

GREAT LAKES/ATLANTIC REGION

GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE

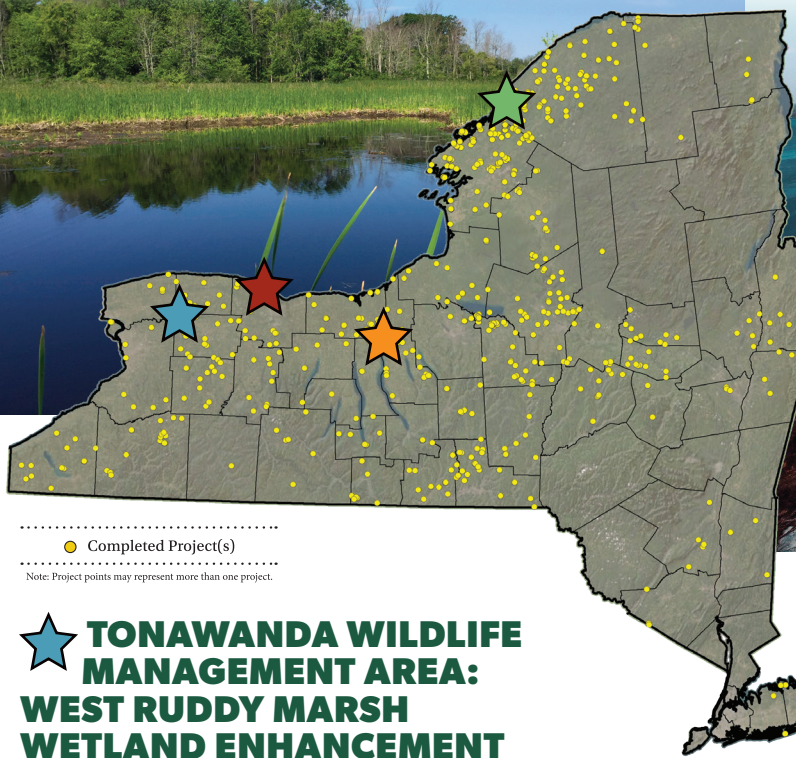
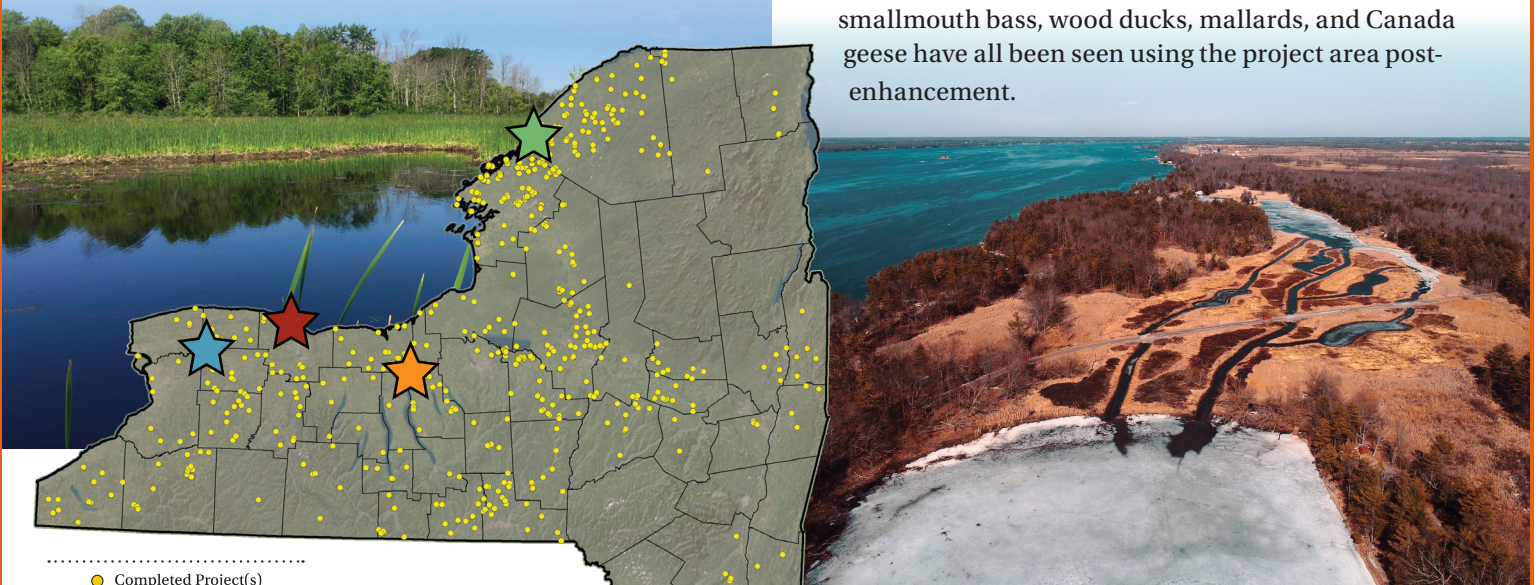
COMPLETING THE CYCLE INITIATIVE

★ CRANBERRY POND WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

In cooperation with the NY Audubon Society, DU used a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant to enhance a 191-acre Lake Ontario Coastal marsh. Completed in Spring 2021, project work included the construction of channels and potholes in the dense invasive cattail stands in the Cranberry Pond marsh. Many different species of fish and wildlife have used the newly created potholes and channels, including northern pike, green-winged teal, mallards, Canada geese, and wood ducks.

★ BLIND BAY WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

As part of Phase 2 of the St. Lawrence River/Thousand Islands North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant, DU worked with private landowners and Thousand Islands Land Trust to enhance 22 acres of coastal marsh along the St. Lawrence River. Completed in early 2021, this project involved channeling and potholing in the marsh to create open water interspersions. Three undersized road culverts were also replaced with larger ones to improve the site's hydrology to help maintain the enhanced conditions. Otters, northern pike, large- and smallmouth bass, wood ducks, mallards, and Canada geese have all been seen using the project area post-enhancement.



★ TONAWANDA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA: WEST RUDDY MARSH WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

Ducks Unlimited and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) enhanced an emergent marsh unit by digging four potholes and several channels to reintroduce open water/vegetation interspersions and reconnect an existing water control structure to the main pool. This project will allow managers to efficiently manage the marsh and provide improved habitat for waterfowl.

★ WHISKEY HILL ROAD PROTECTION PROJECT

Ducks Unlimited recently closed on over 370 acres of property near South Butler, NY in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. As part of our Montezuma Lands Protection Partnership that was funded by a Land Trust Alliance grant, approximately 140 acres will be transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to be incorporated in the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. The wetlands on this property provide habitat for Mallards, American black ducks, green-winged teal, trumpeter swans, and many other waterfowl species. Partners on this project include USFWS, Land Trust Alliance, Cargill, and the Helen and Ritter Shumway Foundation.

NEW ST. LAWRENCE NAWCA

Ducks Unlimited submitted and was awarded Phase 3 of the St. Lawrence River/Thousand Islands North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant. This grant will use \$2,846,183 in matching funds to receive \$1,327,599 in grant funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The project consists of 14 individual projects that will protect, restore, and enhance 4,701 acres of wetland and associated upland habitat. One project highlight is the Upper and Lower Lakes WMA wetland enhancement project that will enhance 2,516 acres of emergent wetland habitat that is critical for migrating waterfowl in the St. Lawrence River Valley. This WMA is also an important public hunting area for NY waterfowlers. The Oswego Muck restoration project in Oswego, NY, will restore a former onion field to quality emergent marsh habitat. Partners for this project include Thousand Islands Land Trust, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Indian River Lakes Conservancy, St. Lawrence Land Trust, Clarkson University, Central NY Land Trust, Department of Defense, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Helen and Ritter Shumway Foundation.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Lakeview Marsh WMA wetland enhancement
- Seneca River Floodplain wetland enhancement (Northern Montezuma WMA)

New York by the Numbers

2021

- 5 projects
- 496 acres conserved
- \$1,872,490 invested

HISTORICAL

- 254 projects
- 65,761 acres conserved
- \$45.2 million invested

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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