



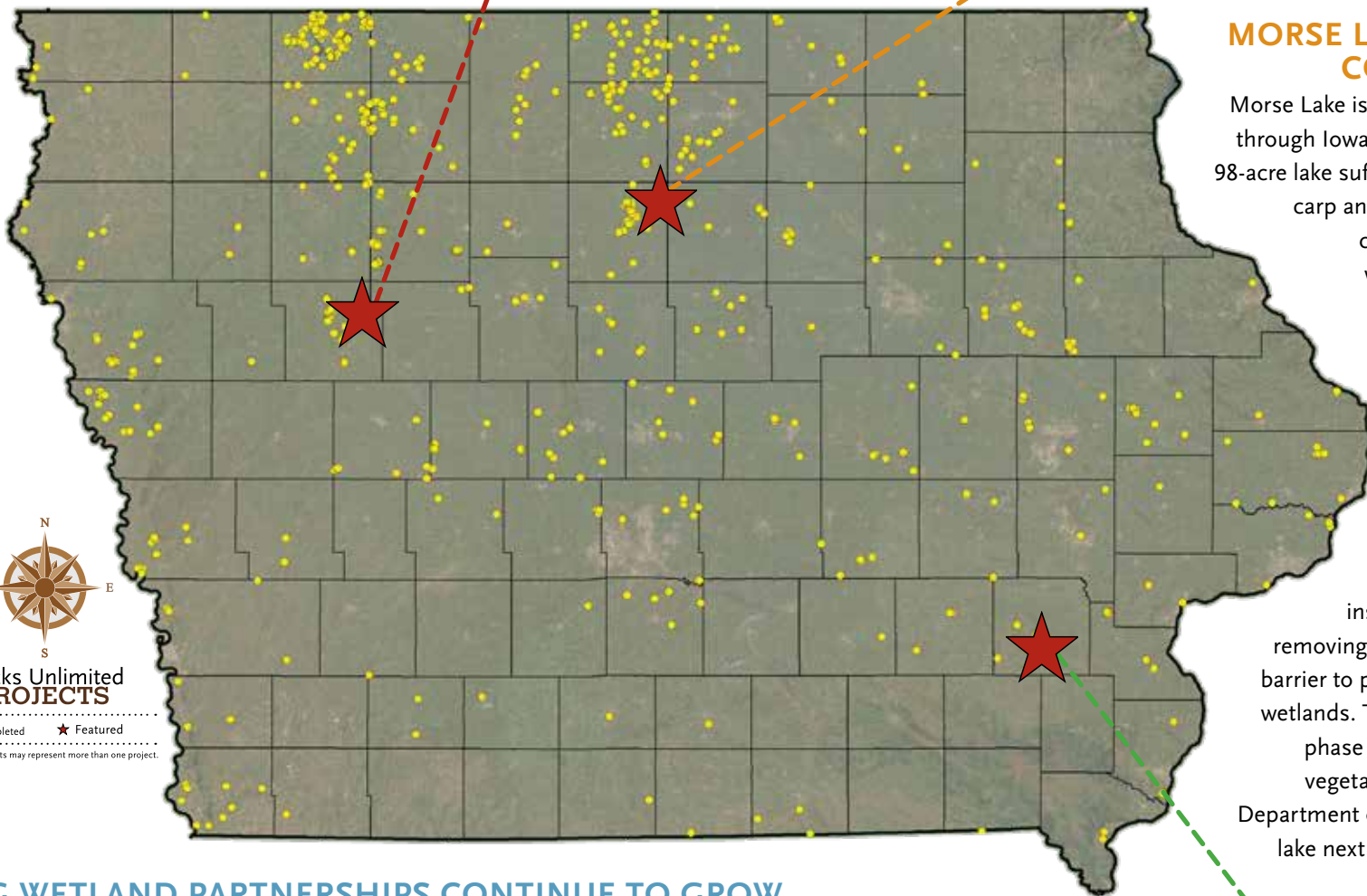
NEXT STEPS IMPROVE KIOWA MARSH Sac County

Ducks Unlimited overcame abnormally wet weather and adverse working conditions in 2019 to successfully complete the Kiowa North wetland on Kiowa Marsh Wildlife Management Area near Early. The project restored a 65-acre semi-permanent wetland that will provide habitat for both breeding and migrating waterfowl. This project follows the 2018 restoration of a series of small potholes in an upland tract on the wildlife area, designed to attract nesting ducks such as mallards and blue-winged teal. Together, these two projects greatly improve opportunities for both waterfowl and hunters.



MORSE LAKE ENHANCEMENT COMPLETED Wright County

Morse Lake is the latest shallow lake enhanced through Iowa DU's Living Lakes Initiative. The 98-acre lake suffered from the effects of invasive carp and inadequate water management capabilities, resulting in degraded water quality, limited recreational opportunities and poor fish and wildlife habitat. DU engineers designed a new outlet structure which allows the Iowa DNR to manage water levels for improved fish and wildlife habitat. At the same time, the project enhanced two smaller seasonal wetlands by installing a water-control structure, removing drainage tile and installing a fish barrier to prevent carp from re-infesting the wetlands. The lake is currently in drawdown phase for another year to allow wetland vegetation to get established. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will refill the lake next year and restock with native fish.



AG WETLAND PARTNERSHIPS CONTINUE TO GROW

Ducks Unlimited expanded its partnership with Iowa Department of Agriculture and Lands Stewardship (IDALS) in 2019 by sharing the construction costs of four new wetlands. These projects, in Buena Vista, Carroll, Hardin and Story Counties, restored about 77 acres of wetlands and 50 acres of native grass uplands. The wetlands have proven attractive to migrating diving ducks and breeding trumpeter swans. The IDALS program builds wetlands in agricultural landscapes that are designed to remove excess nutrients flowing out of drainage systems. Research by Iowa State University has shown that properly sized and located wetlands can remove up to 75 percent of nitrates from tile drain water. DU's partnership on this project was made possible by generous support from Nestlé Purina.

DU NAWCA GRANT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY ACQUISITION

Using funds provided by a Ducks Unlimited-administered North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, Iowa Department of Natural Resources acquired an addition to the Rubio Wildlife Management Area. This 53-acre tract sits adjacent to the Skunk River and will provide habitat for migrating waterfowl such as mallards and Canada geese. Funding for the project was provided by Iowa DNR and the Conserving the Upper Mississippi Migration Corridor NAWCA grant. The grant will provide funds for 12 habitat projects in eastern Iowa.



DONATIONS RESULTS IN THOUSANDS OF NEST BOXES FOR IOWA WOOD DUCKS

Iowa's nesting wood ducks received a major boost thanks to KPI Concepts in West Burlington and the determination of Iowa Ducks Unlimited volunteers.

KPI Concepts manufactures precision cabinets and plywood components to support Iowa's burgeoning wind turbine industry. Plywood waste is generated during the manufacturing process, and KPI wanted to do something productive with this material. Rather than chipping and discarding excess plywood, KPI's computer-guided equipment now turns this waste into kits for wood duck nest boxes.

Once the kits are cut out and stacked on pallets, DU's Regional Directors distribute them to DU volunteers around the state. KPI estimates it has distributed more than 2,500 kits over the last year and a half.

Assembling and installing the nest boxes has become a popular activity for DU chapters, outdoor education classes and school groups. One example is the Wildlife and Natural Resources class at Unity Christian High School in Orange City, Iowa. Students in Dennis Benson's class assembled 20 nest boxes while also learning about waterfowl biology. In early 2020 the boxes will be erected along the Floyd River in Sioux County, just in time for use by nesting wood ducks.

"KPI and these students are making a direct impact on the health of Iowa waterfowl, and Ducks Unlimited is grateful for their commitment to conservation," said Mike Shannon, Ducks Unlimited regional biologist in Iowa.



GOVERNOR GIVES BOOST TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND OUTDOOR RECREATION TRUST FUND

Ducks Unlimited and its conservation partners applaud the announcement by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds encouraging legislators to improve water quality and soil health by fully funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.

"Gov. Reynolds showed strong leadership in her desire to give our children and grandchildren healthier soils, waters and wildlife," said Ducks Unlimited CEO Adam Putnam. "Funding the Trust would give farmers and conservation partners the resources to work cooperatively to make historic improvements on Iowa's landscape."

The Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund is a permanent and constitutionally protected funding source overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2010 to conserve Iowa's natural resources. Years later, the Trust Fund sits empty. When funded, it will create a permanent, accountable source of revenue to improve fish and wildlife habitat, soil and water conservation, and quality of life throughout all 99 counties.

The trust would provide significant funding for investments in voluntary soil and water conservation practices and technology that could improve yields and profits on Iowa farms, while conserving essential soil and water resources consistent with Iowa's Nutrient Management Strategy. Learn more at www.ducks.org/iowa.



LOOKING AHEAD

- Ducks Unlimited's Missouri River Valley Wetlands proposal for North American Wetlands Conservation Act funding has been approved for funding. The grant will fund conservation projects on 11 tracts of land along the Missouri River from Sioux City, Iowa to Mound City, Missouri. The grant will create and enhance a series of wetlands to act as steppingstones for birds as they migrate along the Missouri River. The project partners will acquire 1,575 acres of wetlands and adjacent uplands for public use and restore or enhance an additional 3,043 acres of wetland habitat. Grant activities are expected to start this spring.
- Projects include an intensive effort to renovate the water management system on Riverton Wildlife Management Area in the extreme southwest corner of Iowa. The project will improve the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' ability to establish abundant wetland foods for migrating ducks such as pintails, green-winged teal and mallards. DU will also provide grant funding to the Iowa DNR to purchase 750 acres of river bottom habitat in Monona County near Onowa. This land will add to an extensive complex of public land near the Teiville Bend Wildlife Management Area.

IOWA BY THE NUMBERS

2019

- 478 acres conserved
- \$1,025,596 million invested

HISTORICAL

- 79,002 acres conserved
- \$32.2 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/iowa



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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/IOWA



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