



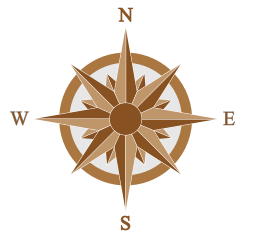
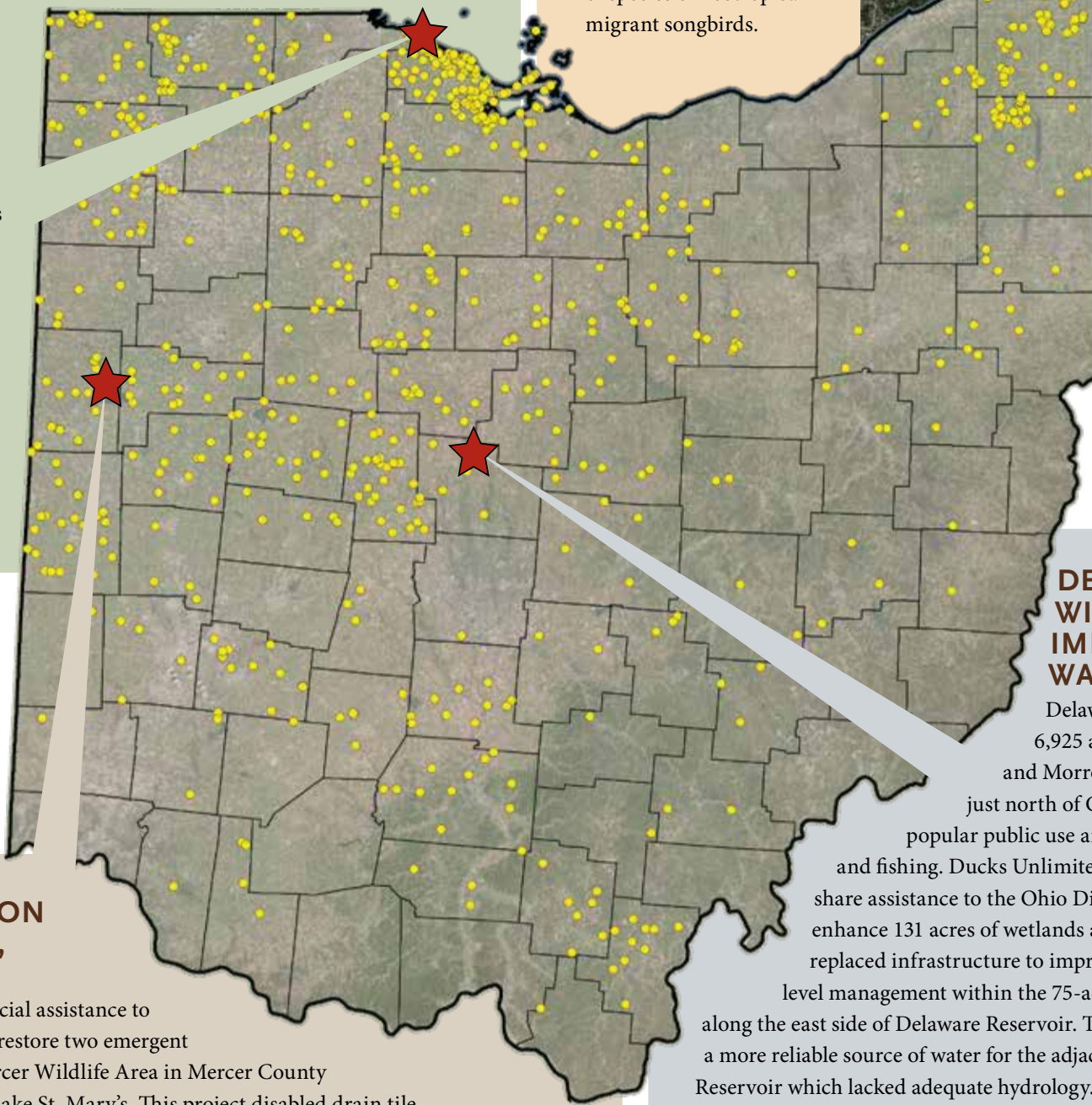
DUCKS UNLIMITED HELPS CREATE NEW TOLEDO-AREA METROPARK

Ducks Unlimited is part of a major effort to restore nearly 1,000 acres of former agricultural land back to wetlands and other habitat to benefit ducks and provide recreational opportunities. Ducks Unlimited, Metroparks of the Toledo Area, Ohio

Division of Wildlife, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and others have worked since 2013 on the 987-acre property in Lucas County. Ducks Unlimited provided engineering services and secured federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding from NOAA for this project. The first of two phases is nearly complete, which will restore 570 acres of coastal wetlands and 142 acres of forest and native warm season grass. The project reconnects the restored wetlands with Lake Erie while allowing for seasonal access by fish for spawning. Metroparks will establish public use amenities, including boardwalks, observation and fishing platforms and canoe and kayak launches. Once restored, portions of Howard Marsh will be open to the public for waterfowl hunting. The Phase II component includes approximately 250 acres of coastal wetland and upland restoration on the west side of Howard Road but funding is not in place for this.

LARGE STRETCH OF TURKEY CREEK PROTECTED AS PARK PRESERVE

Ducks Unlimited used \$350,163 from our Lake Erie Coastal Wetlands North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant to help Western Reserve Land Conservancy purchase and protect a 603-acre property along the shore of Lake Erie in Ashtabula County. This property features nearly 250 acres of wetlands, many vernal pools, upland and lowland forest and 1.6 miles of Turkey Creek. The land was transferred to Ashtabula County Metroparks for management as a publicly accessible passive park and nature preserve. Purchase of this ecologically significant property ensures that 4,900 linear feet of Lake Erie shoreline will never be developed, that the property cannot be subdivided and it protects excellent migration habitat for waterfowl and dozens of species of neotropical migrant songbirds.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed ★ Featured
Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

MERCER RESTORATION AIDS DUCK HABITAT, WATER QUALITY

Ducks Unlimited provided financial assistance to the Ohio Division of Wildlife to restore two emergent wetlands totaling 36 acres at Mercer Wildlife Area in Mercer County along the south shore of Grand Lake St. Mary's. This project disabled drain tile, constructed earthen levees and installed multiple water-control structures and a pump to restore an agricultural field to wetlands. The pump and water control structures provide a reliable source of water and the capacity to manage water levels and vegetation to meet the needs of breeding and migrating waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife. The restored wetlands also will contribute to improved water quality in the adjacent lake which has been plagued by toxic algal blooms. This is the first Ducks Unlimited project at the 1,408-acre Mercer Wildlife Area.



DELAWARE WILDLIFE AREA IMPROVED FOR WATERFOWLERS

Delaware Wildlife Area spans 6,925 acres in Delaware, Marion and Morrow Counties. Its location just north of Columbus makes it a popular public use area, including for hunting and fishing. Ducks Unlimited in 2017 provided cost-share assistance to the Ohio Division of Wildlife to enhance 131 acres of wetlands at Delaware. The project replaced infrastructure to improve hydrology and water level management within the 75-acre Big Marsh located along the east side of Delaware Reservoir. The work also provides a more reliable source of water for the adjacent 56-acre Green Tree Reservoir which lacked adequate hydrology. These two wetlands were established decades ago to develop public waterfowl hunting areas and provide habitat for breeding and migrating ducks. However, the wetland management infrastructure was inadequate to manage and maintain quality habitat conditions.



Ohio plays a significant role for Great Lakes and continental waterfowl throughout their annual migration and breeding cycles. Ducks Unlimited's priorities in Ohio cover a varied landscape, including restoring depleted wetlands in the northwest, protecting intact wetlands in the northeast and conserving land along the vital Scioto River corridor.

Ohio's DU partners and volunteer base support two important Ducks Unlimited conservation efforts, the Great Lakes Initiative and the Big Rivers Initiative.

Cool water, coastal wetlands and an appreciation for the outdoors define the Great Lakes Initiative area. Glaciers created a diversity of wetlands, shallow lakes, coastal estuaries and rivers throughout the region. Through the Great Lakes Initiative, Ducks Unlimited addresses all of these habitat types and provides abundant resources for breeding, migrating, and wintering waterfowl.

Located in the heart of the Mississippi River and its major tributaries, the Big Rivers Initiative focuses on the restoration, enhancement, and protection of wetlands used by millions of waterfowl as they migrate between wintering and breeding grounds each year.

LOOKING AHEAD

In late December, Ducks Unlimited and Energy Transfer Partners entered into an agreement whereby ETP has contributed \$5 million to Ducks Unlimited to support our wetland conservation mission in Ohio and Louisiana. These funds will result in at least 1,500 acres of wetlands conserved on public lands over the next four years in Ohio for the benefit of waterfowl and other fish and wildlife, water quality, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Other projects scheduled for continuation or completion in 2018:

- Howard Marsh (Ottawa County) - Complete restoration of Phase I and seek funds for Phase II.
- Toussaint Wildlife Area (Ottawa County) - Phase I and II restorations, seek funds for Phase III.
- Western Lake Erie Basin counties and northeast Ohio counties - Private lands wetland restoration.
- Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area (Sandusky County) - Restoration work.
- Weber Farm (Ottawa County) - Restoration of Ducks Unlimited-owned farm and donation to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Ottawa County - Purchase and restoration of at least two additional farms with subsequent donation to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ohio is vital to the goals of Duck's Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region. The entire team in Ohio, including our volunteers, fundraising staff and conservation staff, has developed a winning strategy that grows stronger each year.

Our 21-state region had a tremendous impact on waterfowl habitat and water quality in 2017. We used private donations and public funds to invest nearly \$22 million on conservation projects. That strong support enabled our biologists and engineers to deliver focused, effective habitat conservation on 48,111 acres of wetlands.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers, conservation partners and financial supporters. The accomplishments of Ducks Unlimited are your accomplishments. As an organization, we can trumpet our success knowing how strongly equipped we are to improve the health of wetlands across North America for the next generation.

Thank you for believing in our mission, and for helping us reach our vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

David Brakhage, GLARO Director of Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Brakhage".

OHIO BY THE NUMBERS

2017

- 16 projects
- 1,340 acres conserved
- \$2.64 million invested

HISTORICAL

- 89,211 acres conserved
- \$31.02 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/ohio

OHIO 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.

Visit us online at www.ducks.org/ohio



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

WE'VE MOVED! Please note our new address
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