

CEDAR SWAMP WCA SEES ENHANCEMENTS Steuben County

Ducks Unlimited and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are enhancing more than 400 acres of wetlands at Cedar Swamp, an important site for breeding and migrating waterfowl. With the assistance of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Steuben County Surveyor's Office is installing new infrastructure to manage water levels and wetland productivity. The enhanced habitat will lead to greater diversity, more desired wetland management capabilities, enhanced water quality and more public recreational opportunity targeting waterfowl hunting, bird watching and wildlife photography. Ducks Unlimited is using funding from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act along with DU and partner dollars.



LASALLE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA RESTORED

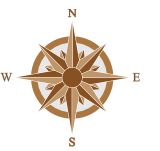
Newton County

Ducks Unlimited is helping the Indiana Department of Natural Resources restore a 218-acre tract of moist soil, emergent and forested wetlands at LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area. DU is using funds from the sale of Indiana DU license plates to complete the project. LaSalle is situated along the Kankakee River, which provides important breeding and migration habitat for waterfowl. This restoration will increase both the quality and acreage of wetland habitat, provide water quality benefits and further add to the acres available to public access.



GOOSE POND FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA IMPROVED Greene County

Ducks Unlimited has engineered plans and construction will start this year on a 220-acre enhancement and restoration at Goose Pond FWA. The project will add water management infrastructure, improving breeding and migration needs for waterfowl and habitat conditions for other wetland wildlife. The improvements will happen on Field B/C and Field O, with DU using revenue from Indiana Ducks Unlimited license plate sales and renewals.



Ducks Unlimited
PROJECTS

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST PROJECTS BEGIN

Orange County

The U.S. Forest Service and Ducks Unlimited have started identifying potential wetland project partnerships throughout the Hoosier National Forest. The first collaboration between the organizations is the 25-acre Patoka Creek Wetland Enhancement. Located in south-central Orange County, a previously restored wetland has become degraded and is in need of infrastructure upgrades. DU engineers recently provided project design support to the Forest Service for the upgrade, which the service plans to complete in 2020. This wetland provides important brood-rearing habitat for wood ducks and Canada geese and also offers migration habitat for a number of puddle duck species. As part of the Hoosier National Forest, this project is open to public recreation.



PATOKA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE GAINS 2,600 ACRES

Ducks Unlimited and numerous partners wrapped up a six-year, \$6-million effort to expand Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge in southern Indiana’s Gibson and Pike Counties.

The program acquired 25 individual properties totaling 2,564 acres and restored or enhanced an additional 199 acres of wetland and associated habitat. These acres are all open to the public access as part of the refuge.

Permanently protecting these properties was possible because of funding through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, with support from conservation partners, DU major donors and DU Indiana license plate sales. The benefits of these acquisitions will continue to unfold in coming years.

“Not only did this give us the ability to protect and improve thousands of acres of existing habitats, but it also allows us to restore hundreds of additional acres of wetlands and grasslands in the future,” said Michael Sertle, Ducks Unlimited regional biologist in Indiana.



Protecting these lands helps ensure their availability and management for migrating and wintering waterfowl. As migration and weather patterns change, a slow trend of waterfowl wintering further and further north requires that DU conserve not only migration but also important wintering habitat in southern Indiana.

As Ducks Unlimited moves forward with its Big Rivers Initiative, the conservation of these large landscape-level wetland habitat complexes become even more crucial to meeting our mission. To date, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and DU have protected more than 4,000 acres of wetland and upland habitat for inclusion into the refuge and have restored an additional 1,200 acres of wetlands and uplands.

The refuge is a gem for both ducks and people.

“A mixture of hardwood forest and remnant oxbows, this land provides important breeding, migration and wintering habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife,” Sertle said.

And the additional public access provides more recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, boating, bird watching and wildlife photography. The restoration and enhancement of these lands will provide water quality and flood storage improvements.

Ducks Unlimited partnered with the USFWS; Sycamore Land Trust; Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust; Peabody Energy Corporation; Indiana Wildlife Federation; the Nature Conservancy; National Wild Turkey Federation; Izaak Walton League; Evansville Audubon Society; Friends of Patoka River NWR; and Wildlife, Land, and Resource Management LLC on this program. Many of these groups are first-time NAWCA participants.



Northern Indiana

- Expansion of private lands program from northeast Indiana into the Kankakee River watershed.
- Support of DNR projects at Willow Slough, LaSalle and Kankakee.
- Share cost on Reynolds Creek Gamebird Habitat Area restoration.
- Completion of Northeast Morainal Wetlands North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant program.

Central Indiana

- Potential project assistance at Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area and in the Hoosier National Forest.

Southern Indiana

- Support of Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area and Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge projects.
- Potential project assistance at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge.

INDIANA BY THE NUMBERS

2019

- 14 projects
- 166 acres conserved
- \$340,860 invested

HISTORICAL

- 588 projects
- 32,795 acres conserved
- \$19 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/indiana



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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/INDIANA



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