

INDIANA

2019 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT



WILLOW SLOUGH FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA

Newton County

Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area, located in the Kankakee and Iroquois River watersheds, is crucial for duck migration and breeding. With funding generated from the revenue of Indiana Ducks Unlimited specialty license plates and Ducks Unlimited Major Sponsors, Ducks Unlimited is assisting the Indiana Department of Natural Resources restore more than 200 acres of moist soil, emergent and forested wetlands. Ducks Unlimited provided survey and engineering design and the Indiana DNR will construct three new managed wetland units by 2020.



MUSCATATUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Jackson County

Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this year will complete enhancements to Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge in Jackson County. The Muscatatuck River Bottoms provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl, a mission of the refuge. The project will upgrade water-control structures on four moist soil units, totaling 103 acres. Manageable wetlands will improve moist soil production, increase waterfowl forage availability and help to improve public recreational opportunities. 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 Ducks Unlimited license plate sale funds.



PATOKA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Gibson County

The Sycamore Land Trust and National Wild Turkey Federation, with additional support from the Friends of Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited, acquired and permanently protected 62 acres of forested wetlands and prior-converted agricultural fields adjacent to the Patoka River as a part of Ducks Unlimited's \$1 million Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge Expansion North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant. The Patoka River Bottoms provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl. Ducks Unlimited has a long-standing partnership with these and other partners to acquire and restore these bottomland habitats for the benefit of both waterfowl and other wildlife.



HOVEY LAKE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA

Posey County

Ducks Unlimited is assisting the Indiana Department of Natural Resources restore more than 100 acres of moist soil, emergent and forested wetlands at Hovey Lake. The confluence area of the Wabash and Ohio Rivers provides important habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl. To address future migration and wintering needs, this project will increase wetland acreage and improve water-level management and wetland productivity. Ducks Unlimited provided survey and engineering design and the Indiana DNR will construct the project by 2020. Restored wetlands will lead to greater habitat diversity, more desired wetland management capabilities, enhanced water quality and more public recreational opportunity targeting hunting, bird watching and wildlife photography.

Conservation Spotlight:

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS OWN KEY TO CONSERVATION

Indiana has lost nearly 90% its historical wetlands to human development. What habitat remains often is found on private land, making landowners a crucial partner for Ducks Unlimited's conservation mission.

An important tool that funds these private partnerships is the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA). Partner organizations from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio are combining resources to work with private landowners to address water quality issues in the western Lake Erie region through habitat restoration.

Landowners across the state are opening their gates to Ducks Unlimited conservation efforts.

In 2014, Ducks Unlimited was awarded its first GLFWRA grant on behalf of the partnership with the goal of restoring 285 acres of wetlands and 125 acres of adjacent grasslands. The partnership was awarded a second grant in 2017 to restore an additional 250 acres of wetlands and 250 acres of grasslands, and in 2018 proposed a third phase to restore an additional 200 acres of wetlands.

“Restoring wetlands and grasslands in this area of extreme habitat loss is critical to the long-term sustainability of fish and wildlife populations in the region,” said Dane Cramer, Ducks Unlimited regional biologist in northeast Indiana.

The reduction of soil loss and other non-point sources higher in the watershed by this project have a direct benefit to the health of Lake Erie and the habitat it provides for fish and wildlife, recreational use by sportsmen and woman, and board economic benefits resulting from healthy water.

Partners include the Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio Departments of Natural Resources, the Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio Private Land Offices of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ottawa County [Ohio] Soil and Water Conservation District, and Ducks Unlimited.



LOOKING AHEAD

Northern Indiana

- Finish Northeast Morainal NAWCA grant and expand private lands programs with partners along several avenues.
- Ducks Unlimited has contributed to the DNR's recently awarded "Grasslands for Gamebirds" Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant to expand habitat blocks and public access in the northeast.
- Exploring opportunities to partner with the DNR to complete wetland projects at LaSalle, Kankakee, Tri-County and Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Areas.

Central Indiana

- Assist the DNR with new wetland restoration project at Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area and provide engineering assistance for new projects in the Hoosier National Forest.

Southern Indiana

- Complete the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge NAWCA grant, which will have acquired over an additional 3,000 acres of public land.
- Identify opportunities for additional project support to Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area.



INDIANA BY THE NUMBERS

2018

- 15 projects
- 274 acres conserved
- \$339,413 invested

HISTORICAL

- 559 projects
- 31,918 acres conserved
- \$18.5 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/indiana



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For more information visit us online at www.ducks.org/indiana

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



GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

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