

3,200 ACRES CONSERVED ALONG LAKE MICHIGAN

Ducks Unlimited and six conservation partners in July completed a three-year, \$3.5 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant along the Lake Michigan watershed in Wisconsin. The grant resulted in the conservation of 3,201 acres of wetlands and associated grasslands on public and private land in 12 Wisconsin counties. Wisconsin has lost about 50 percent of its original wetlands statewide including an estimated 70 percent loss along the west shore of Green Bay. Intense development is a serious threat to remaining wetlands and associated uplands. The Green

Bay to Marquette NAWCA program focused on protecting and restoring high-priority parcels, safeguarding important habitat from development.



50,000 ACRES OF NEW CRP LAND AVAILABLE TO WISCONSIN LAND OWNERS

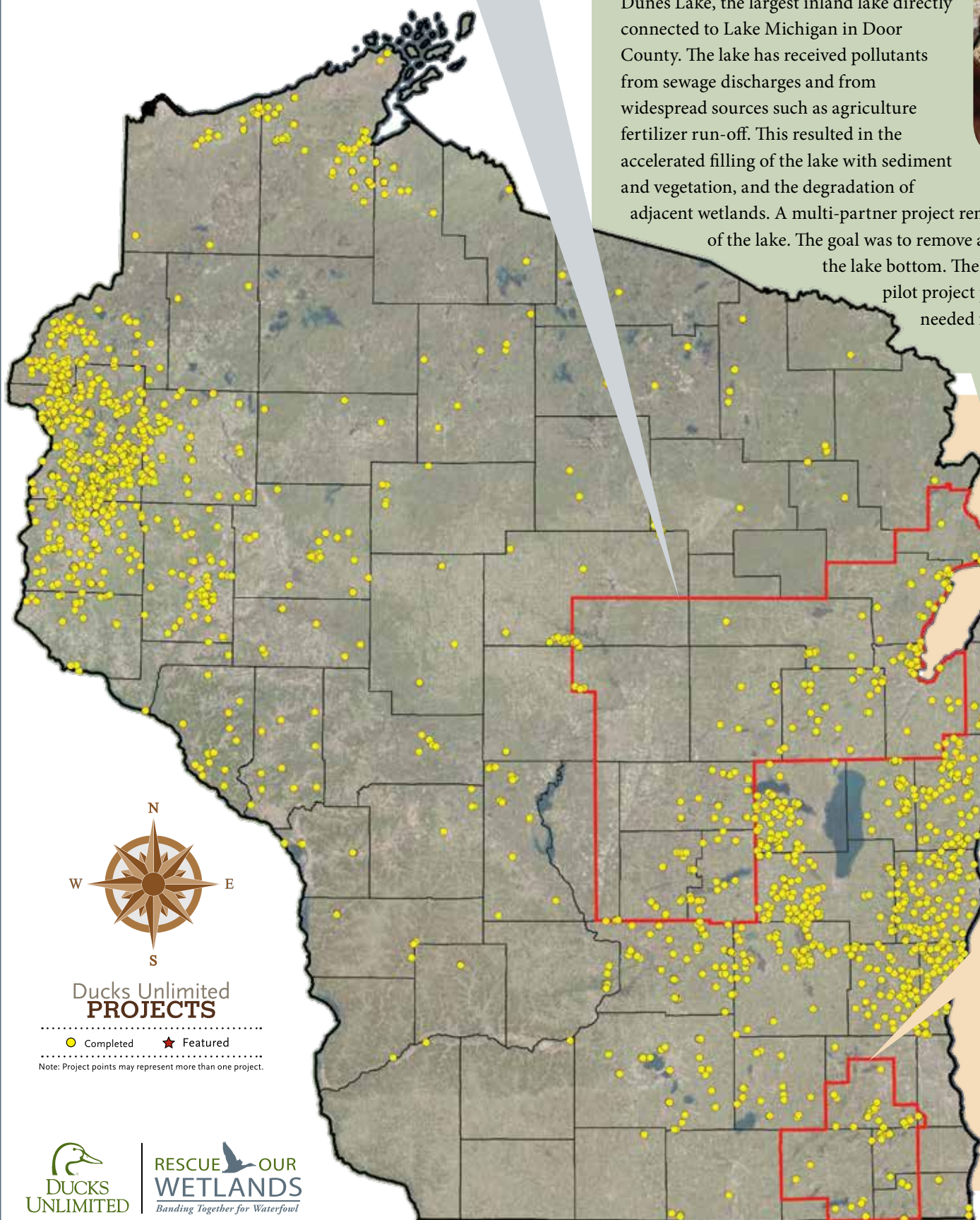
Ducks Unlimited was a key partner on an effort to secure 50,000 acres for restoration of high-priority wildlife habitat in Wisconsin. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency announced the 50,000 acres available to land owners through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program. DU teamed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as co-author of the plan. While the focus is on providing pollinator habitat, the partnership recognized the potential for waterfowl and included wetland restoration as an eligible practice. The grassland will have great benefit to nesting waterfowl, and paired with a wetland, these habitats will provide greater good to all wildlife and water quality. For details, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation.



DU, PARTNERS SCOOP OUT POLLUTANTS AT DUNES LAKE

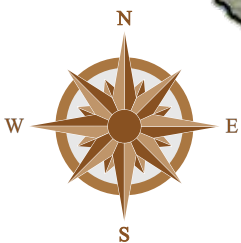
A unique pilot effort to improve waterfowl habitat and water quality exceeded goals at Dunes Lake, the largest inland lake directly connected to Lake Michigan in Door County. The lake has received pollutants from sewage discharges and from widespread sources such as agriculture fertilizer run-off. This resulted in the accelerated filling of the lake with sediment and vegetation, and the degradation of

adjacent wetlands. A multi-partner project removed phosphorus-filled sediments from the bottom of the lake. The goal was to remove at least 5,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils from the lake bottom. The project ended up removing 8,000 cubic yards. This pilot project proved the concept works, and better defined the cost needed for a full-scale lake restoration project.



SEVERAL DUCK SPECIES TO BENEFIT FROM 2,400-ACRE RESTORATION

More than 2,400 acres of critical wetland will be protected or restored thanks to two North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants for southeast Wisconsin. The \$1 million and \$75,000 grants will target Big Muskego Lake and the Mukwonago and Fox River watersheds. The watersheds encompass 678,000 acres adjacent to greater Milwaukee and are in one of the fastest growing regions of the state. This area is experiencing rapid urban development and high land values, especially on developable lands near lakes and wetlands. It is crucial these habitats be conserved before the opportunity is lost.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed ★ Featured

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



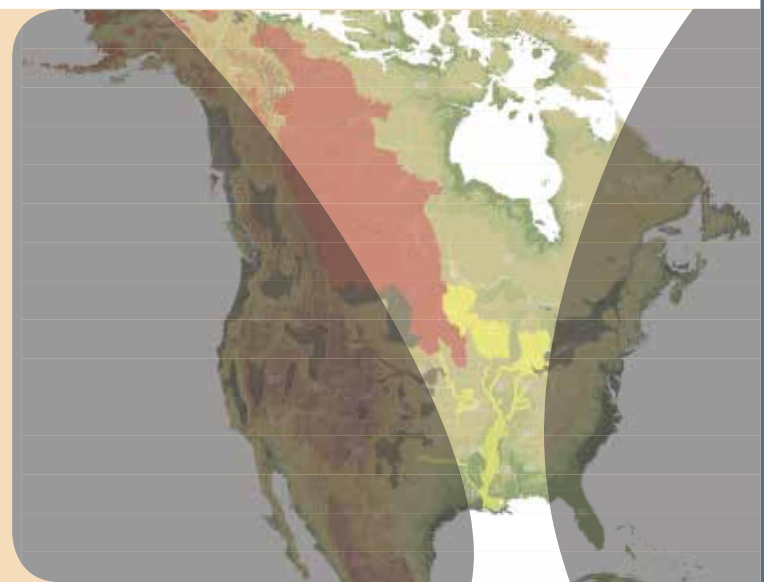
Unique in its ability to deliver almost all cycles of waterfowl needs, Wisconsin provides healthy habitat that benefits the entire Mississippi Flyway.

Wisconsin is a key breeding state for mallards, teal, wood ducks and Canada geese. Waterfowl habitat in places such as Horicon Marsh, Crex Meadows Wildlife Area and Green Bay provide critical waterfowl migratory stop-over resources. Wisconsin can also host significant amounts of overwintering waterfowl. As climate change continues to put pressure on ducks, Ducks Unlimited conservation and science staff are preparing habitat flexible to the needs of ducks and geese.

Wisconsin and its volunteer base support two important Ducks Unlimited conservation efforts, the Great Lakes Initiative and the Big Rivers initiative.

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.

Cool water, coastal wetlands and an appreciation for the outdoors define the Great Lakes Initiative area. The coastline of the five Great Lakes exceeds 10,000 miles and encircles approximately 20 percent of the world's fresh water. Glaciers created a diversity of wetlands, shallow lakes, coastal estuaries and river flowages. Through the Great Lakes Initiative, DU addresses all of these habitat types and provide abundant resources for continentally significant numbers of breeding, migrating, and wintering waterfowl.



LOOKING AHEAD

Ducks Unlimited will grow its Wisconsin wetlands conservation program in 2017 and beyond. Several active construction projects will wrap up this year, including projects at Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve and Bergstrom Waterfowl Complex. Work will continue on coastal wetland protection, including Duck Creek and Green Bay West Shores.

Wild rice is returning to lower Green Bay as Ducks Unlimited and several conservation partners expanded their efforts to restore the native food source. DU and the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay and University of Wisconsin Extension are continuing to plant wild rice, wild celery and bulrush in the former Duck Creek Delta in the wave shadow created by the Cat Island Chain constructed in 2014. In November, the partnership seeded 20 acres of rice, seven of which were reseeded test plots originally planted in 2015. The vegetation is attractive to migrating waterfowl and improves water quality by soaking up nutrients and pollutants.



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.

Wisconsin is vital to the goals of our region and the country. The entire team in Wisconsin, 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

WISCONSIN BY THE NUMBERS

2016

- 14 projects
- 2,743 acres conserved
- \$1,092,307 invested

HISTORICAL

- 111,935 acres conserved
- \$26,132,301 invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/wisconsin

MEET YOUR WISCONSIN CONSERVATION STAFF



Since 2012, Brian Glenzinski has worked from private, state and federal perspectives on ecological habitat restoration throughout DU's priority landscapes in Wisconsin. His previous work at the state agency level focused primarily on wetland, grassland and savanna restoration in southern Wisconsin. He graduated from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a degree in wildlife and biology in 1995. Brian works out of the Madison field office.

Contact: bglenzinski@ducks.org or (608) 221-1206, Ext.12

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

1220 Eisenhower Place, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
734.623.2000 (Phone) • 734.623.2035 (Fax)