

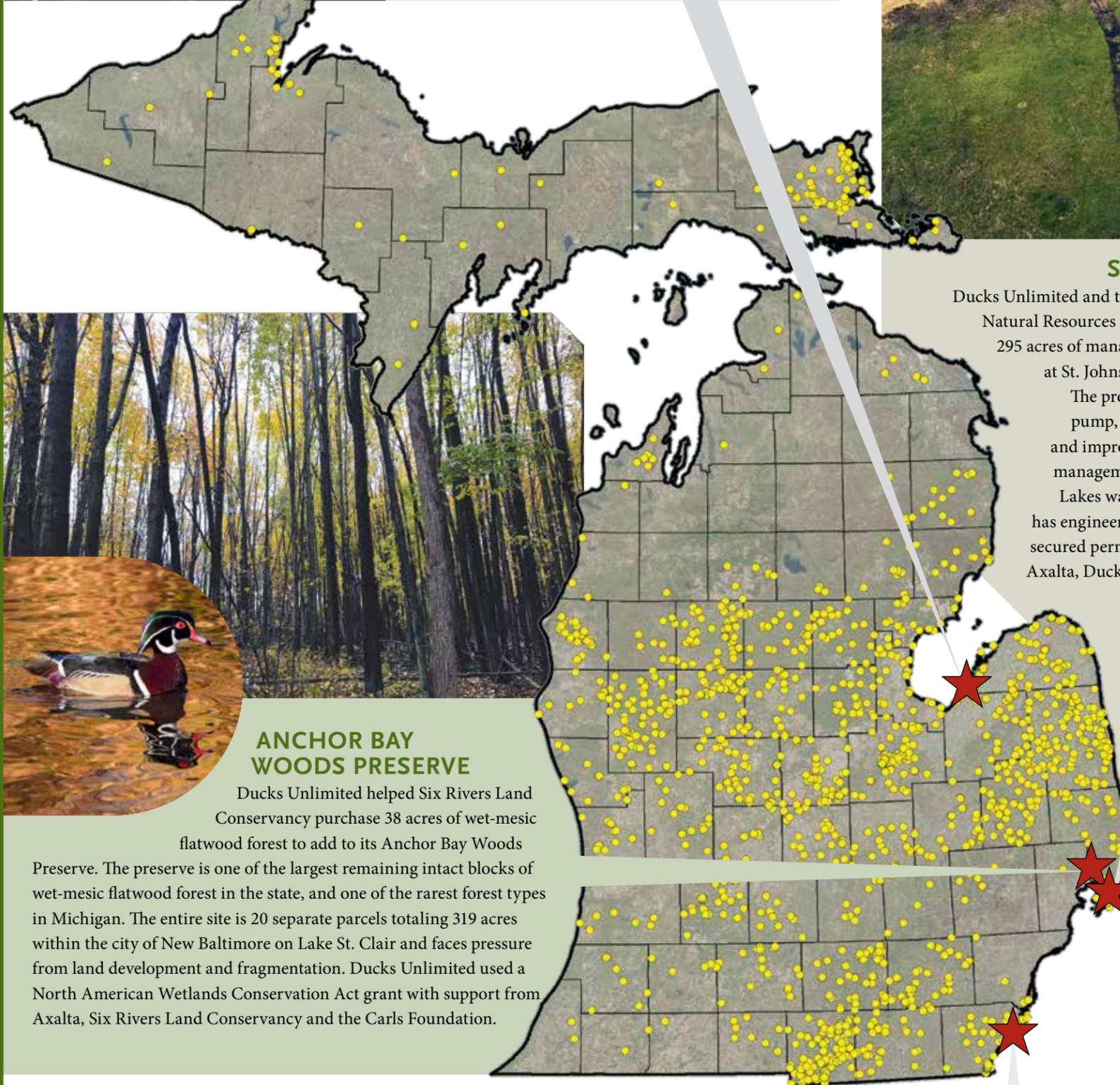
MICHIGAN

2019 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT



SAGINAW BAY LAND GIFT

Fifth-generation landowners James and DeAnn Sattelberg have gifted 250 acres of their 2,500-acre operation to Ducks Unlimited, tracts of crucial duck habitat near Saginaw Bay in the state's Thumb region valued at \$462,000. The gifted land was historically wet and proved cost prohibitive to farm. The Sattelbergs, Ducks Unlimited Legacy Supporters, turned to Ducks Unlimited to see the land improved and used for annual youth hunts. "We're supposed to be stewards of the land," said Jim Sattelberg. "We shouldn't just be using it for our own benefit, we should be protecting it for future generations."



ST. JOHNS MARSH

Ducks Unlimited and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 2019 will enhance 295 acres of managed coastal wetland habitat at St. Johns Marsh State Wildlife Area.

The project will replace an existing pump, allowing for adequate water and improved coastal wetland habitat management under fluctuating Great Lakes water levels. Ducks Unlimited has engineered the project and the DNR secured permits. Funding is provided by Axalta, Ducks Unlimited, DNR, St. Clair Flats Waterfowler's Inc. and a grant secured by Ducks Unlimited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act.



ANCHOR BAY WOODS PRESERVE

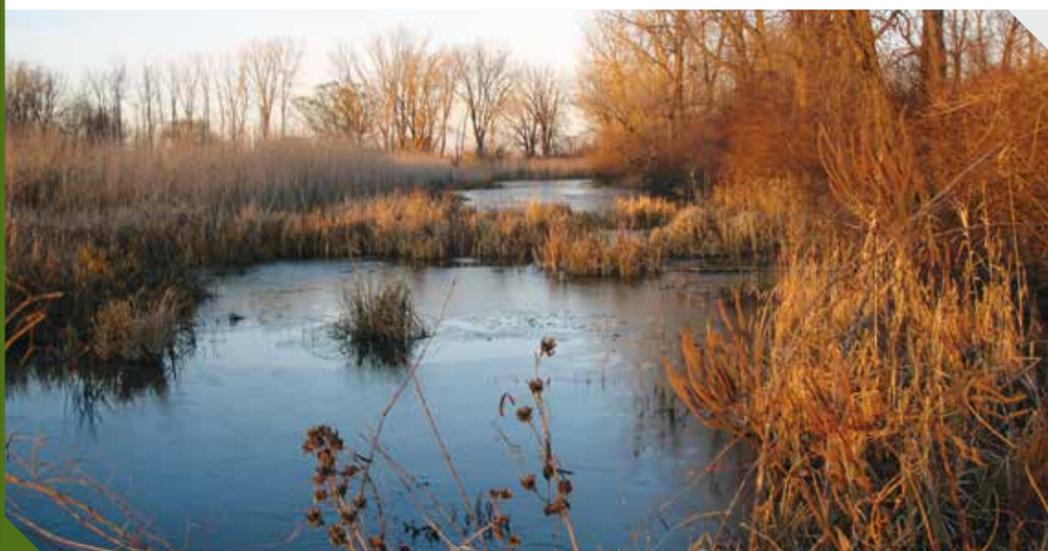
Ducks Unlimited helped Six Rivers Land Conservancy purchase 38 acres of wet-mesic flatwood forest to add to its Anchor Bay Woods Preserve.

The preserve is one of the largest remaining intact blocks of wet-mesic flatwood forest in the state, and one of the rarest forest types in Michigan. The entire site is 20 separate parcels totaling 319 acres within the city of New Baltimore on Lake St. Clair and faces pressure from land development and fragmentation. Ducks Unlimited used a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant with support from Axalta, Six Rivers Land Conservancy and the Carls Foundation.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

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



WILLIAM C. STERLING STATE PARK

Ducks Unlimited and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) installed a fish passage and a wetland water-level management structure at William C. Sterling State Park, one of the most visited state parks in Michigan. This structure allows for direct connection to Lake Erie and enhances habitat management of 90 acres of coastal wetlands. The project is near the Lake Erie public boat launch at Sterling State Park and will be open to hunting and other recreational uses. Sterling adds to several coastal wetland projects Ducks Unlimited and DNR State Parks have completed since the onset of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in 2010. This project was funded by the DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Ducks Unlimited through license plate sales and support from corporate partner Axalta.

Conservation Spotlight:

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS OWN KEY TO CONSERVATION

Michigan has lost more than half of its historical wetlands to human development. What habitat remains often is found on private land, making landowners a crucial partner for Ducks Unlimited's conservation mission.

Kim Bayer and her Ann Arbor property illustrates how landowners can make a living while promoting wetland habitat. She operates Slow Farm, an organic practice that grows produce for customers to pick themselves. But she also partnered with Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Michigan DNR to restore 80 acres of grasslands and wetlands on the property.

Bayer is able to combine healthy wildlife habitat and healthy eating. The site not only is beneficial to her farming operation, but it provides nesting habitat for mallards. "It's getting back to the idea of a more biodiverse landscape and low-input way of growing food over a long-term period," Bayer said.

Landowners across the state have opened their gates to Ducks Unlimited. An important tool that funds these private partnerships in the western Lake Erie region is the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA). Partner organizations from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio are combining resources to work with private landowners to address water quality issues in Lake Erie through habitat restoration.

In 2014, Ducks Unlimited was awarded its first GLFWRA grant on behalf of the partnership with the goal of restoring 285 acres of wetlands and 125 acres of adjacent grasslands. The partnership was awarded a second grant in 2017 to restore an additional 250 acres of wetlands and 250 acres of grasslands, and in 2018 proposed a third phase to restore an additional 200 acres of wetlands.

"Restoring wetlands and grasslands in this area of extreme habitat loss is critical to the long-term sustainability of fish and wildlife populations in the region," said Dane Cramer, Ducks Unlimited regional biologist in Michigan. "There's a nearly inexhaustible opportunity to restore habitat on private lands."



Kim Bayer blends organic farming with conservation practices.



Matt Matuszak's restored ponds on his Washtenaw County property attract wildlife throughout the year.

LOOKING AHEAD

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

DU and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will construct over 1 1/2 miles of earthen berms within Maankiki Marsh at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County to protect existing infrastructure from the erosive forces of wave fetch and protect previous investments in this restoration project. Construction will happen through summer.

Detroit International Wildlife Refuge

In partnership with the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Ducks Unlimited will restore and enhance the 25-acre Lady of the Lake Unit in Monroe County. Installation of a new pump and water control structure will replicate natural coastal wetland hydrology, promoting native wetland vegetation.

Erie Marsh Preserve

Phase III is underway on this 900-acre coastal wetlands enhancement in North Maumee Bay of Lake Erie. Ducks Unlimited surveyed and engineered a design to rehabilitate existing dikes and build new dikes, allowing The Nature Conservancy and Erie Shooting Club to properly manage water levels.

Pointe Mouillee State Game Area

Ducks Unlimited and Michigan DNR developed a plan to restore coastal wetland habitat at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area - Cripple Point Unit by rehabilitating dilapidated dikes, installing two water-level control structures, and a pump ramp. Construction will begin when permits are secured.

Sturgeon River Sloughs

Ducks Unlimited and the Michigan DNR developed a long-term, cost-effective alternative to replace the 60-year-old diesel pump system at Sturgeon River Sloughs State Wildlife Area in the Upper Peninsula. A new, more efficient electric pump and water distribution system is being installed to allow wetlands managers to more effectively manage wetland habitats at Sloughs, one of the Upper Peninsula's most productive wetland areas.

MICHIGAN BY THE NUMBERS

2018

- 9 projects
- 1,454 acres conserved
- \$3,197,876 invested

HISTORICAL

- 411 projects
- 83,900 acres conserved
- \$43 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/Michigan

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For more information visit us online at www.ducks.org/Michigan

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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