACRES Land Trust from a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant to buy key wetland and upland properties along Cedar Creek. ACRES purchased two separate parcels totaling 115 acres in DeKalb County, expanding on additional Ducks Unlimited and ACRES project partnerships in northeastern Indiana. Protecting this corridor from development provides important nesting habitat for wood ducks and other forested wetland wildlife, as well as spring and fall migration habitat.

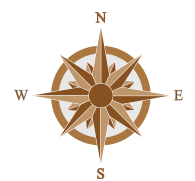


© ACRES Land Trust

RESTORING POTHOLE WETLANDS IN NORTHEAST INDIANA

During the last ice age thousands of shallow depressions formed at the intersection of the Lake Erie, Lake Michigan and Mississippi River watersheds in northeastern Indiana. Many of these historical wetlands have been drained with ditches and field tiles. Ducks Unlimited, along with its partners with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Indiana Department of Natural Resources, have worked since 2001 to deliver the Northeast Indiana Wetland and Grassland Restoration Program, a voluntary program that encourages private landowners to restore wetlands and grasslands on their property. Since its inception, the partnership

has completed 232 private land restoration projects in the 11-county project area, restoring 684 acres of wetlands and 1,543 acres of native grasslands. These pothole habitats help support breeding Great Lakes mallards that make up a large portion of Indiana hunters' harvest.



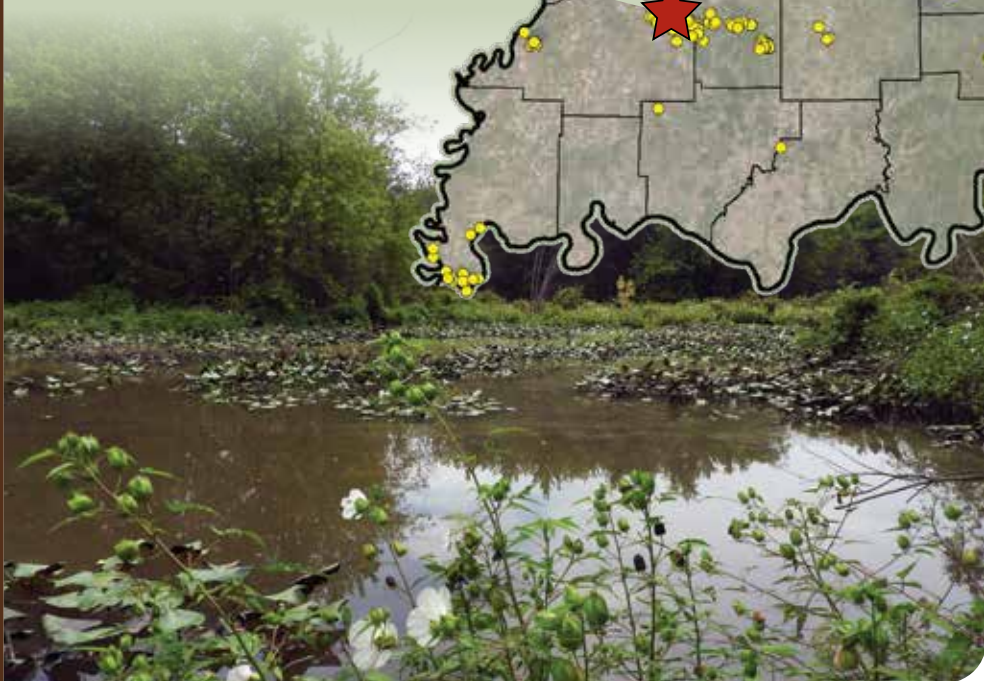
Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed ★ Featured
Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



DU HELPS GROW PATOKA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Using funding from a NAWCA grant, Indiana Ducks Unlimited license plate sales and support from the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited purchased 107 acres of high quality floodplain wetlands within Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge. The two tracts provide a diverse mix of forested, emergent, scrub-shrub and oxbow wetlands within the "Oatsville Bottoms" portion of Patoka River NWR in Pike and Gibson counties. Adjacent to numerous other previously-assisted Ducks Unlimited acquisitions, the property was donated to the FWS this past year and it will be open for public recreation.



MOIST SOIL UNITS ENHANCED AT MUSCATATUCK NWR

Ducks Unlimited provided cost-share assistance to Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge in Jackson County to upgrade its water control structures on three managed moist soil units. These projects, totaling 62 acres, will improve the FWS's management capabilities to provide high quality migration habitat for waterfowl. The refuge is an important waterfowl migration stop-over site in southeastern Indiana, and was originally established with Federal Duck Stamp funds. Ducks Unlimited funded the project using Indiana DU license plate sale funds.





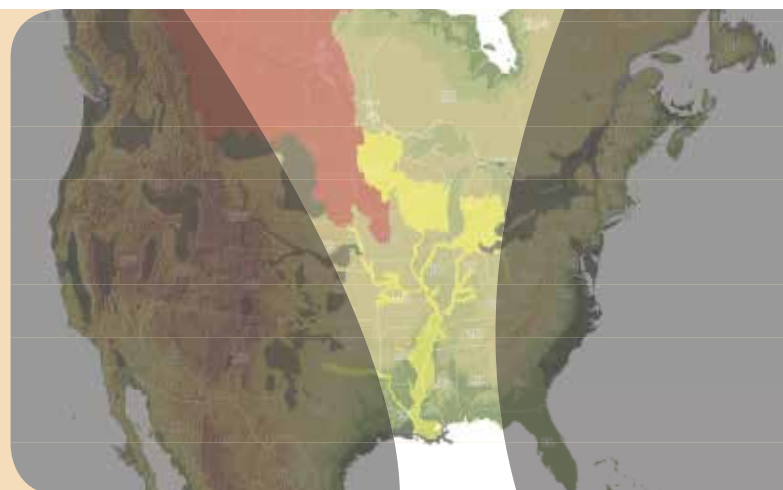
Crucial for duck breeding, migration and clean water, the health of Indiana's wetlands affect the quality of life for both waterfowl and people.

Northeast Indiana is one of the most important nesting areas in the Great Lakes region for mallards and other waterfowl, and is a popular spot for other species as well. Parts of the state also feature heavily traveled migration corridors, such as the Wabash River system. Birds funnel through the river system to wintering habitat in the southern part of the state and beyond.

The Wabash plays an important role for people, too. The lower Wabash River is one of the top contributors for nutrient runoff from rainwater. These pollutants make their way to the Mississippi River and eventually the Gulf of Mexico, where they contribute to gulf hypoxia. Gulf hypoxia is a lack of oxygen in the water, resulting in fish kills and disrupted ecosystems.

Indiana and its volunteer base support these wetlands through two important Ducks Unlimited conservation efforts, the Big Rivers Initiative and the Great Lakes Initiative. Located in the heart of the Mississippi River and its major tributaries, the Big Rivers Initiative focuses on the restoration, enhancement, and protection of wetlands used by millions of waterfowl as they migrate between wintering and breeding grounds each year.

The coastline of the five Great Lakes exceeds 10,000 miles and encircles approximately 20 percent of the world's fresh water. Through the Great Lakes Initiative, DU addresses these habitats and provide abundant resources for continentally significant numbers of breeding, migrating, and wintering waterfowl.



LOOKING AHEAD

Ducks Unlimited in 2018 and beyond will strategically continue its conservation work in Indiana.

Here are ongoing projects planned for this year:

- Completion of Northeast Morainal NAWCA grant
- Continuation of Northeast Indiana Wetland and Grassland Restoration Program
- Wetland restorations at Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area, Newton County
- Completion of Patoka River NWR expansion NAWCA grant
- Moist soil unit restorations, Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area, Posey County
- Additional Kankakee River projects, northwest Indiana



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Indiana is vital to the goals of Duck's Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region. The entire team in Indiana, including our volunteers, fundraising staff and conservation staff, has developed a winning strategy that grows stronger each year.

Our 21-state region had a tremendous impact on waterfowl habitat and water quality in 2017. We used private donations and public funds to invest nearly \$22 million on conservation projects. That strong support enabled our biologists and engineers to deliver focused, effective habitat conservation on 48,111 acres of wetlands.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers, conservation partners and financial supporters. The accomplishments of Ducks Unlimited are your accomplishments. As an organization, we can trumpet our success knowing how strongly equipped we are to improve the health of wetlands across North America for the next generation.

Thank you for believing in our mission, and for helping us reach our vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

David Brakhage, GLARO Director of Operations

INDIANA BY THE NUMBERS

2017

- 30 projects
- 653 acres conserved
- \$1,190,885 invested

HISTORICAL

- 544 projects
- 31,571.5 acres conserved
- \$18.1 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/indiana

INDIANA CONSERVATION STAFF

MICHAEL SERTLE, Regional Biologist, Illinois/Indiana
Contact: msertle@ducks.org • 618.883.2524

DANE CRAMER, Regional Biologist, Northeast Indiana/Michigan
Contact: dcramer@ducks.org • 734.623.2000

Michael Baker, Manager of Engineering Services

Ryan Conley, Engineer

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

Visit us online at www.ducks.org/indiana



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

WE'VE MOVED! Please note our new address
 7322 Newman Blvd., Building 1, Dexter, MI 48130
 Phone number: 734.623.2000