



# NEW JERSEY & PENNSYLVANIA

GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION • 2018 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT

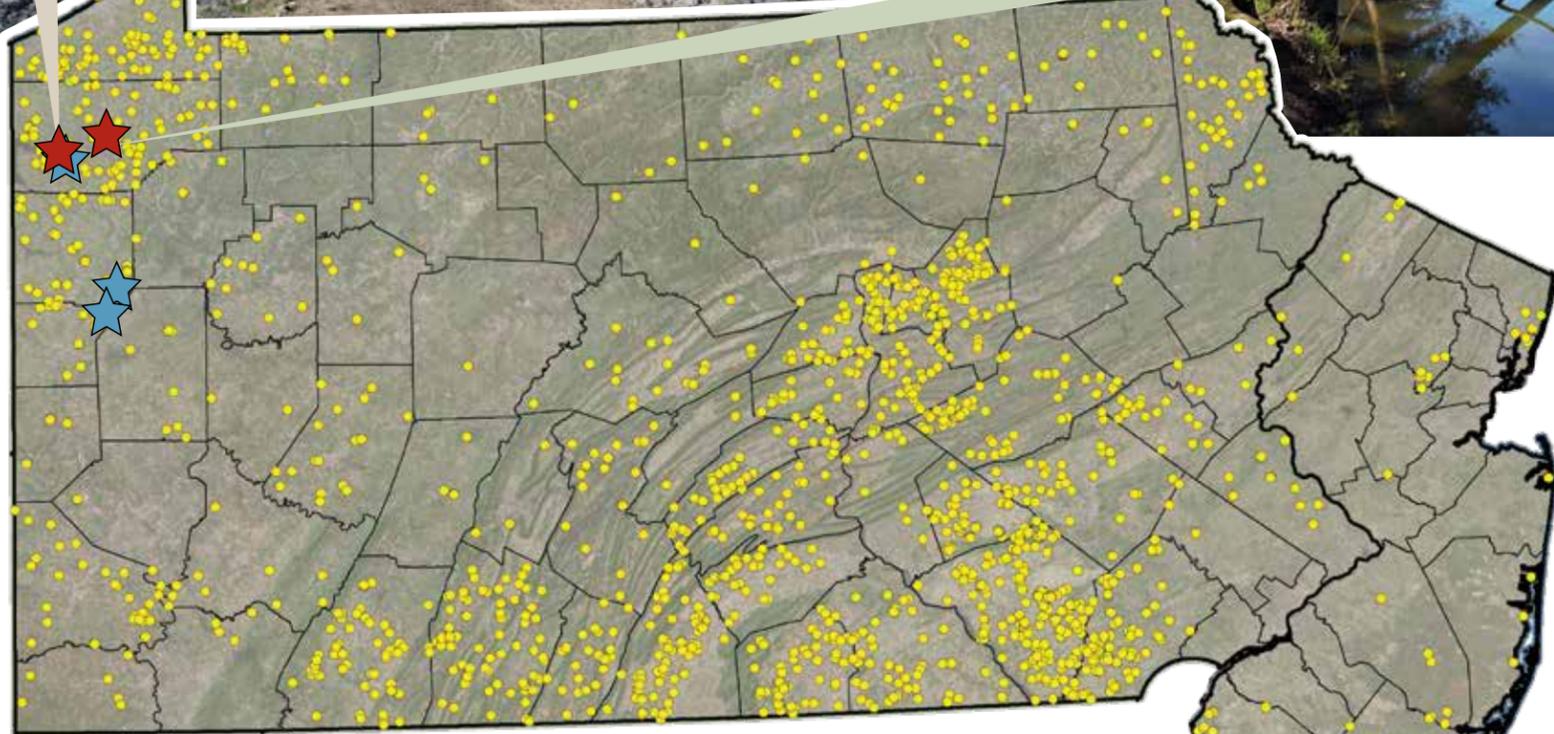
## 430 ACRES IMPROVED AT NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA MANAGEMENT AREA

Ducks Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Game Commission in 2017 completed the second phase of a wetland restoration and enhancement project at Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area in Crawford County. The Pymatuning restoration is part of a long-term effort to conserve critical habitat for breeding, migrating and wintering waterfowl in Pennsylvania and the Atlantic Flyway. Completed in 2010, Phase I restored and enhanced 639 acres of important wetland habitat. For Phase II, Ducks Unlimited enhanced two shallow-water impoundments totaling 405 acres by adding two new water-control structures. DU also restored a 28-acre agricultural field into an emergent marsh to increase the available habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species. Restoration and enhancement allows the game commission to establish additional premium habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife and improve management capabilities.



## VALUABLE FRENCH CREEK DUCK LAND TO BE PROTECTED

French Creek is one of the most ecologically significant and biologically diverse waterways in Pennsylvania. It contains more species of fish and freshwater mussels, including four federally endangered mussel species, than any other comparably sized stream in the Commonwealth and across the Northeastern United States. Ducks Unlimited was awarded two North American Wetland Conservation Act grants in 2017 to improve this area. The first was a \$100,000 grant to acquire a 161-acre property which will permanently protect 82 acres of wetland, 54 acres of floodplain, and 25 acres of associated upland habitat. The land will be added to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Helen B. Katz Natural Area. The second \$100,000 grant will protect 173.32 acres, including the acquisition of a 107-acre property which will be added to State Game Lands 277. Grant partners include the Crawford County Sportsmen's Council, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Game Commission, John Tautin and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.



### Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



## ★ THREE PENNSYLVANIA PROJECTS PLANNED

Ducks Unlimited was awarded a \$100,000 North American Wetland Conservation Act grant to fund construction of three critical wetland habitats on Pennsylvania's public lands. The project will restore areas totaling 253 acres on State Game Lands 151, 284 and 214 in Crawford, Lawrence and Mercer counties, respectively. The project will restore the functions and values these degraded wetlands once provided and increase diversity of wetland dependent wildlife. The project will improve habitat for numerous threatened, endangered species. The projects will improve water quality and flood retention, and increase public access to the resource for hunting, fishing, wildlife watching and general study of wildlife. Partnering on the grant are the Northwest Pennsylvania Duck Hunters Association, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Washington Township and Waterfowl USA.



## NEW JERSEY COASTAL WETLANDS ADDED TO REFUGE

Ducks Unlimited and several partners acquired a 477-acre tract of land on the southeast New Jersey coast. The ecologically important land protects a transition zone from the pine-hardwood forest in southern New Jersey to a coastal estuary system. The land will become part of the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge near Green Creek, New Jersey, and it is situated within two miles of the Delaware Bay shoreline. This achievement links more than 11,500 acres of previously existing USFWS National Wildlife Refuge land. It includes a variety of natural communities, including pine-oak forest, coastal plain mixed-oak forest and sweet gum and red maple swamp. The property will be under public ownership once it is transferred to the USFWS and will be open to recreation, including hunting, trapping, bird watching, canoeing, and fishing. The \$425,000 acquisition is part of a \$1 million North American Wetland Conservation Act grant.



## NEW JERSEY & PENNSYLVANIA'S IMPORTANCE

Pennsylvania and New Jersey are uniquely positioned in the Atlantic Flyway as a critical connection point for waterfowl in all stages of their lifecycle. The states link waterfowl between Canadian breeding grounds and wintering grounds, between Lake Erie, Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Coast.

Thanks to support from members, donors and partners, Ducks Unlimited conservation staff in Pennsylvania and New Jersey continue to execute an ambitious wetland restoration and protection plan across a range of habitats. Priorities include enhancing existing managed wetlands and developing new managed wetlands where appropriate on public waterfowl areas. Conservation work also is done along the New Jersey Coast to enhance coastal wetlands via elimination of tidal restrictions and integrated marsh management.

Ducks Unlimited's staff and volunteers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey support DU's Completing the Cycle Initiative. This initiative focuses on conserving wetlands in critical areas that offer the best opportunities for a sustainable future for waterfowl, as well as cleaner water.

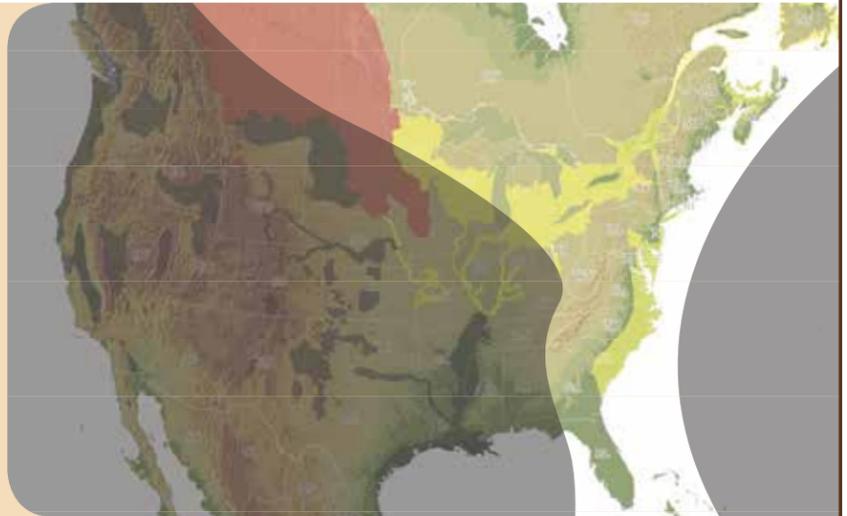


## LOOKING AHEAD

Ducks Unlimited will mark important milestones in New Jersey and Pennsylvania in 2018.

Work will progress on the Southeast New Jersey Coastal Initiative, established in 2013 to protect, restore and enhance critical coastal wetland habitat in Delaware Bayshore and the Atlantic Coast of New Jersey. Several projects have already improved waterfowl habitat and recreational access. As part of the initiative, Ducks Unlimited in 2018 will complete work at a 941-acre restoration effort at Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area. The Southeast New Jersey Coastal Initiative starting in 2018 also is receiving support from corporate partners Axalta Coating Systems and Unimin.

In Pennsylvania, Ducks Unlimited will use NAWCA grants to close on the two French Creek wetland acquisitions.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

New Jersey and Pennsylvania are vital to the goals of Duck's Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region. The entire team in these states, 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

## NJ/PA BY THE NUMBERS

### 2017

- 8 projects
- 1,321 acres conserved
- \$1,441,255 invested

### HISTORICAL

- 248 projects
- 43,556 acres conserved
- \$19,353,717 invested

Learn more at [www.ducks.org/new-jersey](http://www.ducks.org/new-jersey) or [www.ducks.org/pennsylvania](http://www.ducks.org/pennsylvania)

## NJ/PA 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](http://www.ducks.org)



**GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION**

**WE'VE MOVED!** Please note our new address  
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