



RESCUE OUR WETLANDS
Banding Together for Waterfowl

IOWA

GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION • 2018 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT

CLEMENS WETLAND RESTORATION BENEFITS WILDLIFE AND WATER QUALITY IN DICKINSON COUNTY

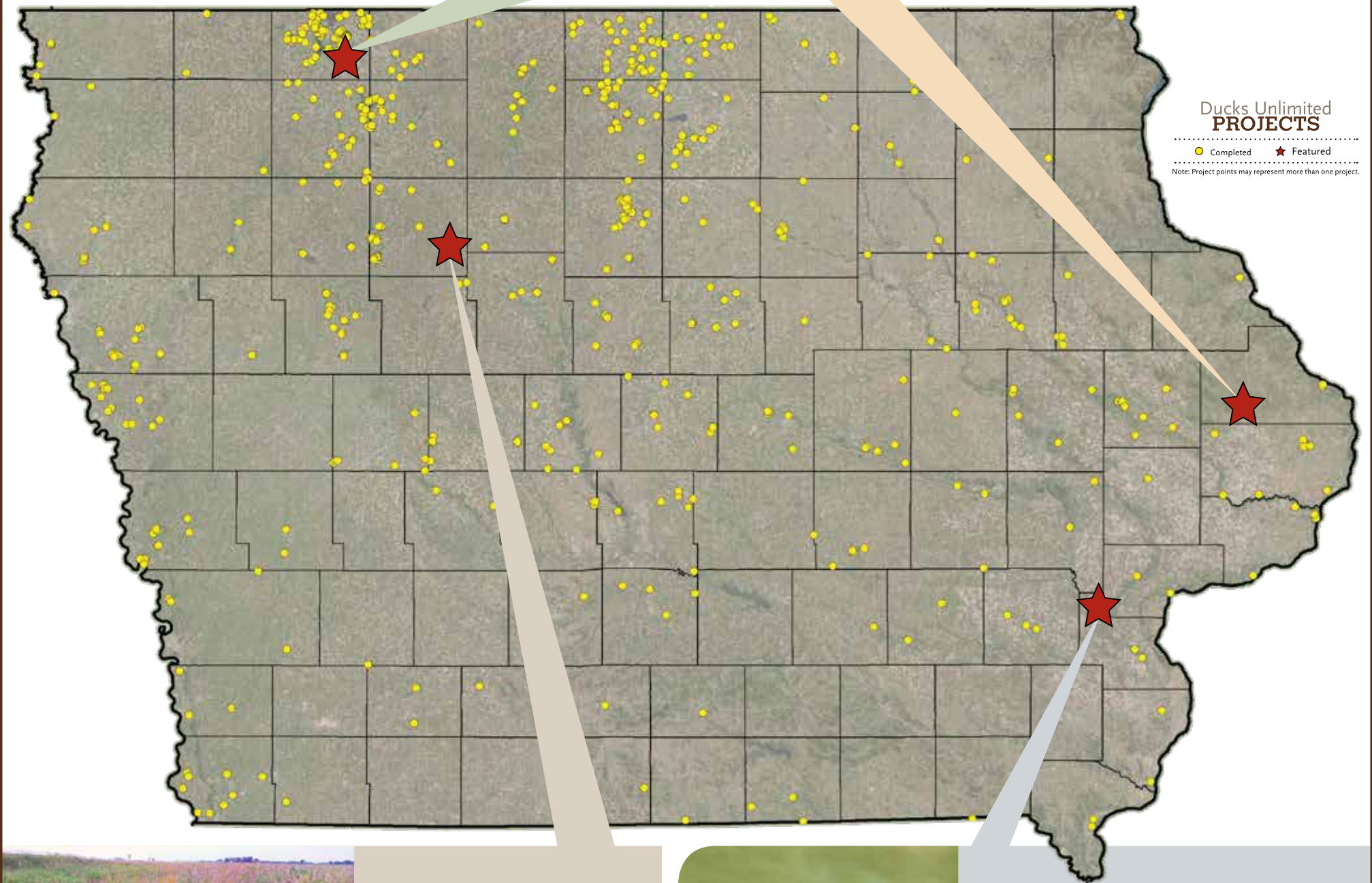
Ducks Unlimited in 2017 completed the Clemens Tract Wetland Restoration with the construction of a large water-control structure on Spring Run Creek. This project restores a 20-acre wetland, adding to an extensive prairie/wetland complex. The new wetland will remove excess nutrients from stream water before



it flows into Lower Gar Lake, improving water quality within the Spirit Lake Watershed. Funding for this project was made available by Ducks Unlimited, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Iowa DNR and the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission.

DUCKS UNLIMITED, JACKSON COUNTY ENHANCE HURSTVILLE MARSH

The Hurstville Interpretive Center, operated by the Jackson County Conservation Board, offers visitors a chance to explore a restored prairie and wetland. The water supply for the 26-acre wetland had been diminished over the years, resulting in a dry basin most years. Ducks Unlimited partnered with Jackson County to design a new water delivery system that pumps water from the nearby Maquoketa River to fill the wetland. The new system allowed managers to completely fill the wetland this fall for the first time in years.



ACQUISITION HELPS PROTECT LIZARD LAKE WATERSHED

Ducks Unlimited, through a NAWCA grant, provided funds to the Pocahontas County Conservation Board to purchase 119 acres adjacent to Lizard Lake. This tract of wetlands and prairie provides a buffer on the west side of the lake, improving water quality and providing new public recreation opportunities.



CONE MARSH WETLAND ENHANCEMENT AIDS DUCK MIGRATION

The quality of wetland habitat on Cone Marsh Wildlife Management Area received a major boost in October with the installation of a new water-control structure. A dilapidated structure prevented the Iowa Department of Natural Resources from managing water levels to maximize waterfowl habitat. Ducks Unlimited staff designed and installed a new structure that will allow the DNR to produce more waterfowl food, and flood that food for migrating ducks.

IOWA: RESTORING THE LANDSCAPE

Iowa is a state rich in waterfowl history battling to protect what remains of its vital waterfowl habitat.

The state is an important transition zone from the breeding areas of the Prairie Pothole Region to the major migration areas. The northern reaches of the state are in breeding grounds rich in bird life in spring and summer. In fall, birds can be found in the southeast as they transition to wintering areas.

But Iowa has lost nearly 90 percent of its historical wetlands to development and agriculture. Ducks Unlimited is working on two major initiatives in Iowa, the Living Lakes Initiative and the Big Rivers Initiative.

WHAT'S NEXT?

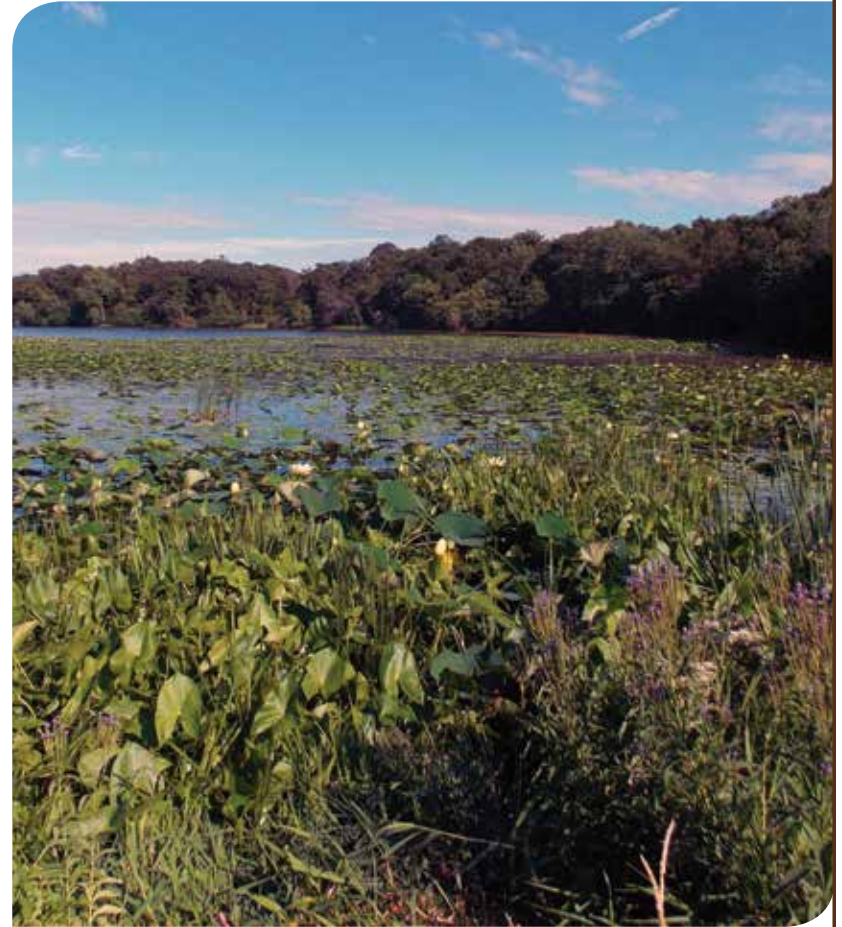
A \$250,000 grant from Wells Fargo will enable Ducks Unlimited to provide Iowa residents and wildlife cleaner water, thanks to improved wetland habitats. Through the grant, Ducks Unlimited will work with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to restore vital wetlands to reduce nutrient runoff, improve water quality, reduce downstream flooding and provide waterfowl and wildlife habitat. Part of the grant will pay for wetland restoration in heavily farmed areas through the state's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The CREP construction work will occur in summer 2018. The grant will help fund about five projects that will help filter runoff from approximately 6,000 acres of farmland.

Living Lakes Initiative projects in 2018:

- Garlock Slough enhancement, Dickinson County
- Kiowa Marsh Wildlife Area pothole and wetland restoration, Sac County
- Morse Lake enhancement, Wright County
- West Swan Lake enhancement, Emmet County

Big Rivers Initiative projects in 2018:

- Banner Flats wetland enhancement, Warren County
- Buffalo Creek wetland restoration, Delaware County
- Dudgeon Lake wetland restoration, Benton County
- Whitebreast Creek wetland restoration, Lucas County



HELP FUND THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND OUTDOOR RECREATION TRUST FUND

The Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund is a permanent, protected funding source approved by voters in 2010 to conserve Iowa's natural resources. Even though the trust has been created, the legislature has not passed the 3/8 of one cent sales tax to fund it. Funding the trust would provide \$180 million annually, with several million dollars for wetlands and waterfowl conservation. Contact your legislators today! Tell them to support funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Fund. For details, including how to reach your lawmaker and what to tell them, visit www.ducks.org/iowa.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Iowa is vital to the goals of Duck's Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region. The entire team in Iowa, 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

IOWA BY THE NUMBERS

2017

- 9 projects
- 1,281 acres conserved
- \$1,951,177 invested

HISTORICAL

- 76,232 acres conserved
- \$28,814,363 invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/iowa

IOWA 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.

Visit us online at www.ducks.org/iowa



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

WE'VE MOVED! Please note our new address
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