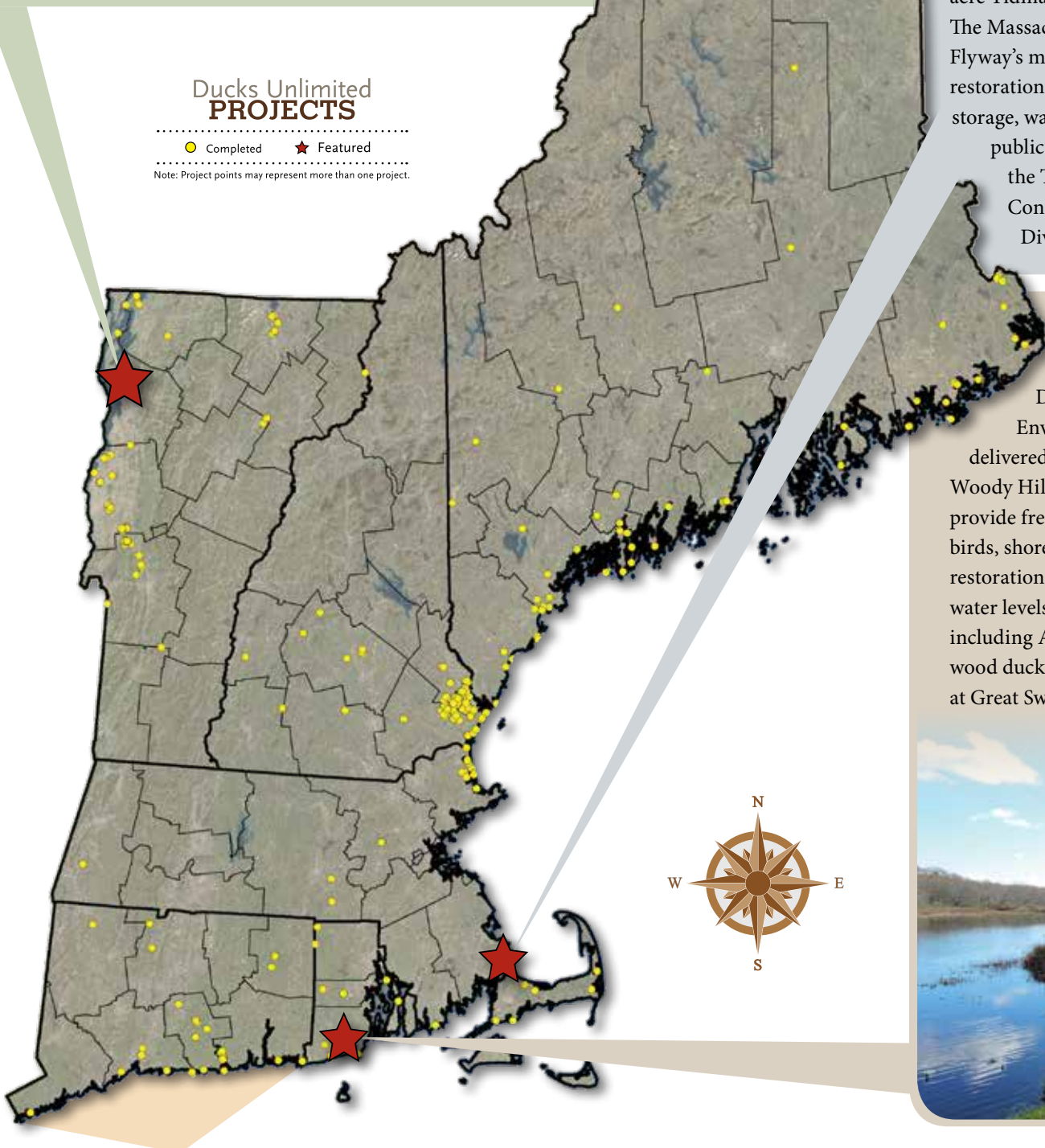


VERMONT WETLAND PROJECT EXPANDS WILDLIFE HABITAT

A 25-acre wetland restoration in northwest Vermont will provide refreshed migration resting spots for waterfowl. The Goad Road project is transforming land formerly used for agriculture back to its historical wetland condition. The restoration will improve the area for waterfowl and wildlife and complement the nearby, restored Millet Creek Wildlife Management Area. This project is the result of a partnership between Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Agency of Natural Resources. It represents continued efforts by Ducks Unlimited to partner and restore critical wetland habitat in the Atlantic Flyway.



MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL WETLANDS GET PROTECTION, RESTORATION

Ducks Unlimited and several partners are restoring and protecting nearly 130 acres of former Cranberry Bog habitat near Plymouth. The project's goals are to restore two sites totaling 45 acres of wetlands and protect 84 acres of habitat that include a mixture of upland and wetland habitat. The sites are adjacent to the recently protected 450-acre Tidmarsh Farms Wildlife Sanctuary, owned by Mass Audubon. The Massachusetts coastal zone represents some of the Atlantic Flyway's most important wetland habitats for migratory birds. This restoration not only benefits wildlife, but will provide floodwater storage, water purification, nutrient runoff reduction and improved public access for residents. Ducks Unlimited has partnered with the Town of Plymouth, Mass Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Department of Fish and Game, Division of Ecological Restoration.

TWO RHODE ISLAND WILDLIFE AREAS RESTORED

Ducks Unlimited and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management - Division of Fish & Wildlife delivered 190 acres of wetland restorations at Great Swamp and Woody Hill Wildlife Management Areas last year. The projects provide freshwater emergent wetland habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and improved recreational opportunities. The restoration gives state wetland managers the infrastructure to manage water levels, which improves habitat for numerous waterfowl species including American black duck, American wigeon, Canada goose, wood duck and ring-necked duck. A ribbon cutting is being planned at Great Swamp in the spring.



COASTAL CONNECTICUT WETLANDS TO BE IMPROVED FOR BIRDS, PEOPLE

Ducks Unlimited and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection are partnering to rejuvenate Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, 142 acres of coastal marsh crucial to 16 Greatest Conservation Need migratory bird species. The project includes wetland restoration and the re-establishment of tidal flow in the management area. Bird species benefiting include American green-winged teal, American black duck, clapper rail, saltmarsh sparrow and glossy ibis. The project is scheduled for completion by spring 2019. Barn Island is part of a larger conservation effort to restore and protect 2,175 acres of critical wetland habitat within the coastal boundary of Connecticut. The projects, funded by a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, improve public access for wildlife related activities such as bird watching, hiking, environmental education and hunting.





NEW ENGLAND'S IMPORTANCE

Located in the heart of the Atlantic Flyway, the New England coast represents a diverse wealth of migration habitats across six states. Each spring and fall, millions of waterfowl use saltwater marshes, coastal estuaries and freshwater wetland complexes.

The Atlantic coast hosts the greatest waterfowl diversity in the entire Atlantic Flyway, from eiders to Canada geese to American black ducks. The primary conservation needs are restoration and protection of fresh water coastal and inland wetland habitats. Secondary to that are myriad nesting habitats, including islands for sea duck nesting.

Ducks Unlimited's staff and volunteers in New England 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.

The Completing the Cycle Initiative area is home to more than just waterfowl and wetlands. The region holds vast human, political and philanthropic capital, accounting for 21 percent of the U.S. population and 12 percent of Ducks Unlimited members nationwide. The waterfowling tradition is strong within the region, which is home to more than 10 percent of America's active waterfowl hunters and DU's mission-critical Major Sponsors.

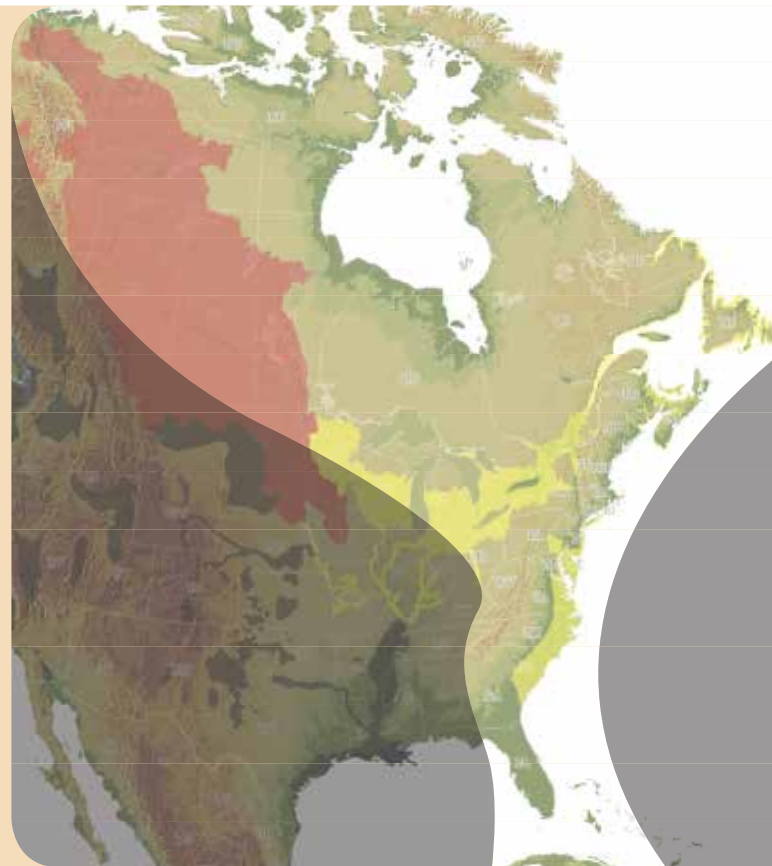
LOOKING AHEAD

Science points the way for Ducks Unlimited's conservation efforts across the country. In New England, science is steering Ducks Unlimited toward specific habitats which benefit several species.

Coastal salt marshes and fresh water bays are the highest priority for the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. Ducks Unlimited will focus on partnerships that ensure we maintain an active presence in restoration and protection of coastal wetlands and inland freshwater habitat. The combination of freshwater and saltwater marshes is critical to meeting habitat needs of priority waterfowl species. Focal species include American black ducks, common eider, Canada goose, canvasback, mallard, gadwall, northern pintail and wood duck.

DU's work will emphasize the following:

- Enhance existing managed wetlands and develop new managed wetlands on public waterfowl areas to meet migrating and wintering habitat needs.
- Enhance coastal wetlands via elimination of tidal restrictions and integrated marsh management.
- Restore of lost freshwater wetlands in agricultural landscapes, and reduce nutrient and sedimentation in rivers and bays, improving water quality and regeneration of submerged aquatic vegetation.
- Protection of key parcels with restorable or existing habitat that expands or creates new waterfowl management areas.
- Protection of key parcels adjacent to protected areas to buffer tidal marsh from development.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

New England is vital to the goals of Duck's Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region. The entire team in New England, 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

NEW ENGLAND BY THE NUMBERS

Historical conservation totals for Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island:

- **40,000 acres conserved**
- **\$8,560,494 invested**

For more information visit www.ducks.org

NEW ENGLAND 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/conservation/glar



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

WE'VE MOVED! Please note our new address
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