

80 YEARS & 80,000 ACRES

Ducks Unlimited in Michigan is celebrating our 80th anniversary with a milestone of 80,000 acres protected, restored or enhanced. This accomplishment is the result of our team of supporters, members, volunteers, conservation staff and fundraising staff. The first Michigan project was completed in 1987 at Tuttle Marsh in the northeast portion of the state. Ducks Unlimited and its partners since have leveraged more than \$18.8 million in North American Wetlands Conservation Act funding in Michigan with \$62.7 million in partner funds to conserve 56,000 acres. With the inception of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in 2010, DU has secured more than \$12.2 million to conserve more than 6,500 acres. More than 4,000 acres of private land wetlands and associated grasslands have been restored through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Go to www.ducks.org/Michigan for a complete history of conservation in the state.



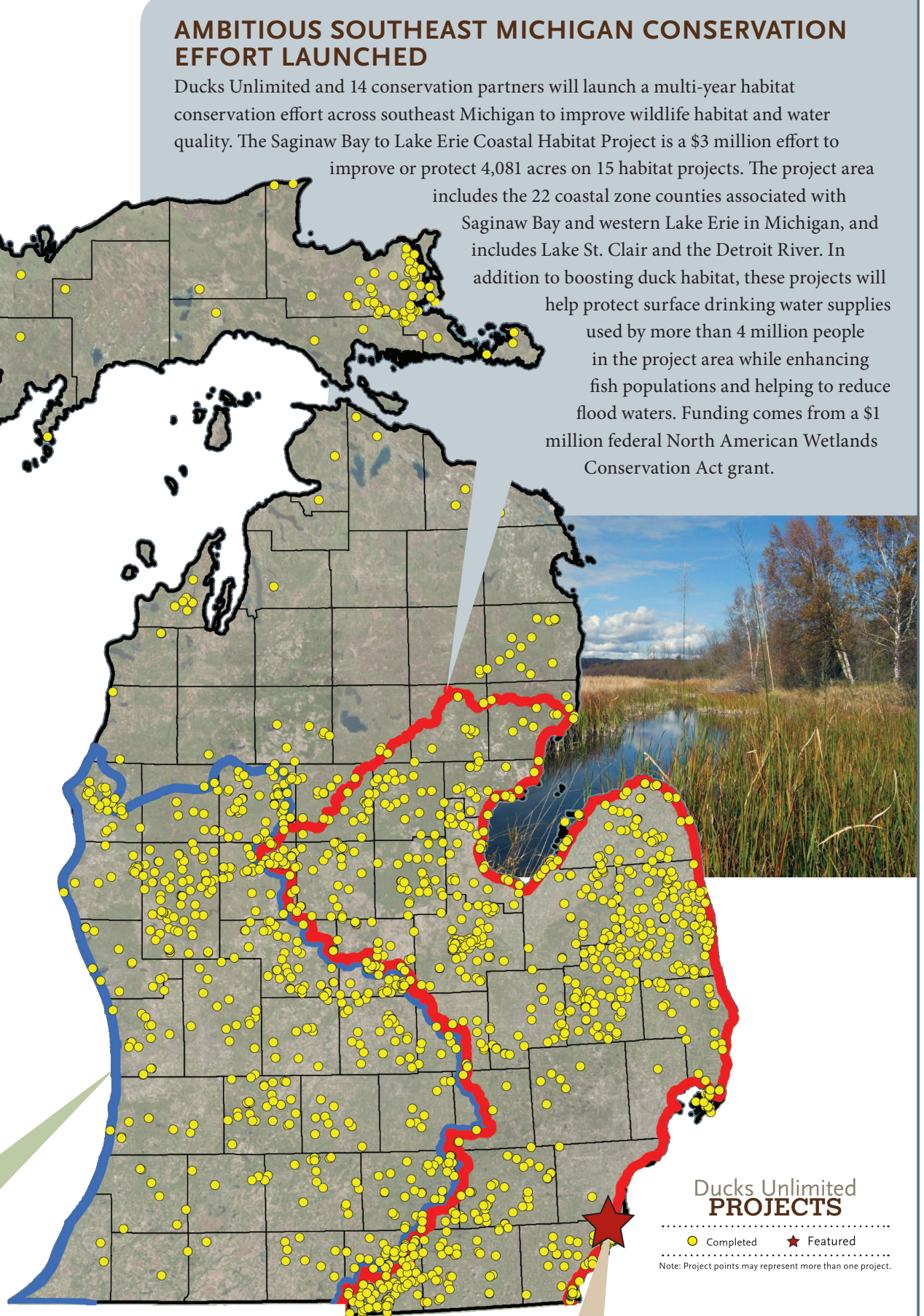
AMBITIOUS SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN CONSERVATION EFFORT LAUNCHED

Ducks Unlimited and 14 conservation partners will launch a multi-year habitat conservation effort across southeast Michigan to improve wildlife habitat and water quality. The Saginaw Bay to Lake Erie Coastal Habitat Project is a \$3 million effort to improve or protect 4,081 acres on 15 habitat projects. The project area includes the 22 coastal zone counties associated with Saginaw Bay and western Lake Erie in Michigan, and includes Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River. In addition to boosting duck habitat, these projects will help protect surface drinking water supplies used by more than 4 million people in the project area while enhancing fish populations and helping to reduce flood waters. Funding comes from a \$1 million federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant.



BUILDING ON SOUTHEASTERN LAKE MICHIGAN WATERSHED SUCCESS

In 2014, Ducks Unlimited completed the Southeastern Lake Michigan Watershed North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant. This program conserved more than 2,200 acres of wetlands and associated uplands throughout western and southwestern Michigan. Building on that success, Ducks Unlimited and 11 partners are embarking on a \$3 million effort to conserve another 2,000 acres. This next phase is focused on the six river systems that flow into southeastern Lake Michigan: the Grand, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Pere-Marquette, St. Joseph and White rivers. The project provides important breeding and migration habitat for ducks.



LICENSE PLATE SALES FUND MICHIGAN WETLANDS PROJECT

Ducks Unlimited is partially funding a project near Detroit with ties to the same automobile culture that shaped the region. Ducks Unlimited is using \$30,000 from Michigan DU license plate sales to pay for the 53-acre Fix Unit Restoration project in Monroe County. Formerly used for farming, the land is part of a coastal wetland complex along the Lake Erie coast in southeast Michigan, including Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Ford Marsh and Sterling State Park. Michigan's Ducks Unlimited license plate program is a tremendous funding tool for DU and the conservation of wetlands. Since 2014, DU has sold or renewed more than 2,000 license plates which has generated about \$50,000 for conservation. This is the first project using license plate funds.



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

Ducks Unlimited continues work on several large conservation projects:

Erie Marsh Preserve

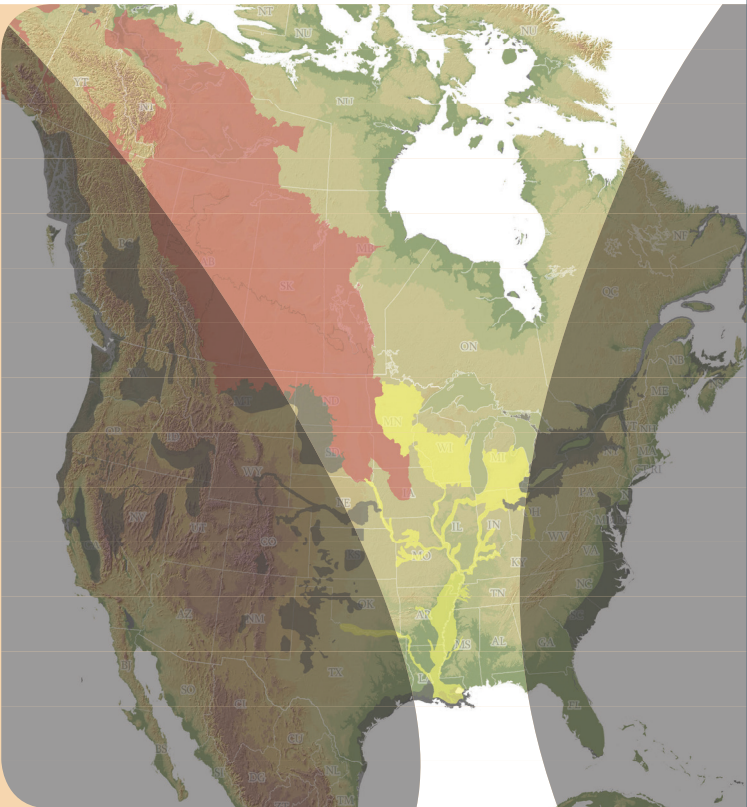
Phase II is underway in this 900-acre coastal wetlands enhancement in North Maumee Bay of Lake Erie. Ducks Unlimited has completed survey and engineering design and will rehabilitate existing dikes and build new dikes, allowing The Nature Conservancy and Erie Shooting Club to properly manage water levels.

Shiawassee River State Game Area

This Ducks Unlimited-Michigan Department of Natural Resources partnership project will install a new pump station to enhance and sustain 1,205 acres of permanent, deep-water emergent and seasonally-flooded, shallow agricultural crops and moist-soil wetlands. DU secured North American Wetlands Conservation Act funding and is pursuing state Wildlife Habitat Grant funds to fully fund the \$750,000 project.

Private land wetland and prairie restorations

Private land work continues in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Ducks Unlimited secured nearly \$500,000 through the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act for a second phase of wetland and native grassland habitat restorations on private lands throughout the western basin of Lake Erie in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. The project will improve waterfowl habitat and water quality on Lake Erie.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ducks Unlimited is celebrating our 80th anniversary in 2017. As an organization, we can trumpet our accomplishments knowing how strongly equipped we are to improve the health of wetlands across North America for the next generation.

The 21-state Great Lakes/Atlantic Region is a diverse landscape of habitats ranging from prairie potholes in the upper Midwest to coastal estuaries in the Atlantic Flyway, with Great Lakes marshes and riverine wetlands in between. Our region had a tremendous impact in 2016. We used private donations and public funds to invest \$29,049,039 on conservation projects. That strong support enabled our biologists and engineers to deliver focused, effective habitat conservation on 15,616 acres of wetlands.

Michigan is vital to the goals of our region and the country. The entire team in Michigan, including our volunteers, fundraising staff and conservation staff, has developed a winning strategy that helps waterfowl and anyone who enjoys clean water.

The work you see in this report is a snapshot of the conservation Ducks Unlimited achieves every day. We need and appreciate your support, as we build on this success for the next 80 years.

David Brakhage, GLARO Director of Operations

MICHIGAN BY THE NUMBERS 2016 HISTORICAL

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| • 6 projects | • 390 projects |
| • 1,826 acres protected, restored or enhanced | • 81,282 acres protected, restored or enhanced |
| • \$3,010,423 invested | • \$38,954,362 invested |

For more information visit www.ducks.org/michigan

MEET YOUR MICHIGAN 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.



GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

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