

GREAT LAKES/ATLANTIC REGION

GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE

**★ MOXLEY WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION Erie County**

In 2020, Ducks Unlimited (DU) received an \$850,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency who are serving as Trustees of the Ottawa River Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) settlement. DU is using the NRDA funding to purchase three properties to expand state and federal wildlife areas in northwest Ohio. In 2022, DU purchased a 99.6-acre managed coastal wetland in Erie County and transferred the property to the Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife to expand Moxley Wildlife Area. This coastal marsh will be open to the public for hunting and other outdoor recreation.

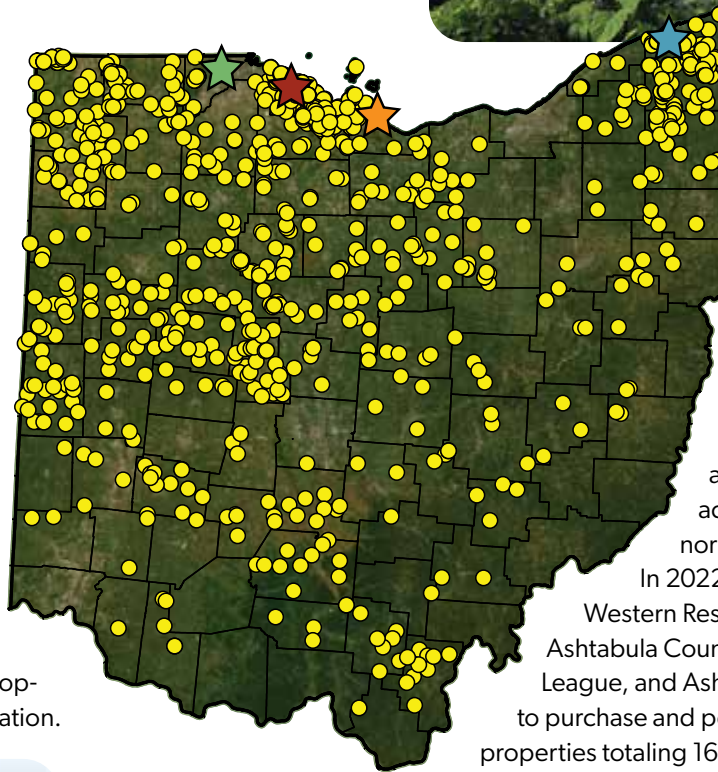


Moxley WA

**★ OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ADDS 242 ACRES**

**Ottawa County**

Ducks Unlimited received a \$2.23 million grant from the USFWS to purchase and restore agricultural land and expand Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in 2017. This year, DU purchased a 39.6-acre property along Rusha Creek in Ottawa County and transferred the property to USFWS. After the transfer, DU restored 15 acres of wetlands and uplands on the property. This was the last of five properties that DU purchased and restored under this federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant that expanded Ottawa NWR by 242 acres. All five properties are open to the public for recreation.



**★ LAKE ERIE COASTAL WETLANDS PHASE III**

**Ashtabula County**

Ducks Unlimited is using a \$950,000 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant to partner with 11 agencies and organizations to protect and restore nearly 700 acres of wetlands in multiple northeast Ohio counties.

In 2022, DU collaborated with Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Ashtabula County Wildlife Conservation League, and Ashtabula County Metroparks to purchase and permanently protect two properties totaling 162 acres.

**★ HOWARD MARSH METROPARK PHASE II Lucas County**

In 2020, DU received a \$4.02 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to partner with Metroparks Toledo (MT) to complete Phase II of the coastal wetland restoration at Howard Marsh Metropark in Lucas County. This project was completed in the fall of 2022 and restored row-crop agriculture to a 199-acre managed coastal marsh that features a pump structure designed to allow fish to pass into and out of the wetland for spawning. Phase II was completed under budget and remaining grant funds are being used for a new coastal wetland restoration project along Toussaint Creek in Ottawa County. DU provided the engineering design for both phases of Howard Marsh, which are open to public recreation, including waterfowl hunting.



Ottawa NWR

## H2OHIO WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

**D**ucks Unlimited has joined with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and more than 40 other organizations to implement H2Ohio, a data-driven water quality initiative to improve the quality of surface water throughout Ohio, with an emphasis on western Lake Erie.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio plan includes agriculture groups, conservation organizations, universities, local and state governments, and the private sector. A major component of the plan is the restoration and enhancement of wetlands for the primary purpose of filtering nutrients before they reach waterways, thereby reducing the impact of algal blooms, which degrade habitat and water quality in Lake Erie.

"Priorities for the H2Ohio initiative are centered around preventing harmful algal blooms and improving overall water quality in Lake Erie, a critical source of drinking water for 12 million people," DeWine said. "We appreciate Ducks Unlimited, a recognized leader in wetland conservation, for their partnership in support of this critically important endeavor."

Ohio DNR is leading the effort to improve water quality by restoring wetlands and has already awarded seven grants totaling \$7.86M to DU to help implement the H2Ohio program. Collectively, these projects will protect, restore, and enhance more than 1,200 acres of habitat and filter thousands of acres of agricultural run-off.



## WHAT'S NEXT FOR 2023?

- \$300,000 Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act grant to fund restoration of wetlands and grasslands on private land in the western Lake Erie basin.
- Wetland infrastructure improvements to manage 254 acres at Little Portage Wildlife Area with an emphasis on diverting agricultural run-off into wetlands instead of flowing into the Little Portage River.
- Restore coastal wetlands and upgrade the wetland management infrastructure on more than 700 acres at the Navarre Marsh Unit of Ottawa NWR.
- Improve water quality in the Delaware Reservoir by pumping water from the reservoir through three enhanced and two restored wetlands before it returns to the reservoir.
- Pump installation at Mallard Club Wildlife Area to divert up to 600 acres of off-site drainage into the wetland instead of directly into Lake Erie.



**Ducks Unlimited** conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

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## OHIO NUMBERS 2022

- 12 projects
- 870 acres conserved
- \$4.92 million invested

## HISTORICAL

- 102,771 acres conserved
- \$47.48 million invested



## GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

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