

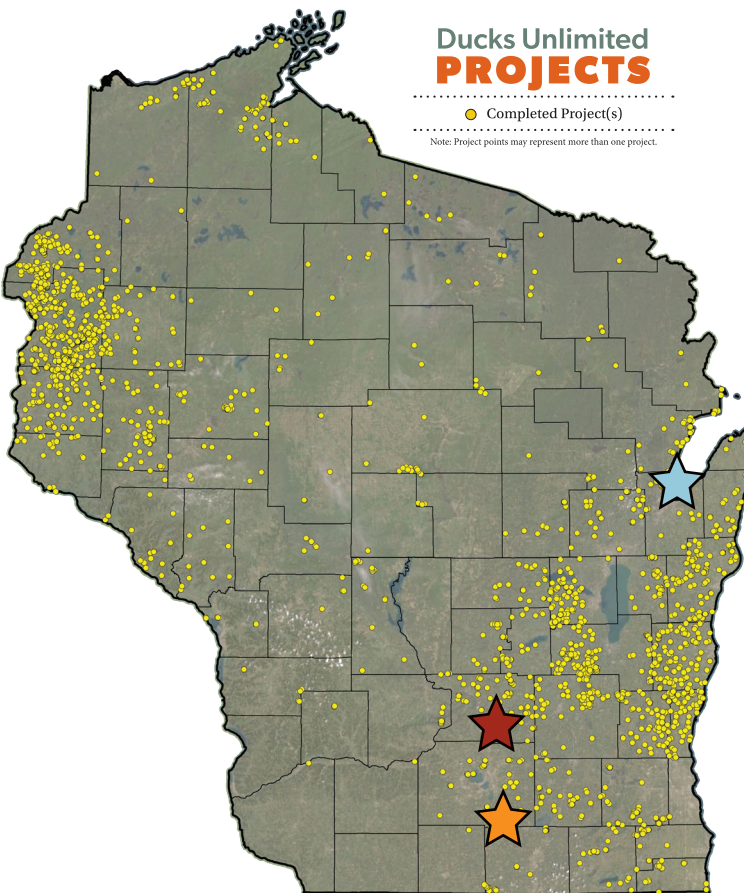
★ LEOPOLD WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA NAWCA

Ducks Unlimited leads the partnership to expand existing US Fish and Wildlife Service’s (FWS) ownership at Becker Lake and Anderson Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) by delivering 41 acres of permanently protected wetland and 15 acres of upland habitat. This will help provide breeding and migratory bird habitat and improved public access. This effort aims to protect breeding and migration stopover habitat for waterfowl and waterbirds and expand upon existing WPAs while improving access for recreation. Groundswell Conservancy (GC) provided matching funds using Wisconsin’s Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and DU secured NAWCA Grant dollars along with the contributions from Pheasants Forever, and Madison Audubon Society to purchase the properties. GC will donate properties to FWS for long-term management.



★ DUCK CREEK DELTA

Duck Creek Delta’s latest restoration project in Green Bay pioneers new habitat structure. Once known to be one of the most important emergent wetlands in Green Bay for waterfowl, this area has seen loss of extensive emergent vegetation. To help reverse this, DU installed a wooden breakwall in three sections, covering nearly 2,000 feet. This pilot project aimed to help protect area wetlands and improve habitat could be replicated throughout Green Bay and the Great Lakes if proven successful.



★ BADFISH STATE WILDLIFE AREA

Located in Southern Dane Co., Badfish State Wildlife Area provides hunting, fishing, canoeing, skiing and other outdoor recreation opportunities. DU restored 80 acres of wetlands using \$146,000 WI State Waterfowl Stamp funds, which were in turn leveraged to secure a \$1M SW Wisconsin Conservation Corridors NAWCA Grant. The project will improve habitat for various wildlife species, increase storm water storage, and provide exceptional wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities.

CONSERVATION SUMMARY

The Wisconsin conservation machine continued to run on all cylinders through 2021. Due to some major public policy victories achieved via the state’s biannual budget process, the future for DU’s wetland mission throughout Wisconsin is bright. DU volunteers and supporters from all corners of the state rallied to advance a state Waterfowl Stamp fee increase as well as a four-year extension of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship (KNS) Program, Wisconsin’s flagship conservation program.

Due to the tireless effort of DU policy volunteers, general membership, and other nonprofit partners, Wisconsin’s waterfowl hunters sent an unmistakable message to the legislature that the time is now for adjusting the waterfowl stamp fee for inflation and ensuring that this key wetland conservation funding mechanism remains viable. The \$5 adjustment included in the final state budget is expected to generate nearly \$400,000 of additional money for DU’s wetland mission.



The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program received a four-year reauthorization at a \$33.25 million/year funding level. This program is critical to our Wisconsin program and has invested \$1.3 billion in Wisconsin’s land and water resources to date. This significant investment has led to the conservation of 650,000 acres and is considered one of the country’s most successful state-level conservation programs.

These conservation victories were made possible by the citizen advocacy of DU volunteers and supporters who fearlessly stepped into the policy arena, rolled up their sleeves, and devoted their time and resources to educating lawmakers about the importance of both issues. This advocacy work, led by state public policy chair Nels Swenson, is now being modeled by DU volunteers in other states across the country due to its effectiveness at advancing the DU mission in the halls of the state capitol.

DU has already secured over \$500,000 in KNS and an additional \$200,000 in Duck Stamp funds to complete projects in 2022-23. The machine is humming!



Wisconsin by the Numbers

2021

- 49 projects
- 6,152 acres impacted
- \$4,103,463 invested

HISTORICAL

- 2,800 projects
- 144,416 acres conserved
- \$44.4 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/wisconsin

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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/WISCONSIN



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