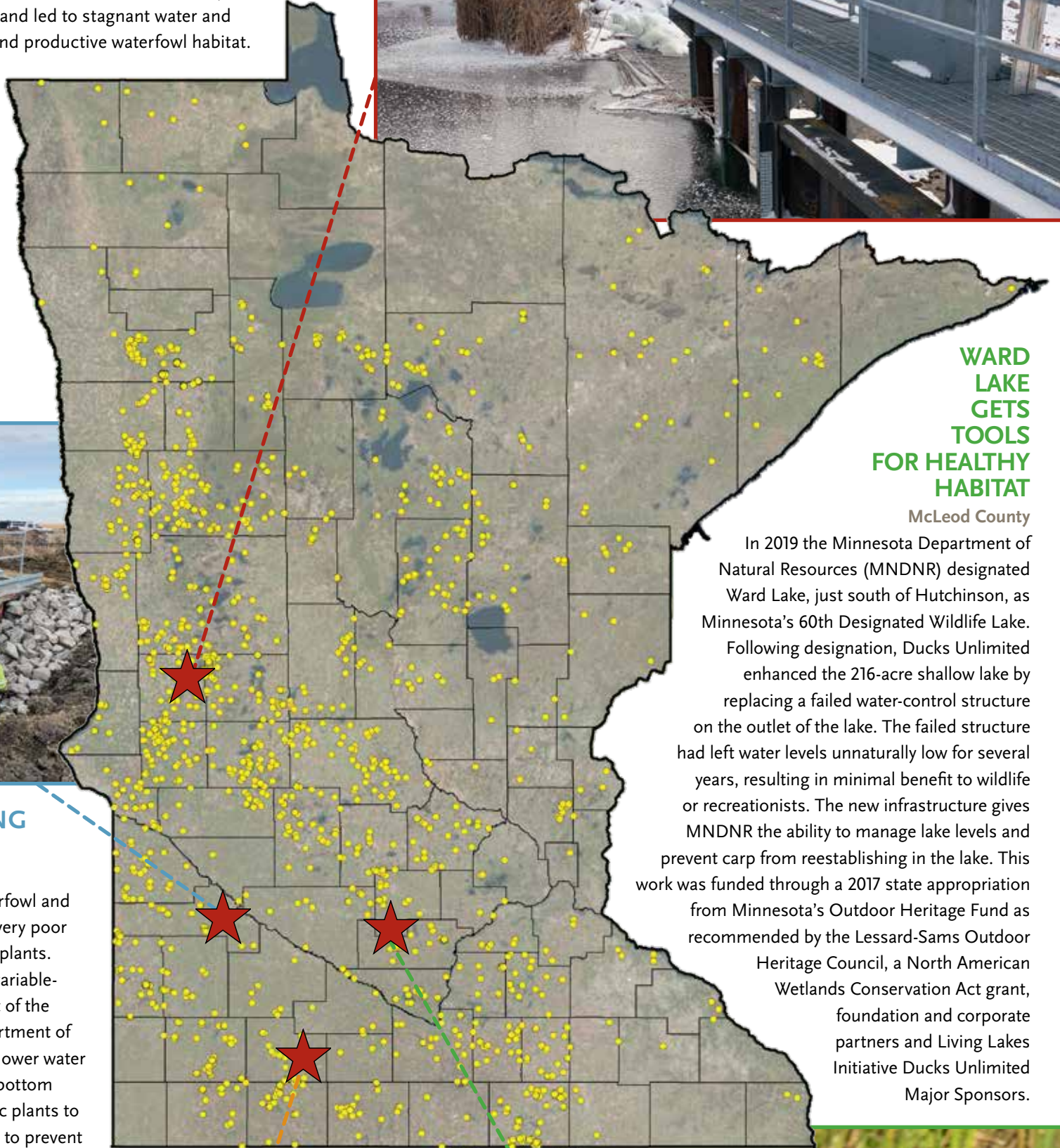


### ENHANCED REDHEAD WPA WELCOMING DUCKS

Grant County

Redhead Slough Waterfowl Production Area is a 524-acre property managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service east of Elbow Lake. An inability to manage water levels on the 290-acre wetland led to stagnant water and invasive species, reducing water quality and productive waterfowl habitat.

Ducks Unlimited enhanced the wetland by replacing a failed water-control structure, giving the USFWS the ability to raise and lower water levels to reduce invasive fish and encourage native vegetation. The project was funded by a 2017 state appropriation from Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant and private Ducks Unlimited Living Lakes Initiative Major Sponsors.



### WARD LAKE GETS TOOLS FOR HEALTHY HABITAT

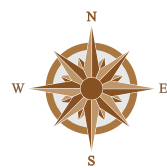
McLeod County

In 2019 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) designated Ward Lake, just south of Hutchinson, as Minnesota's 60th Designated Wildlife Lake. Following designation, Ducks Unlimited enhanced the 216-acre shallow lake by replacing a failed water-control structure on the outlet of the lake. The failed structure had left water levels unnaturally low for several years, resulting in minimal benefit to wildlife or recreationists. The new infrastructure gives MNDNR the ability to manage lake levels and prevent carp from reestablishing in the lake. This work was funded through a 2017 state appropriation from Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, foundation and corporate partners and Living Lakes Initiative Ducks Unlimited Major Sponsors.

### TIMM'S LAKE UNDERGOING TRANSFORMATION

Yellow Medicine County

Timm Lake historically hosted many waterfowl and other wildlife but became degraded with very poor water quality and few submerged aquatic plants. Ducks Unlimited has constructed a new variable-crest water control structure on the outlet of the 260-acre lake, giving the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) the ability to lower water levels. The management will consolidate bottom sediments and nutrients and allow aquatic plants to germinate. DU also installed a fish barrier to prevent invasive fish from reentering the lake. This newly enhanced shallow lake will provide clear water with abundant aquatic plants and invertebrates to both migratory and breeding waterfowl. Construction is complete and the lake is in drawdown. The project was funded by a state appropriation from Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, the MNDNR and private Ducks Unlimited Living Lakes Initiative Major Sponsors.



#### Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed ★ Featured

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



### LONG LAKE IMPROVED FOR WATER AND DUCKS

Cottonwood County

Increases in drainage into Long Lake has prevented any natural drawdown from occurring and has brought an influx of nutrients and sediment, turning the lake into a pea-green algae bloom. To improve water quality and habitat, DU partnered with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to install a water-control structure and high velocity fish barrier. Managers can now manipulate water levels and return Long Lake to its historical state, with clear water, abundant aquatic vegetation, aquatic invertebrates and wildlife habitat. Construction started in fall 2017 and was completed in 2019. Now complete, the enhancements on Long Lake have resulted in a lineup of benefits for clean water, wildlife, and duck hunters.



In 2019, DU relied on robust support to complete 28 projects affecting 28,921 acres and added new resources to deliver conservation throughout Minnesota.

## THE PROJECTS

In northern Minnesota, Ducks Unlimited helped fund the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' management of 84 wild rice lakes totaling 24,189 acres. The management will keep them free-flowing and clear of beaver dams and other debris to help wild rice flourish and produce abundant seeds sought by both ducks and wild rice harvesters.

Further south in prairie Minnesota, DU conserved 4,732 acres of shallow lakes, wetlands and grasslands. This included five large public land acquisition projects:

- A 64-acre parcel at Whitefield Wildlife Management Area in Kandiyohi County
- 147 acres at Seymour Lake Wildlife Management Area in Martin County
- Three parcels totaling 494 acres in Murray County on Lake Maria Wildlife Management Area, Great Oasis Wildlife Management Area and Stoderl Slough Wildlife Management Area

Ducks Unlimited also completed nine large shallow lake and wetland enhancements improving 2,750 acres in southern Minnesota and restored 388 acres back to wetlands and grassland on public land or land protected by permanent conservation easement – some of which DU previously purchased for Minnesota DNR.

DU in 2019 launched a new partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to protect and restore prairie grassland and wetland habitat, and purchased three habitat conservation easements that permanently protect 374 acres of private land in Douglas and Pope Counties.

Finally, DU helped the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources restore 515 wetland and prairie acres on 13 private land parcels protected by Farm Bill conservation easements in western and southern Minnesota.

## THE TEAM

Ducks Unlimited in 2019 hired Douglas McClain as its newest regional biologist in Minnesota, overseeing projects in the northwest part of the state. He joins Biologist Kassy Dumke who covers southern Minnesota out of Windom; Biologist John Lindstrom who covers central Minnesota and is based in Litchfield; and Jon Schneider, based in Alexandria, Director of Conservation Programs for the Living Lakes initiative in Minnesota and Iowa.

Ducks Unlimited's conservation team has a daunting task. More than 90 percent of the region's prairie potholes have been lost due to drainage and conversion and more than 99 percent of its prairies have been plowed under or paved over. Ducks Unlimited has invested more than \$100 million to protect, enhance or restore more than 230,000 acres of wetlands and grasslands in Minnesota.

## THE SUPPORT

Key to our success are strong partnerships and robust state grants from Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and federal North America Wetlands Conservation Act grants. These public grants are leveraged by private philanthropic gifts to Ducks Unlimited by foundations, corporations and individual DU Major Sponsors.

Minnesota's duck-friendly habitats have generated a long and storied waterfowling heritage in Minnesota. With about 45,000 Ducks Unlimited members, residents here understand and appreciate conservation.

Thank you for your private funding support to help us leverage the public funding needed to accomplish all this important waterfowl habitat conservation work!



## MINNESOTA BY THE NUMBERS

2019

- 28 projects
- 28,921 acres conserved

## HISTORICAL

- 233,257 total acres conserved
- \$101.3 million invested

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

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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/MINNESOTA](http://WWW.DUCKS.ORG/MINNESOTA)



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