



Photo by Caleb Kenna, courtesy of Vermont Land Trust



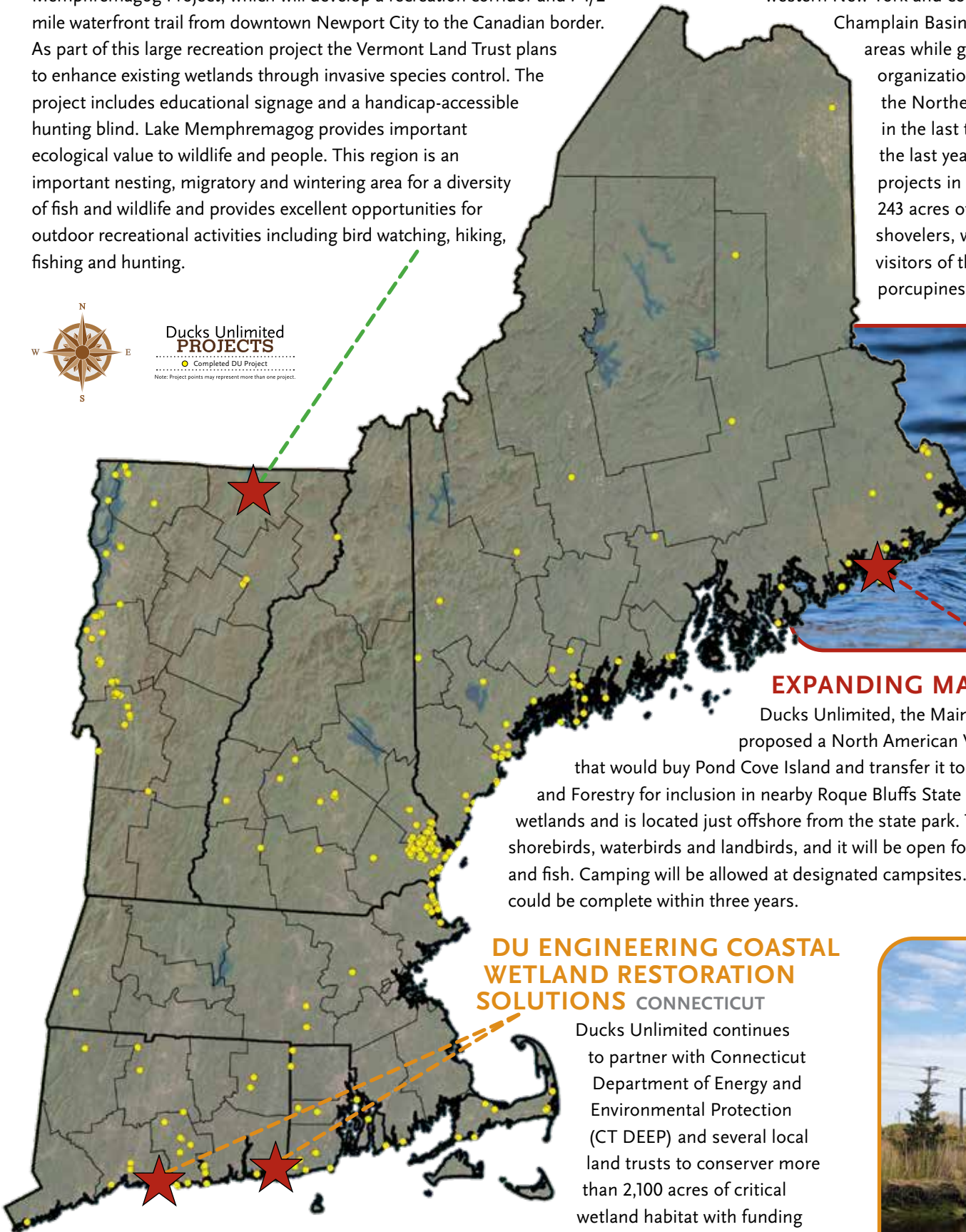
### DU HELPS VERMONT LAND TRUST CREATE RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

Newport City, VT

Ducks Unlimited, the Vermont Land Trust and local partners are advancing the Lake Memphremagog Project, which will develop a recreation corridor and 7-1/2 mile waterfront trail from downtown Newport City to the Canadian border. As part of this large recreation project the Vermont Land Trust plans to enhance existing wetlands through invasive species control. The project includes educational signage and a handicap-accessible hunting blind. Lake Memphremagog provides important ecological value to wildlife and people. This region is an important nesting, migratory and wintering area for a diversity of fish and wildlife and provides excellent opportunities for outdoor recreational activities including bird watching, hiking, fishing and hunting.



Ducks Unlimited  
**PROJECTS**  
● Completed DU Project  
○ Pending DU Project  
Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



### REPLACING WHAT'S LOST THROUGH MITIGATION

NEW YORK/VERMONT

In the Atlantic Flyway, DU's mitigation program is most active in central and western New York and covers priority areas within Vermont, including the Lake Champlain Basin. Ducks Unlimited protects and restores important areas while generating some profit that can be used to cover organizational costs and boost long-term land protection funds. In the Northeast, 1,655 acres have been protected through mitigation in the last three years alone. DU's third mitigation construction in the last year is underway, and the program will build out several projects in New York and Vermont in the next few years, including 243 acres of land near Barton, VT for wetland mitigation. Northern shovelers, wood ducks, mallards and mergansers are frequent visitors of these sites, as are moose, bear, bobcats, fishers, porcupines and numerous songbirds.



### EXPANDING MAINE'S CONSERVED LANDSCAPE

Ducks Unlimited, the Maine Coast Heritage Trust and several other partners have proposed a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, with one project that would buy Pond Cove Island and transfer it to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for inclusion in nearby Roque Bluffs State Park. Pond Cove Island features 37 acres of intertidal wetlands and is located just offshore from the state park. The property is in national priority areas for waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds and landbirds, and it will be open for kayakers and boaters to birdwatch, picnic, hike, hunt and fish. Camping will be allowed at designated campsites. Pending grant funding approval, the land transfer could be complete within three years.

### DU ENGINEERING COASTAL WETLAND RESTORATION SOLUTIONS

CONNECTICUT

Ducks Unlimited continues to partner with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and several local land trusts to conserve more than 2,100 acres of critical wetland habitat with funding

from North American Wetlands Conservation

Act. DU engineers in 2020 are working with CT DEEP to restore 142 acres of saltmarsh at Barn Island Wildlife Management Area. DU's engineering team is also helping CT DEEP evaluate coastal wetland restoration options at Sluice Creek in New Haven County. Sluice Creek is at the mouth of the East River, within Guilford Harbor. The multi-year project would include DU helping with design and delivery of this coastal wetland restoration.



## DU CONTINUES TO RESTORE FORMER MASSACHUSETTS CRANBERRY BOGS

Massachusetts cranberry bog farms have taken root in the economy and culture for 200 years. To create these Cape Cod farms generations ago, farmers altered the landscape to hold and manage water for optimum cranberry growing conditions. The farms often replaced coastal wetlands, and the valuable migrating bird habitat these wetlands offered.

But Massachusetts' iconic cranberry industry is in a state of transition. Thousands of acres of cranberry farmland are expected to retire due to falling prices, over supply, an aging cohort of farmers, environmental challenges and other factors. Significant opportunities exist for Ducks Unlimited to address natural resources concerns through land conservation and wetland restoration by working cooperatively with Massachusetts state agencies and willing landowners.

The Massachusetts Legislature convened a Cranberry Revitalization Taskforce in 2016 to address these challenges. One recommendation was to provide an "exit strategy" involving land conservation and wetland restoration. The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration built a state-level program to coordinate the restoration and protection of retired cranberry farmland – and Ducks Unlimited is one of the partners helping with the restoration projects.

Restoration of cranberry bogs often include ditch plugging, dam removal, surface roughening and microtopography grading, channel and floodplain reconstruction, sand removal, and planting with native species. These sites have responded dramatically and the long-term benefits include improved fish and wildlife habitat, improved water quality and long-term resiliency in a critical coast marsh system.

### Ongoing projects include:

**Foothills Preserve, Plymouth, Mass.** – Ducks Unlimited and several partners are finalizing a cranberry bog restoration project. The project is restoring a 45-acre wetland located on a newly protected 84-acre parcel. Partners include the town of Plymouth, Mass Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Ecological Restoration.

**Upper Childs River Partnership, Falmouth, Mass.** – DU is supporting the Upper Childs River Restoration project with The Falmouth Rod and Gun Club, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Ecological Restoration and others. The project will restore coastal marshes by removing an earthen dam, replacing culverts, removing barriers and restoring two abandoned cranberry bogs to wetlands. Partners are seeking federal funding to advance this project, and Ducks Unlimited is a matching cost-share partner. If awarded the project could be delivered within three years.



*Inset: Several conservation organizations including Ducks Unlimited visit Foothills Preserve in July to discuss restoration plans.*

*Main: This former cranberry bog will return to a coastal wetland.*

## LOOKING AHEAD

- Coastal salt marshes and freshwater bays have been elevated to the highest priority for the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV). Ducks Unlimited continues to focus our conservation efforts on partnerships that ensure an active presence in restoration and protection of coastal wetlands and inland freshwater habitat. DU has worked closely with the ACJV to advance species habitat plans for three flagship species, the Black Rail, Salt Marsh Sparrow and the American Black duck.
- The ACJV has completed the first of several strategic planning documents that will help lead future conservation in the Atlantic Flyway – The Salt Marsh Bird Conservation Plan.
- Ducks Unlimited will use this plan to help guide work in the highest priority strategies needed to conserve the whole suite of salt-marsh-dependent birds throughout the Atlantic Coast, with a focus on high marsh species experiencing the most serious declines. The plan outlines strategies and actions for habitat conservation as well as policy and outreach needs.



## NEW ENGLAND BY THE NUMBERS

Historical conservation totals for Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island:

- **Over 40,000 acres conserved**
- **\$9 million invested**

For more information visit [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)

## NEW ENGLAND 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.DUCKS.ORG](http://WWW.DUCKS.ORG)



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