



LAKE ERIE COASTAL WETLANDS NAWCA GRANTS

10 Northeast Ohio Counties

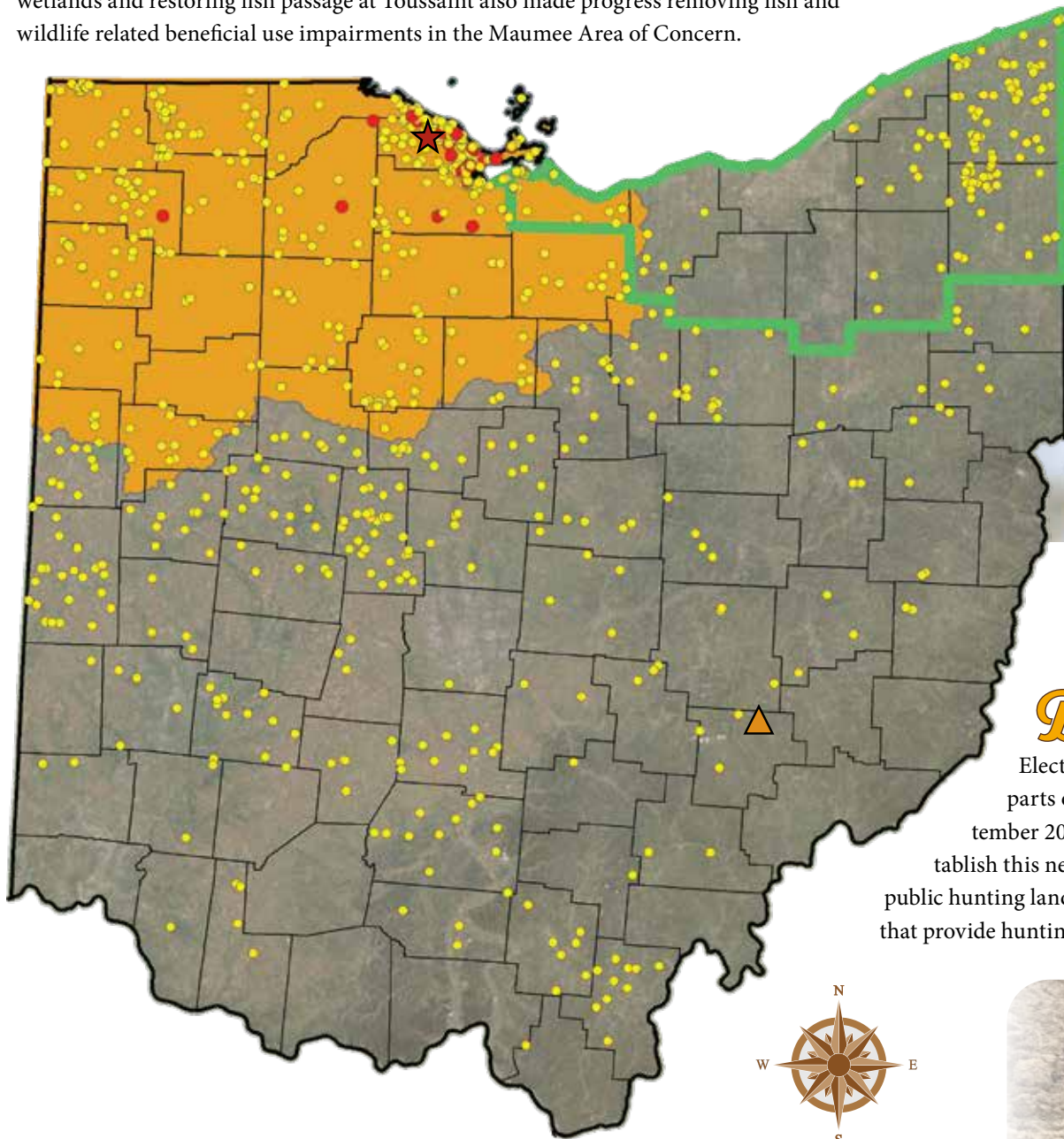
Since 2016, Ducks Unlimited has received two \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants to protect and restore wetlands in 10 northeast Ohio counties. Collectively, these two grants generated \$10.8 million in matching funds from several conservation partners, including Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH). The combined funding resulted in the permanent protection of 4,300 acres and the restoration of more than 600 acres of wetlands. In 2020, DU worked with CMNH to protect two wetland properties totaling 70 acres and an additional 301 acres of privately-owned wetlands were restored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ohio Division of Wildlife. A third, \$1 million Lake Erie Coastal Wetlands North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant was approved in fall 2020 and will be implemented by DU and our partners over the next three years.



★ TOUSSAINT WILDLIFE AREA

Ottawa County

Ducks Unlimited has partnered with the Ohio Division of Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy since 2014 to update the wetland management infrastructure at this popular wildlife area at the confluence of Toussaint and Packer Creeks. Public grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Sustain Our Great Lakes Program and corporate support from Energy Transfer were used to complete this 120-acre coastal wetland enhancement project. Improving coastal wetlands and restoring fish passage at Toussaint also made progress removing fish and wildlife related beneficial use impairments in the Maumee Area of Concern.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

- Completed
 - ▲★ Featured
 - GLFWRA Project Boundary
 - GLFWRA Project
- Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



▲ AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER RECREATION LANDS ACQUISITION

Morgan County

Ducks Unlimited provided funding assistance to Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODOW) to purchase 6,806 acres from American Electric Power (AEP) to be added to a new public wildlife area that spans parts of Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum and Noble Counties. As of September 2020, ODOW has acquired more than 20,000 acres from AEP to establish this new wildlife area. This effort will keep substantial acreage of existing public hunting land open to the public, including grasslands, woodlands and wetlands that provide hunting for whitetail deer, turkey, small game and waterfowl.

🌸 GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT PRIVATE LANDS

Western Lake Erie Basin Counties

Since 2014 DU has received three Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act grants totaling \$1.4 million to restore wetlands and grasslands on private land in the western Lake Erie basin counties of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. In Ohio, DU partners with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Ohio Division of Wildlife and Ottawa County Soil & Water Conservation District to implement projects. DU and our partners have worked with 22 landowners in Ohio to restore 592 acres of wetlands and 55 acres of grasslands. In 2020, three wetland restoration projects totaling 96 acres were completed in Ottawa County.



Conservation Spotlight:
H2OHIO CHANGES OHIO LANDSCAPE



Ducks Unlimited has joined with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and more than 40 other organizations to implement H2Ohio, a data-driven water quality plan to reduce harmful algal blooms, improve wastewater infrastructure and prevent lead contamination across Ohio.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine’s H2Ohio plan includes agriculture groups, conservation organizations, universities, local and state governments and the private sector. The Ohio General Assembly invested \$172 million in the plan for the first two years to find targeted solutions to water quality improvement. A major component of the plan is the restoration and enhancement of wetlands, which filter nutrients before reaching waterways and therefore reduce the impact of algae blooms.

“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.”

In the first phase of funding, the H2Ohio program has allocated \$7.1 million to Ducks Unlimited for five wetland conservation projects.

Land protection – DU will use H2Ohio funding to purchase 278 acres in Wyandot County directly east of Andreoff Wildlife Area where DU will design and restore a large emergent wetland to treat more than 1,500 acres of agricultural runoff. The property will be donated to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to expand the adjacent wildlife area.

Wetland enhancement – DU will use H2Ohio funding to design and install two new pump structures at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge’s Navarre Marsh Unit in Ottawa County. The new pumps will be used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage water levels in two coastal wetlands totaling 630 acres for the primary purpose of nutrient and sediment reduction.

Wetland restoration – DU and the Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife will use H2Ohio funding to design and restore two managed coastal wetlands totaling 100 acres at Little Portage Wildlife Area at the confluence of the Portage and Little Portage Rivers in Ottawa County. Up to 406 acres of agricultural runoff will be diverted into the wetlands to retain nutrients and sediment.

Natural treatment – DU and the Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife will use H2Ohio funding to improve water quality in Delaware County at Delaware Wildlife Area. Water will be pumped from Delaware Reservoir through a series of five enhanced and two restored wetlands before it flows back into the reservoir with nutrients and sediments removed.

Private lands – DU will use H2Ohio funds to work with Ottawa County Soil & Water Conservation District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife and the USDA Farm Services Agency to restore a 23-acre emergent wetland in Ottawa County on private land. More than 60 acres of agricultural drainage will be diverted into the wetland to improve water quality.



LOOKING AHEAD

Howard Marsh Metropark Phase II Restoration – DU will design and implement a 205-acre coastal wetland restoration at Howard Marsh Metropark in Lucas County this year with funding provided by NOAA.

Ottawa River Natural Resource Damage Assessment Grant – DU will permanently protect up to four priorities to expand Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and state wildlife areas in Ottawa, Erie and Sandusky Counties.

Navarre Marsh Engineering and Restoration – DU will enhance more than 700 acres of wetlands at the Navarre Marsh Unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

Lake LaSuAn Wildlife Area Wetlands – DU will enhance six wetlands totaling 13 acres at Lake LaSuAn Wildlife Area in Williams County.

Middle Harbor Coastal Wetland – DU will replace a failed pump at the 350-acre Middle Harbor wetland at East Harbor State Park in Ottawa County.

Ohio by the Numbers

2020	HISTORICAL
• 21 completed projects	• 101,083 acres conserved
• 7,765 acres conserved	• \$39.01 million invested
• \$2.2 million invested	

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.DUCKS.ORG/OHIO



GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

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