

### GREAT LAKES/ATLANTIC REGION

### GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE



### GATORLAND WETLAND RESTORATION

#### Ottawa County

This is the first H2Ohio project completed by DU and the first project completed under the Phase III Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act grant to restore wetlands on private land in the western Lake Erie basin. DU worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Partners for Fish and Wildlife

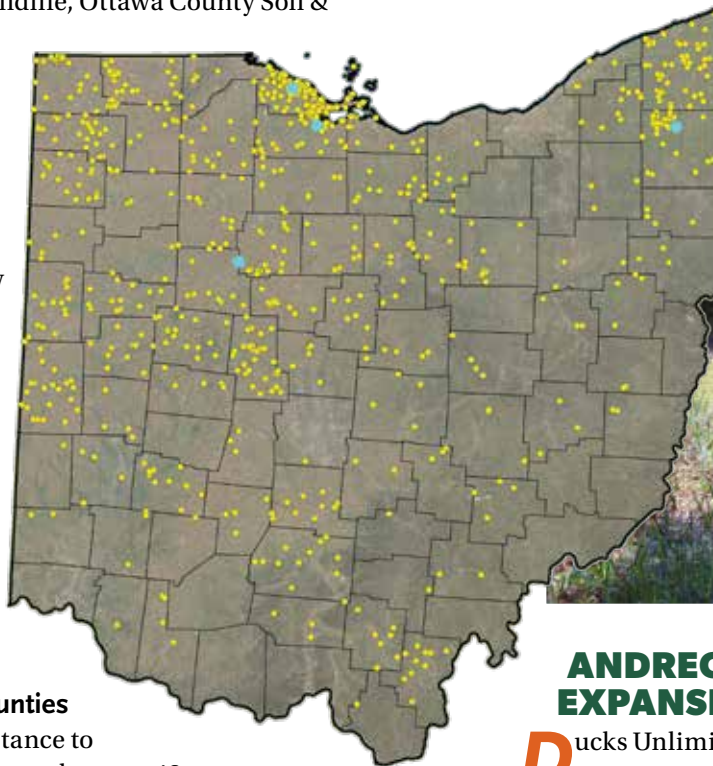
Program, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Ottawa County Soil & Water Conservation District, and the private landowner to restore a 23-acre wetland adjacent to Packer Creek.

DU used an H2Ohio grant from the Ohio DNR to divert 62 acres of adjacent subsurface drainage to a new pump structure to pump the nutrient-rich water into the wetland to improve water quality in Packer Creek and western Lake Erie.

### DORSET AND MOSQUITO CREEK WILDLIFE AREA WETLAND ENHANCEMENTS

#### Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties

DU provided cost-share assistance to the Ohio Division of Wildlife to enhance a 42-acre wetland at Dorset Wildlife Area and a 30-acre wetland at Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area. A new water control structure to improve water level management capability was installed at Dorset. The 30-acre Cross-Pond at Mosquito Creek was converted to a managed emergent marsh by replacing a water control structure, re-grading the levee, and reinforcing the levee with rock. Cross-Pond is not open to hunting, but enhanced wetlands in the refuge should hold more waterfowl and indirectly improve local waterfowling.



### ★ PICKEREL CREEK WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION

#### Sandusky County

In late 2020, DU received an \$850,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. They serve as Trustees of the Ottawa River Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) settlement. DU will use NRDA funding to purchase three properties to expand state and federal wildlife areas in northwest Ohio. The first acquisition was a 37-acre property adjacent to Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area that DU transferred to the Ohio Division of Wildlife. This project permanently protected 1,525 feet of Green Creek, associated forested riparian and upland areas, and 5 acres of

forested and scrub-shrub wetlands open to the public for hunting and other outdoor recreation.



### ANDREOFF WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION

#### Wyandot County

Ducks Unlimited used H2Ohio funding to purchase 278 acres of agricultural land, wetlands and grasslands in Wyandot County and transferred the property to the Ohio Division of Wildlife to expand the Andreoff Wildlife Area. The next phase of this project is to restore a large agricultural field to a shallow wetland and native warm season grass. The restored habitat will trap and retain sediment and nutrients before they reach adjacent ditches to improve water quality.



## H2OHIO INITIATIVE

**D**ucks Unlimited has joined with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources 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 significant component of the program is restoring and enhancing wetlands to filter nutrients before they reach waterways, thereby reducing the impact of algal 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.”

Ohio Department of Natural Resources is leading the effort to improve water quality by restoring wetlands and has already awarded seven H2Ohio 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

### **Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Phase III**

Eight wetland projects totaling more than 200 acres in the western Lake Erie Basin of northwest Ohio will be funded under this Phase III grant.

### **Howard Marsh Metropark Phase II Restoration**

Coastal wetland restoration at Howard Marsh Metropark in Lucas County.

### **Lake Erie Coastal Wetlands Phase III Standard NAWCA**

In 2021, DU received a \$950,000 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant to protect and restore wetlands in eleven northeast Ohio Counties. DU will work with Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Cleveland Museum of Natural History and eight other partners to

complete five acquisition projects that will permanently protect nearly 500 acres of forested, scrub-shrub and emergent wetlands.

### **Lake La Su An Wildlife Area Wetlands**

Enhancement of 6 wetlands totaling 13 acres at Lake La Su An Wildlife Area in Williams County.

### **Middle Harbor Coastal Wetland**

Design and installation of a new vertical pump to restore wetland management capability to a 350-acre coastal marsh.

### **Navarre Marsh Engineering and Restoration**

Restoration of more than 700 acres of coastal wetlands, including upgrading the wetland management infrastructure, at the Navarre Marsh Unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

## Ohio by the Numbers

### 2021

- 14 projects
- 1,169 acres conserved
- \$3.45 million invested

### HISTORICAL

- 101,901 acres conserved
- \$42.9 million invested

For more information visit [www.ducks.org/ohio](http://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](http://WWW.DUCKS.ORG/OHIO)



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