

CEDAR POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE RECONNECTED TO LAKE ERIE

Ducks Unlimited engineered and installed infrastructure to reconnect a 1,460-acre coastal wetland at Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge with Lake Erie. The new hydrological connection restores the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ability to manage water levels, which will provide more productive vegetation and offers fish access for spawning. The enhanced wetland filters algae bloom-causing nutrients from local agriculture water runoff, thanks to a 2015 Ducks Unlimited effort to

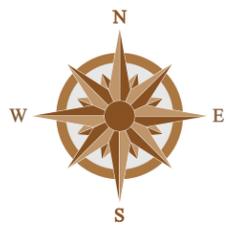
divert nearby farm drainage into the wetland before it enters Lake Erie. The project was funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.



ENHANCED GREAT EGRET MARSH PRESERVE IMPROVES COASTAL HABITAT

Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy partnered to enhance 60 acres of wetlands on TNC's Great Egret Marsh Preserve on the Catawba Peninsula. Because water level management control was lacking, the wetlands were unproductive, full of invasive fish, had poor water quality and lacked vegetation. New infrastructure and a fish passage structure engineered by Ducks Unlimited reconnected the

wetlands to Lake Erie's West Harbor, restoring more natural conditions. The project was funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.



Ducks Unlimited
PROJECTS

● Completed ★ Featured

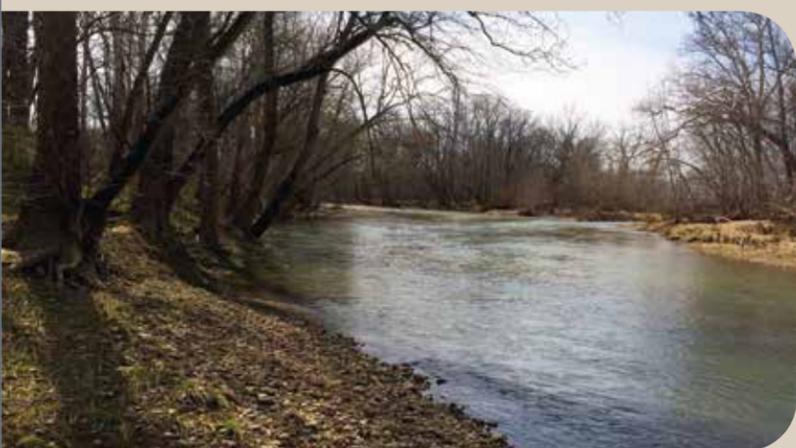
Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

NEW LAND ACQUIRED ALONG SCIOTO RIVER TRIBUTARY

Ducks Unlimited helped Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA) buy and permanently protect a 48-acre property along Big Darby Creek in Pickaway County.

The Big Darby is a tributary of the Scioto River, a conservation priority area for Ducks Unlimited in Ohio. The property consists of more than one mile of riparian corridor along both sides of the Big Darby, an island, 13 acres of emergent and scrub-shrub wetlands and 30 acres of floodplain deciduous forest all of which are prone to flooding, particularly during spring. This property is part of AOA's portfolio of nature preserves and ensures

the permanent protection of key wood duck breeding, spring migration and wintering habitat for a variety of duck species. DU provided funding from a small NAWCA grant for the purchase.



BLOOMFIELD SWAMP ACQUIRED AND PROTECTED

Ducks Unlimited provided \$494,000 from its Lake Erie Coastal Wetlands North American Wetlands

Conservation Act grant to help Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) acquire and permanently protect 730 acres of Bloomfield Swamp in Ashtabula and Trumbull counties. The high-quality emergent, forested and scrub-shrub wetlands add to a significant corridor of protected wetlands

that includes nearby Ohio Division of Wildlife managed areas. WRLC is planning to restore Snyder Ditch in the newly acquired property back into its historical state as a sinuous natural stream channel. That restoration will result in improved water flow and the enhancement of additional wetlands on the property.





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

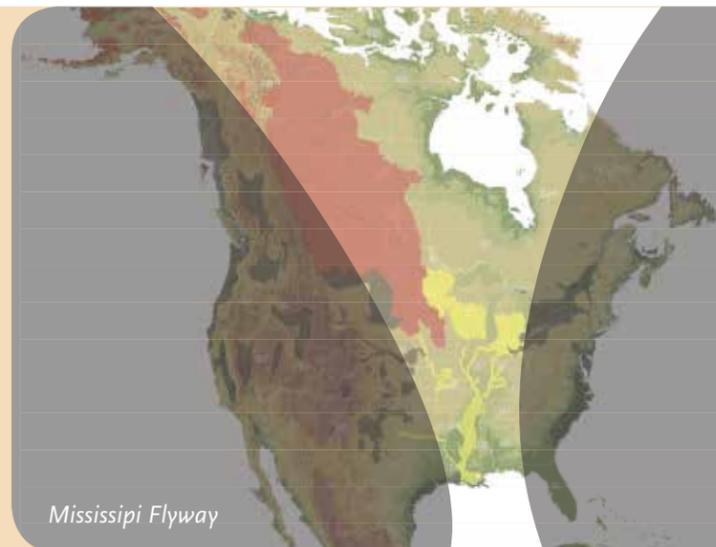
Ducks Unlimited continues work on several large conservation projects:

Howard Marsh Metropark (Phase I): Large-scale restoration of coastal wetlands in Lucas County on land owned by Metroparks of the Toledo Area. When finished, it will feature 570 acres of restored wetland habitat, 142 acres of reforestation and native grasses, new public waterfowl hunting opportunity and improved water quality entering Lake Erie. Phase I, which was engineered by DU and partially funded by NOAA, is expected to be completed by summer 2018. Phase II restoration remains unfunded but would restore approximately 250 additional acres of coastal wetlands.

Toussaint Wildlife Area (Phase I): A total of \$880,000 in federal funding from NOAA and the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act will support new infrastructure for water level management, improved fish access and levee repair. The project is expected to be complete in 2018.

Private land wetland restorations: A \$560,397 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act provides for restoration of wetlands and native grasslands on private land in the western Lake Erie basin of Ohio and Michigan. So far, 13 projects totaling 350 acres have been completed in Ohio through programs administered by USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Ohio Division of Wildlife and Ottawa Soil & Water Conservation District. The grant will conclude in 2017; a phase II proposal has been submitted.

Mercer Wildlife Area Wetland: Ducks Unlimited will provide cost-share assistance to the Ohio Division of Wildlife to support the restoration of two emergent wetlands totaling 36 acres in Mercer County along the shore of Grand Lake St. Marys. The area features a diversity of spring and fall migrating waterfowl that will benefit from the restoration of additional wetlands.



Mississippi Flyway



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ducks Unlimited is celebrating our 80th anniversary in 2017. As an organization, we can trumpet our accomplishments knowing how strongly equipped we are to improve the health of wetlands across North America for the next generation.

The 21-state Great Lakes/Atlantic Region is a diverse landscape of habitats ranging from prairie potholes in the upper Midwest to coastal estuaries in the Atlantic Flyway, with Great Lakes marshes and riverine wetlands in between. Our region had a tremendous impact in 2016. We used private donations and public funds to invest \$29,049,039 on conservation projects. That strong support enabled our biologists and engineers to deliver focused, effective habitat conservation on 15,616 acres of wetlands.

Ohio is vital to the goals of our region and the country. The entire team in Ohio, including our volunteers, fundraising staff and conservation staff, has developed a winning strategy that helps waterfowl and anyone who enjoys clean water.

The work you see in this report is a snapshot of the conservation Ducks Unlimited achieves every day. We need and appreciate your support, as we build on this success for the next 80 years.

David Brakhage, GLARO Director of Operations

OHIO: BY THE NUMBERS

2016

- \$2.58 million invested
- 2,940 acres conserved
- 14 projects completed

HISTORICAL

- \$28.4 million invested
- 87,979 total acres conserved

For more information visit www.ducks.org/ohio

MEET YOUR OHIO CONSERVATION STAFF



Russ Terry has worked for Ducks Unlimited since 1998. He is responsible for the delivery of DU's habitat conservation programs in Ohio. Russ has a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Lake Superior State University and a Master's degree in Wildlife Management from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Russ lives in Grass Lake, Michigan, with his wife, Jen, and daughters, Emma and Layne.

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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.



GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

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