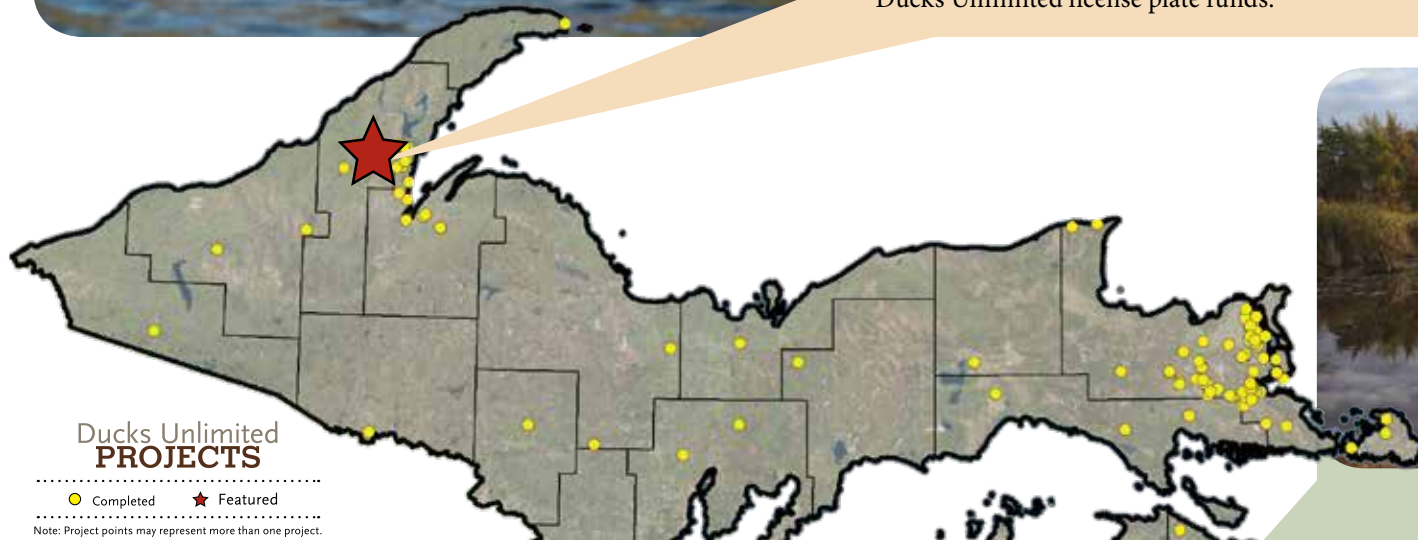




STURGEON RIVER SLOUGHS

Ducks Unlimited since 2010 has worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to develop a long-term, cost-effective alternative to replace the 60-year-old diesel pump system at Sturgeon River Sloughs State Wildlife Management Area. In 2014, DU and its partners secured a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant to address infrastructure needs at Sturgeon River Sloughs. Construction is underway to install a new, more efficient electric pump and water distribution system that will allow wetland managers to more effectively manage Sloughs habitats, one of the Upper Peninsula's most productive wetland areas. Funding was provided through a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Ducks Unlimited license plate funds.



MANISTEE MARSH

The installation of a new pump in fall 2015 and a series of water-control structures in 2017 enable wetland managers to better emulate and maintain a dynamic wetland ecosystem to benefit waterfowl and waterfowl hunters. The Manistee Marsh enhancement project was completed just prior to the opening day of the 2017 waterfowl season. This project has been the impetus for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to make additional investments into improving infrastructure and expanding public access, all part of an ongoing effort to revitalize coastal wetlands at Manistee Marsh. Funding was provided through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant through the Upper Mississippi River/ Great Lakes Region Joint Venture, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Ducks Unlimited license plate funds.

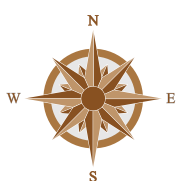
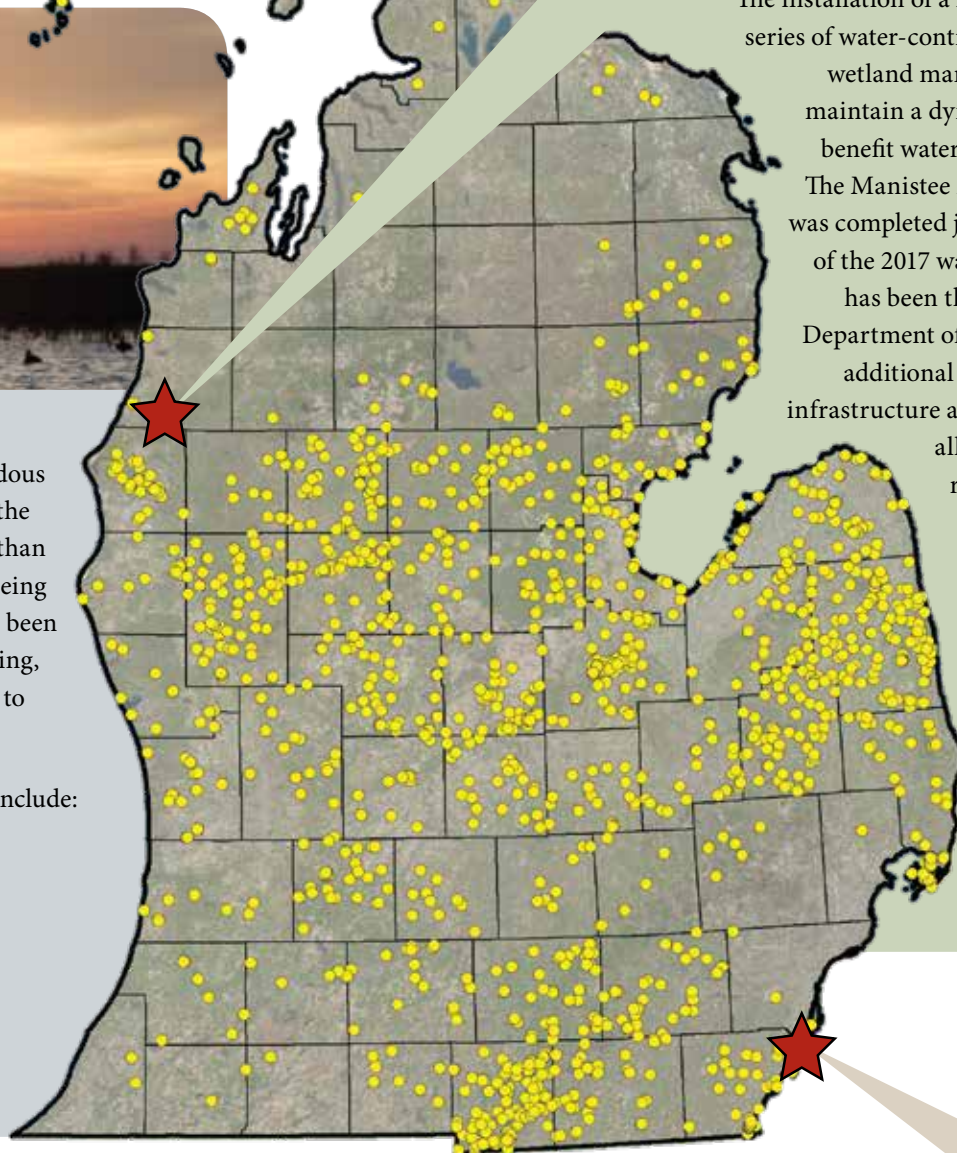


MICHIGAN DU LICENSE PLATE

Michigan's Ducks Unlimited license plate program is a tremendous funding tool for conserving wetlands and waterfowl habitat in the state. Funds generated by the license plates are leveraged more than four times over to benefit waterfowl, and now those funds are being used to benefit waterfowl hunters, too. License plate funds have been strategically invested into wetland projects open to public hunting, expanding waterfowl hunting opportunities for all and helping to preserve our rich waterfowling tradition in Michigan.

Wetlands conservation made possible with license plate funds include:

- 53-acre restoration at Fix Unit Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (2016)
- 162-acre enhancement at Manistee Marsh Manistee River State Game Area (2017)
- 90-acre enhancement at Sterling State Park (2018)
- 1,205-acre enhancement at Shiawasee River State Game Area (in progress)
- 715-acre enhancement at Sturgeon River Sloughs State Wildlife Area (in progress)



CRIPPLE POINT UNIT - POINTE MOUILLEE STATE GAME AREA

The majority of coastal wetland habitat at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area is managed using a combination of dikes, water-control structures and pumps. The wetland management infrastructure for the 28-acre Cripple Point Unit was installed decades ago and has exceeded its useful life. The inability of the dikes to hold water on this area has allowed invasive plant species such as phragmites to firmly take hold. Ducks Unlimited and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have developed a plan to restore Cripple Point by rehabilitating dilapidated dikes, installing two water-control structures, and a ramp for a portable pump. This project will help sustain valuable coastal wetlands, improve waterfowl brood-rearing, nesting and migration habitat, and provide management capabilities to better control invasive plant species. Funding was provided through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sustain Our Great Lakes grant, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Coastal Program Great Lakes grant, Pointe Mouillee Waterfowlers Festival, Southwest Lake Erie Chapter of Waterfowl USA, Gibraltar Duck Hunters and Ducks Unlimited. The project will be complete in 2019.





MICHIGAN IS THE CENTER OF GREAT LAKES CONSERVATION

Michigan plays a significant role for Great Lakes and continental waterfowl throughout their annual migration and breeding cycles. Ducks Unlimited's priorities in Michigan include protecting, restoring and enhancing coastal and river system wetlands from Saginaw Bay to the western shore of Lake Erie, and along the major southeast Lake Michigan river systems. The restoration of wetlands on privately owned lands is essential to the conservation of breeding habitat for Great Lakes mallards.

Ducks Unlimited partners and volunteers support conservation efforts through Ducks Unlimited's Great Lakes Initiative. Cool water, coastal wetlands and an appreciation for the outdoors define the initiative area. 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 habitat needs and works to provide abundant resources for continentally significant numbers of breeding, migrating and wintering waterfowl.

LOOKING AHEAD

Shiawassee NWR

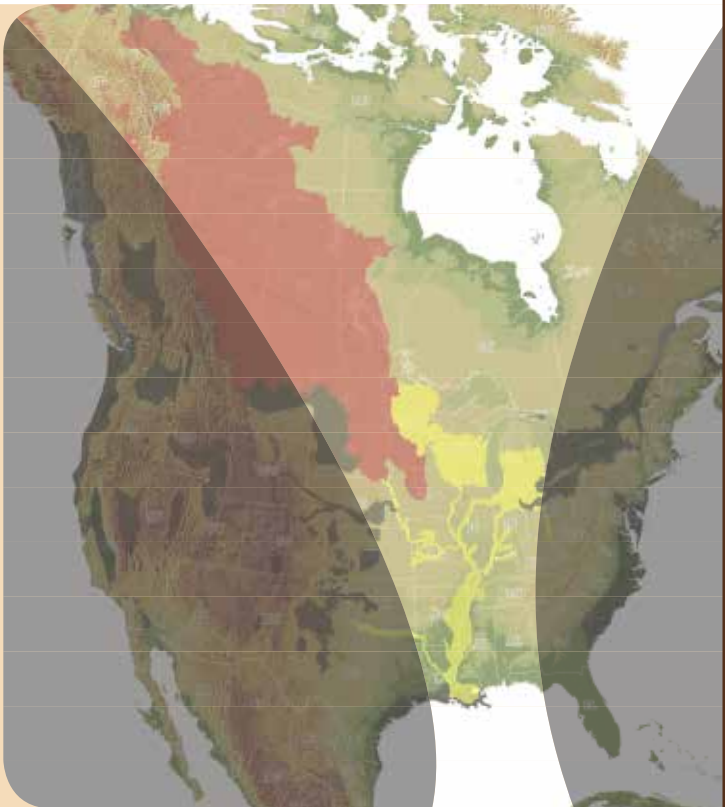
On the coattails of the recently completed, hallmark Maankiki Marsh restoration project, Ducks Unlimited and the refuge have partnered to develop fully engineered plans for several additional restoration and enhancement projects, including the 868-acre Ferguson Bayou, 509-acre Cass River Marshes, 105-acre Moist Soil Unit #9 and potentially others. Our newest cooperative effort will apply lessons learned from the Maankiki Marsh restoration to restore, enhance and reconnect additional floodplain wetland complexes within the Shiawassee Flats.

Lady of the Lake

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 25 acres of coastal Lake Erie wetlands. By installing a pump and water-control structure, this project will emulate natural coastal wetland hydrology resulting in a positive response by native wetland vegetation important to breeding and migrating waterfowl.

Erie Marsh Preserve

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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

MICHIGAN BY THE NUMBERS

2017

- 11 projects
- 1,164 acres conserved
- \$1,295,224 invested

HISTORICAL

- 401 projects
- 82,447 acres conserved
- \$40.25 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/michigan

MICHIGAN CONSERVATION STAFF



← **DANE CRAMER**, *Regional Biologist*
Contact: dcramer@ducks.org • 734.623.2000



← **JASON HILL**, *Manager of Conservation Programs, Great Lakes Initiative*
Contact: jhill@ducks.org • 734.623.2000

Warren Weirich, Manager of Conservation Services
Brian Nicholson, Senior Regional Engineer
Gregg Bachman, Senior Engineering Tech
Jeff Duncan, Senior Engineering Tech
Cody Sargen, Engineer

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/michigan



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

WE'VE MOVED! Please note our new address
7322 Newman Blvd., Building 1, Dexter, MI 48130
Phone number: 734.623.2000