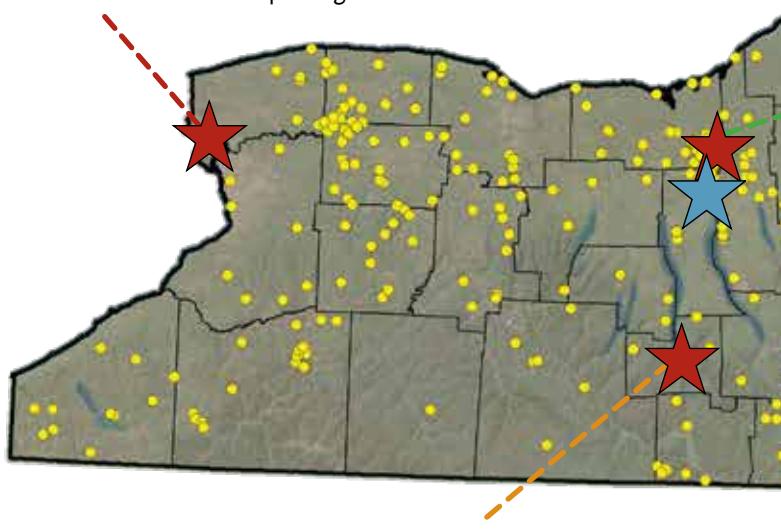




BUCKHORN ISLAND STATE PARK RESTORATION UNDERWAY Erie County

Construction has started on new channels and potholes at the 150-acre Buckhorn Marsh, the largest remaining emergent marsh habitat in the highly developed Niagara River located on Grand Island just south of the Niagara Power Dam. DU is partnering with the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Audubon, Cargill, and using support from the Habitat Enhancement Restoration Fund and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The project will restore connectivity from the Niagara River and throughout the rest of the marsh system. DU is also helping the state assess the current functionality of an old water-level management system so the state can better manage habitat and re-establish fish passage.



CARGILL, DU IMPROVE NEW YORK LANDSCAPE

A partnership between Ducks Unlimited and Cargill Corp. has conserved more than 5,500 acres of vital wetland habitat throughout New York since 2016. Cargill in 2019 committed another \$248,000 to Ducks Unlimited, continuing a longstanding corporate commitment to conservation. These donations will enable Ducks Unlimited to conserve critical wetland ecosystems in and around the Lake Ontario watershed, which has lost about 70 percent of its wetlands to agriculture and urbanization. The donation came from several Cargill New York and Pennsylvania business units. Ducks Unlimited, Cargill and other partners recently celebrated the completion of the latest project at Catharine Creek Marsh in Schuyler County. The management area, owned by Finger Lakes Land Trust, needed enhancement because of failing infrastructure. Ducks Unlimited contributed Cargill funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program so the service could improve a 120-acre wetland on the property with new a water-control structure and berm.



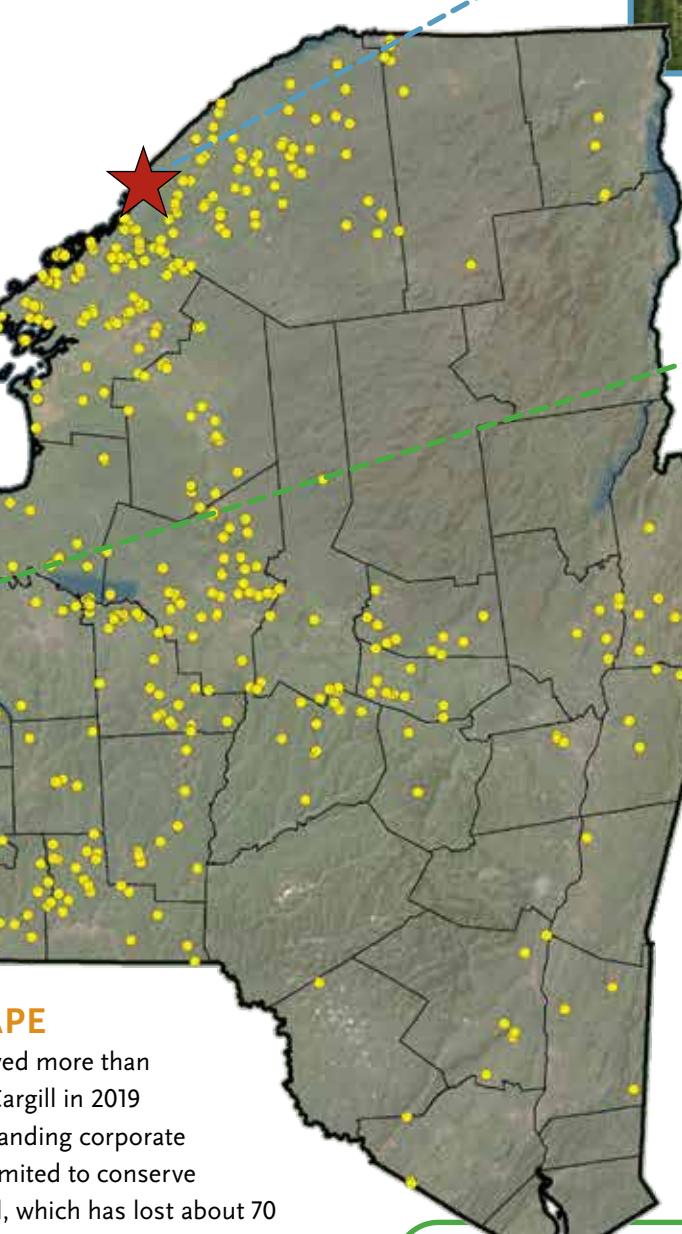
CHIPPEWA BAY IMPROVEMENTS TO BEGIN

St. Lawrence County

Construction is scheduled to begin this year on enhancing 23 acres of coastal wetlands at Blind Bay marsh in Chippewa Bay along the St. Lawrence River. The DU project will improve water flow through the marsh by upgrading a culvert system and creating a series of interconnected potholes and channels to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. The marsh is a historical northern pike and muskellunge spawning site and a popular diving duck hunting area. The project is funded through a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant. Partners include Thousand Islands Land Trust, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Cargill and Chippewa Point Road Alliance.



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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed DU Project

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

LOOP ROAD WETLAND CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE

Cayuga County

Ducks Unlimited, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Cargill and Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex restored a 140-acre former agriculture field to wetlands in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area, along the floodplain of the Seneca River. The project plugged ditches and installed infrastructure to produce moist soil habitat for migrating waterfowl. A public parking lot was added for hunters and recreationists. Construction completed in November 2019, and this year the NYSDEC will complete a 10-acre grassland restoration on an adjacent parcel of land. Funding in part provided through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.



**MONTEZUMA TO REMAIN ATLANTIC FLYWAY GEM** Seneca, Cayuga and Wayne Counties

The Montezuma Wetlands Complex in Seneca County is an outdoors enthusiast's playground, attracting hunters, hikers and birders from across the northeastern United States.

A renewed multi-agency partnership dedicated to conserving this outdoors treasure announced new efforts keep the 18,500-acre Montezuma Wetlands Complex one of the premier wetland areas in the eastern United States. Along with renewed research, the critically important complex in the Finger Lakes region will remain a gem for waterfowl.

The Montezuma Wetlands Complex Land Protection Partnership unites Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Finger Lakes Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy and private landowners under a common goal to protect the critical wetland resources at Montezuma.

The Montezuma Wetlands Complex Conservation Partnership was established nearly 20 years ago and already has restored or protected nearly 5,400 acres at Montezuma. This renewed phase of the partnership will create the Montezuma Wetlands Complex Land Protection Strategic Plan. The plan will add new partners, develop software mapping analysis tool, support a grad student, and coordinate the continued improvements of the complex.

"A partnership of this magnitude, supported by cooperative agencies and local support, has the scope, scientific expertise and tenure to maintain landscape-size conservation success in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex," said Brandy Neveldine, Ducks Unlimited regional biologist in New York.

The new land protection strategic plan is supported with funding from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP), Shumway Foundation and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

To identify areas of greatest conservation need for protection and restoration opportunities, State University of New York Environmental Science and Forestry graduate student master's candidate Matthew Wagner and faculty advisor Dr. Michael Schummer are helping the partners coordinate a more comprehensive strategic plan for land conservation.

Working with multiple organizations, the goal of the project is to establish new partnerships at both a landscape and community level to protect critical habitat, engage public awareness, create future funding opportunities and outline commonalities among partners conservation goals and objectives to expand land protection within the complex.

Left: Snow geese during migration at Montezuma in 2019.

Right: Matthew Wagner is helping develop tools to determine where to best conduct conservation.

**LOOKING AHEAD****Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area**

Town of Alabama

North American Wetlands Conservation Act funding will enhance 160-acre wetland enhancement project at West Ruddy Marsh. The project will restore shallow water wetland habitat along the floodplain and reduce the cover of invasive vegetation species that currently provide little benefit to wildlife. Partners include New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Cargill, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Finger Lakes and Western NY Waterfowl Association. Survey work begins this spring, with project delivery in winter 2021.

Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area

Town of Savannah

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding will fund a 65-acre restoration and enhancement along Seneca River and Howlands Island. The enhancement will address invasive species, and include landscape changes to create a new shallow water habitat. Partners include the NYSDEC, Cargill, and Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. Survey work begins this summer with delivery in winter 2021-2022.

NEW YORK BY THE NUMBERS**2019****HISTORICAL**

- \$1 million invested
 - 893 acres restored or protected
 - 4 projects
- \$40.2 million invested
 - 56,357 acres conserved

For more information visit www.ducks.org/new-york

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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/NEW-YORK



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