



### LOESS BLUFFS IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

#### Holt County

Ducks Unlimited has designed a wetland enhancement at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge to improve nearly 2,000 acres of habitat. The project features three new wells and infrastructure to give refuge managers the ability to control water levels and habitat. DU plans to install three new deep wells this summer. Loess Bluffs is a 7,000-acre refuge comprised of wetlands, grasslands and forests reserved primarily as feeding and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. Partners include Enel Green Power North America Inc., Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative, River Bluffs Audubon Society, National Wild Turkey Federation, Audubon Society of Missouri and Columbia Audubon Society.



### PRIVATE AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS DUCKS

#### Statewide

The Missouri Agriculture Wetland Initiative (MAWI) continues to provide a successful private lands partnership with Ducks Unlimited, Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and private landowners being key partners driving big conservation numbers. To date the partnership has delivered 52 projects on the Missouri landscape. These projects directly restored 1,765 acres of native wetland habitats and enhanced flooding opportunity on another 1,264 acres of adjacent row-crop fields. The MAWI partnership has invested \$735,000 into the projects.



#### Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed DU Project

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



### SCHELL-OSAGE TO SEE NEW DESIGN PLANS

#### St. Clair, Vernon Counties

Schell-Osage Conservation Area, one of the oldest publicly managed wetland areas in Missouri, is nearing a major upgrade as Ducks Unlimited helps the Missouri Department of Conservation give new life to a vital Mississippi Flyway stopover. Ducks Unlimited is leading a \$4.5 million NAWCA project with 13 other conservation partners to help support enhancement and restoration efforts on Schell-Osage Conservation Area, an 8,600-acre property on the west-central side of Missouri along the banks of the Osage River. The severe flooding in 2019 resulted in project delays, project engineering is nearly complete and we look forward to moving this project to the construction phase.





## SWAN LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SPREADS ITS NEW CONSERVATION WINGS

Ducks Unlimited has wrapped up a large conservation project at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge in north-central Missouri, improving a broad landscape for waterfowl and water quality.

This project improved 1,890 acres of habitat, including the restoration of 487 acres of wetlands, 293 acres of native grasslands and the enhancement of 1,110 acres of existing wetlands.

Swan Lake is the core component of a wetland complex in the Lower Grand River Watershed that includes more than 22,000 acres of state and federal lands and 16,000 acres of privately owned wetland reserve easements.

These wetlands and associated uplands represent some of the Midwest's best habitat for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland-dependent species. Habitat restoration efforts in this region showcase the strides that local, state and federal governmental and nongovernmental partners can make when they work together.

"I had pretty high expectations for this project and from what I've seen so far, they've been surpassed," said Steve Whitson, Swan Lake refuge manager. "Our peak number of birds this past fall were 172,000. Amazing what can happen when you put more quality habitat on the ground. A big thank-you for all of DU's hard work and creative thinking which helped us get to this point on this project."

Enhanced and restored wetlands lead to greater habitat diversity, more desired wetland management capabilities, enhanced water quality and more public recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, bird watching and wildlife photography.

DU partnered with private donors, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to receive the \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant. Project partners committed approximately \$2.14 million in matching funds.



### WHAT'S NEXT

- Phase II of North American Wetlands Conservation Act program at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge will feature more restoration.
- Protecting private land in the Confluence Region of Missouri is a priority for Ducks Unlimited, which will continue to explore opportunities for conservation easements in 2020. For details about adding an easement to your property, visit [www.ducks.org/lands](http://www.ducks.org/lands).

### MISSOURI BY THE NUMBERS

#### 2019

- 6 projects
- 2,878 acres conserved
- \$1.5 million invested

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

#### HISTORICAL

- 117,126 acres conserved
- \$20.8 million invested



### MISSOURI 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.DUCKS.ORG/MISSOURI](http://WWW.DUCKS.ORG/MISSOURI)



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