

DU BOOSTS GOOSE POND HABITAT

Ducks Unlimited and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) completed the 40-acre Field E enhancement project at Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area near Linton that will help numerous wildlife species. The original Goose Pond was an active, healthy wetland created thousands of years ago by glaciers retreating across the landscape. The natural, thriving habitat was drained for development and agriculture over the last century. With prior assistance from DU, the IDNR purchased and began restoration of the 8,034-acre property in October 2005. Since that time, Ducks Unlimited has partnered on several habitat projects over the last decade.

Before



After



WETLAND MANAGEMENT IMPROVED AT HOVEY LAKE

Ducks Unlimited and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources partnered in 2016 to restore two wetland management units at Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area. Known as “Big Cypress” and “Iron Gate,” these two new wetlands totaled 13.4 acres. Thanks to funds generated by the Indiana Ducks Unlimited Specialty License Plate, these restorations are the first projects DU has assisted with at Hovey Lake in nearly a decade. DU will continue working with IDNR in 2017 to begin the planning and restoration of the another three wetland management units.



NORTHEAST POTHOLES RESTORED ACROSS 11 COUNTIES

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 & Wildlife Service 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. Supported with grant funds from the North

American Wetlands Conservation Act, a recently completed phase of this program has restored an additional 208 acres of wetlands and 228 acres of grasslands. Since its inception, and with the completion of this grant in late 2016, the partnership has now completed 217 private land restoration projects in the 11-county project area, restoring 497 acres of wetlands and 1,438 acres of native grasslands.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

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

OVER 2,000 ACRES ACQUIRED AT PATOKA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Over the last three years Ducks Unlimited has acquired 2,354 acres at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Indiana. The new parcels have been acquired in part by a \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant awarded in 2014.

Permanently protecting this land helps ensure its availability and management for migrating and wintering waterfowl. As migration and weather patterns change, a slow trending of waterfowl wintering further north requires conserving not only migration, but also important wintering habitat in southern Indiana. So far the Fish and Wildlife Service and DU have permanently protected more than 4,500 acres of wetland and upland habitat at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and have restored an additional 1,300 acres of wetland and upland habitat.





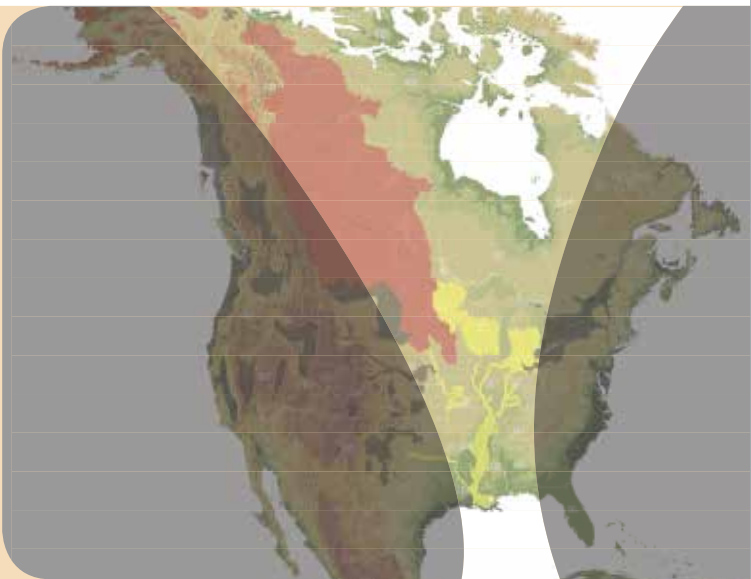
Crucial for duck breeding, migration and clean water, the health of Indiana’s wetlands affect the quality of life for both waterfowl and people.

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 Great Lakes Initiative and the Big Rivers 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 2017 and beyond will strategically continue its conservation work in Indiana. Plans include:

Lower Wabash River – Maintain and increase focus on the conservation of the floodplain habitats associated with the Wabash River and its major tributaries south of Terre Haute. DU is working to expand its focus on public lands and begin to assist with private lands also.

LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area – DU will use license plate funds to help enhance a 40-acre wetland management unit at LaSalle in Newton County.

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge – To address landscape-scale waterfowl habitat needs state-wide, Ducks Unlimited will continue discussions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about upgrading many of the water control structures at Muscatatuck.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ducks Unlimited is celebrating our 80th anniversary in 2017. As an organization, we can trumpet our accomplishments knowing how strongly equipped we are to improve the health of wetlands across North America for the next generation.

The 21-state Great Lakes/Atlantic Region is a diverse landscape of habitats ranging from prairie potholes in the upper Midwest to coastal estuaries in the Atlantic Flyway, with Great Lakes marshes and riverine wetlands in between. Our region had a tremendous impact in 2016. We used private donations and public funds to invest \$29,049,039 on conservation projects. That strong support enabled our biologists and engineers to deliver focused, effective habitat conservation on 15,616 acres of wetlands.

Indiana is vital to the goals of our region and the country. The entire team in Indiana, including our volunteers, fundraising staff and conservation staff, has developed a winning strategy that helps waterfowl and anyone who enjoys clean water.

The work you see in this report is a snapshot of the conservation Ducks Unlimited achieves every day. We need and appreciate your support, as we build on this success for the next 80 years.

David Brakhage, GLARO Director of Operations

INDIANA BY THE NUMBERS
2016 HISTORICAL

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| • 19 projects | • 514 projects |
| • 1,008 acres conserved | • 30,720 acres conserved |
| • \$647,960 invested | • \$16,905,386 invested |

For more information visit www.ducks.org/indiana

MEET YOUR INDIANA CONSERVATION STAFF



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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.



GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

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