



DU HELPS EXPAND OTTAWA NWR

Ottawa County
Ducks Unlimited purchased two former agriculture properties totaling 75 acres and will turn them over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion into the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. A 38-acre property is adjacent to the Helle Unit of the refuge and will be restored to uplands in 2020. A 37-acre property south of the entrance road to the refuge visitor center will be restored to wetlands and associated uplands in 2020. The restored wetlands will provide migratory and breeding habitat in the vital western Lake Erie basin.

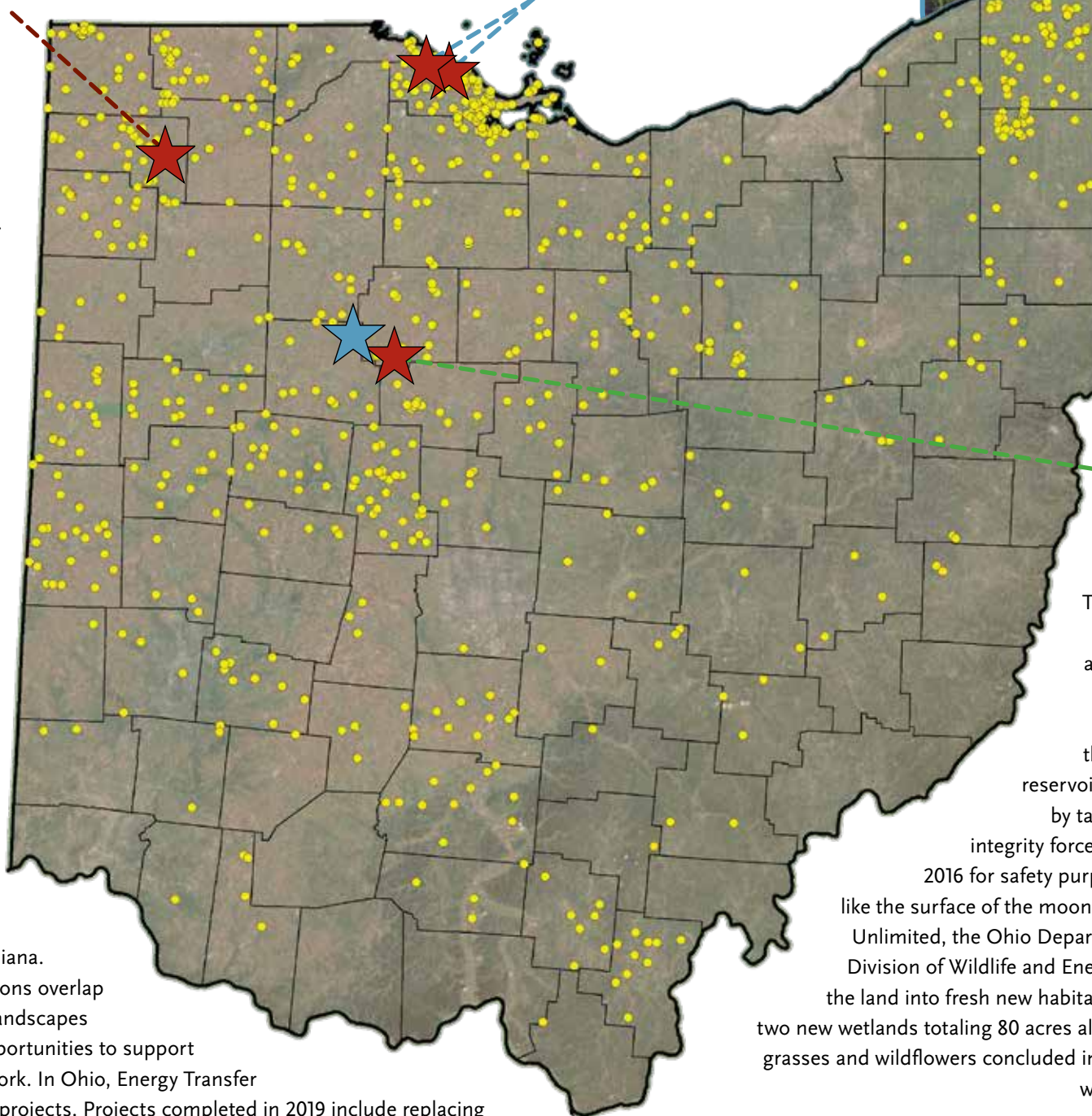


DUCKS NEED CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LAND

In 2018, Ducks Unlimited received a \$490,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act to restore or enhance at least 250 acres of wetlands and 250 acres of upland native warm season grasslands on private land over the next three years. The target area is land in the western Lake Erie basin of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. As part of this program, Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and General Motors completed a 15-acre wetland restoration at GM's Defiance Casting Plant in Defiance County. DU and partners are on pace to restore 242 acres of wetlands and 80 acres of uplands in Ohio with this grant.

ENERGY TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP IMPACTING 2,500 ACRES

Ducks Unlimited is using support from corporate conservation partner Energy Transfer to protect, enhance or restore 2,500 acres in Ohio. Energy Transfer made a \$5-million contribution to Ducks Unlimited in support of wetland conservation efforts in Ohio and Louisiana. Energy Transfer's operations overlap several of DU's priority landscapes and provide excellent opportunities to support wetlands conservation work. In Ohio, Energy Transfer funding is supporting 14 projects. Projects completed in 2019 include replacing infrastructure at the 300-acre Big Spring wetland of Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area and the enhancement of a 337-acre tract at the popular Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in northwest Ohio, among others.



Ducks Unlimited
PROJECTS
● Completed DU Project
● Cattail and Phragmites Control
Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

KILLDEER MOONSCAPE RETURNING TO DUCK HABITAT

Wyandot County

The enhancement of Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area fits into a one-of-a-kind conservation category. The 240-acre slice of land was constructed in the 1970s as a drinking water reservoir - a large basin surrounded by tall earthen berms. Structural integrity forced the basin to be drained in 2016 for safety purposes. What was left looked like the surface of the moon, a barren landscape. Ducks Unlimited, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife and Energy Transfer teamed to turn the land into fresh new habitat for ducks. Construction of two new wetlands totaling 80 acres along with 140 acres of native grasses and wildflowers concluded in 2019, and in a few seasons will be full of new vegetation.



★ **NEW ANDREOFF WILDLIFE AREA**

Ducks Unlimited and partner Energy Transfer have helped the Ohio Division of Wildlife acquire and establish Andreoff Wildlife Area, nearly 720 acres of prime Ohio habitat now open for recreational opportunities.



Ohio's newest state wildlife area was dedicated during a ceremony Saturday, Oct. 5, with project partners.

“Establishing a new wildlife area is a landmark occasion for Ohio recreation and wildlife,” said Russ Terry, Ducks Unlimited regional biologist in Ohio. “Ducks Unlimited is honored to use support from Energy Transfer to help the Ohio Division of Wildlife protect more than 700 acres of nature for generations to come.”

The property was purchased in June. Terry said the land is a priority area of the state for DU and provides important migration, wintering and breeding habitat for waterfowl. The acquisition also opens new access for outdoors enthusiasts.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife purchased the land from the Alexander Andreoff Revocable Trust for \$1.26 million. Ducks Unlimited provided the Division of Wildlife with \$250,000 in funding from Energy Transfer, part of a \$5 million Energy Transfer contribution to Ducks Unlimited in 2017.

“Energy Transfer has long been committed to environmental stewardship,” said Vicki Granado, Energy Transfer vice president of communications. “It plays a key role in everything we do as a company that operates oil and gas pipelines throughout the country. We believe that energy development and conservation go hand-in-hand. We are proud to have helped create this beautiful new wildlife area for birds and recreationalists. Our partnership with Ducks Unlimited continues to make landscape changes in Ohio to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.”

Andreoff Wildlife Area is in Hardin County and contains two tracts of land. Both tracts are former agricultural property that were restored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Wetlands Reserve Program, and other Farm Bill conservation programs.

The northern site is 584 acres and contains restored wetlands and native warm season grasses. It is located just south of the village of Forest at County Road 205 and Township Road 50. The south tract is 135 acres and includes restored wetlands, native warm season grasses and a 36-acre woodlot. It is located on County Road 190 just west of Ohio 292 south of the city of Kenton.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is finalizing public use guidelines, but plans to allow public hunting.



LOOKING AHEAD

Toussaint Wildlife Area

Phase III underway to restore entire 125-acre Toussaint Wildlife Area in Ottawa County. Ducks Unlimited, Ohio Division of Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act and Energy Transfer are partners and funders. Phase I was completed in 2018. Phase II was completed in 2019.

Howard Marsh Metropark Phase II and Little Portage Wildlife Area

Ducks Unlimited received grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to provide engineering design services to restore more than 200 acres of coastal wetlands at Howard Marsh Metropark in Lucas County and to upgrade the entire wetland management infrastructure at Little Portage Wildlife Area in Ottawa County.

Navarre Marsh engineering and restoration

DU received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide engineering design services and restore coastal wetlands and upgrade the wetland management infrastructure on more than 700 acres of wetlands at the Navarre Marsh Unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

Lake Erie Coastal Wetlands Phase II and III

In 2018, Ducks Unlimited received a \$900,000 North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant to work with Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Cleveland Museum of Natural History and others in northeast Ohio to protect 450 acres of wetlands via the Phase II grant that will be complete in 2020. In February 2020, DU and partners will submit a Phase III proposal requesting \$1 million for the protection and restoration of more than 2,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands.

OHIO BY THE NUMBERS

2019

- \$2.1 million invested
- 2,480 acres conserved
- 21 projects

HISTORICAL

- \$36.9 million invested
- 93,272 acres conserved

For more information visit www.ducks.org/ohio

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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/OHIO



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