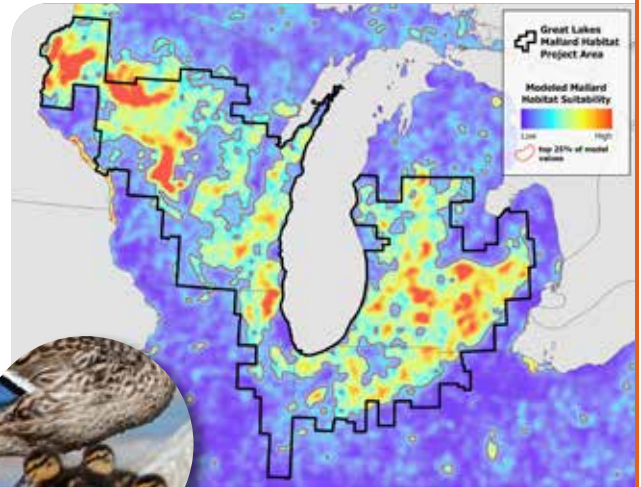


GREAT LAKES/ATLANTIC REGION

BIG RIVERS INITIATIVE

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. Great Lakes mallards are a significant component of waterfowl harvested in Indiana. An estimated 1.5% annual increase in population size over the next 15 years will be required to eliminate the current population deficit of Great Lakes mallards. In 2021, Ducks Unlimited (DU) was awarded a \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant focused on meeting the habitat needs of breeding mallards in the Great Lakes region. Thanks to the regional, multi-state grant funding, DU and partners will be supporting work across Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, including projects at four state-owned areas and a significant investment into private lands restoration work in Indiana.

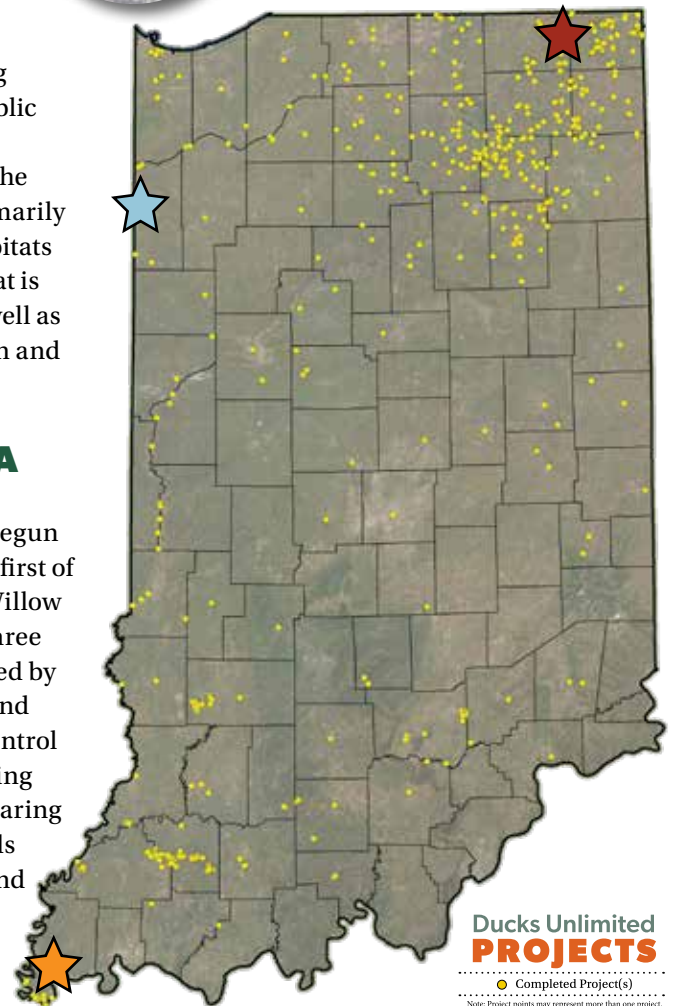


★ PIGEON RIVER FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Several wetland and upland projects at Pigeon River FWA are being developed to enhance habitat for breeding mallards as well as public hunting opportunities by DU and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Steuben and LaGrange Counties support some of the highest densities of suitable mallard breeding habitat in Indiana, primarily due to the expanse of small, morainal wetland basins and upland habitats typical of the prairie-hardwood transition. This combination of habitat is important for a variety of upland nesting waterfowl like mallards as well as gamebirds like wild turkeys that are important to Indiana's sportsmen and women.

★ WILLOW SLOUGH FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Willow Slough FWA is part of an 18,000-acre complex of wetland, prairie, and forest habitat for wildlife. The IDNR and DU have begun implementing the first of three projects at Willow Slough FWA. All three sites will be restored by plugging ditches and installing water control structures, providing extensive brood rearing habitat for mallards and wood ducks and other important waterbird species.



Ducks Unlimited
PROJECTS

● Completed Project(s)
Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

CONSERVING INDIANA WETLANDS WHILE YOU DRIVE!

The Indiana DU license plate is 1 of 138 different specialty plates currently available for purchase. When you purchase an Indiana DU specialty plate, \$25 from each new registration and registration renewal go directly to DU to be invested into habitat projects in Indiana! Sales in 2021 generated nearly \$55,000, when Indiana DU supporters registered or renewed 2,193 vehicles on Indiana's roads. Since the inception of the program in 2012, the DU License Plate program in Indiana has generated over \$400,000!

Funds from the specialty license plate program have been used to support wetland conservation projects at areas all across the state. When it's time for you to purchase or renew your license plate, consider DU's specialty plate, and help conserve habitat while you drive! Please visit in.gov/bmv for more information.



★ BEHIND-THE-LAKE WETLAND RESTORATION: HOVEY LAKE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

With funding generated from the sales and renewals of the Indiana DU Specialty License Plate, DU has developed the engineering design to restore three brand new wetland hunting units for the IDNR at Hovey Lake FWA. Development of the first of these three units is expected to begin as early as summer 2022. DU conservation staff will be working with IDNR staff to identify the funds necessary to continue with the construction of additional units. Once completed, the new

Behind-the-Lake wetland units will restore 126 acres of agricultural fields behind Hovey Lake back to annual, moist-soil wetlands and restore hydrology to 41 acres of bottomland forest.

The completion of the Behind-the-Lake units will provide new and improved public waterfowl hunting and bird-watching opportunities. It will also provide the IDNR tools to better manage flood events and improve water quality.



Indiana by the Numbers

2021

- 169 acres conserved
- \$346,917 invested

HISTORICAL

- 33,622 acres conserved
- \$17,563,677 invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/Indiana

Indiana Conservation Staff



← **DANE CRAMER**, Regional Biologist
dcramer@ducks.org • 618.622.8669

MADelyn MCFARLAND, Biologist
mmcfarland@ducks.org • 618.622.8669

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



GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

7322 Newman Blvd., Building 1, Dexter, MI 48130
Phone Number: 734.623.2000