



▲ LAKE POYGAN BREAKWALL EXTENDING CLEANER HABITAT

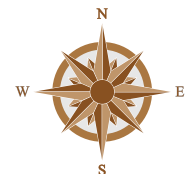
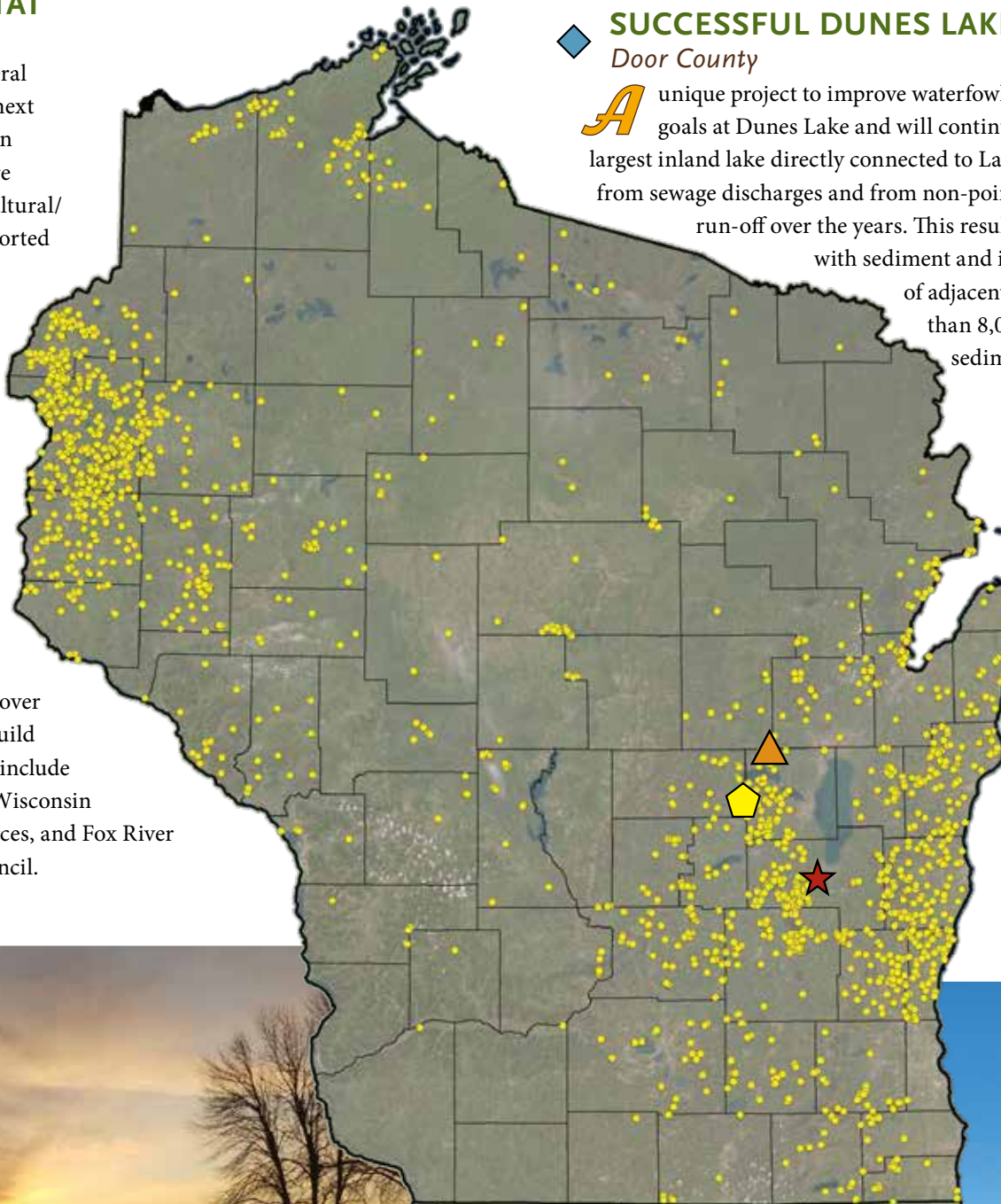
Winnebago County

Ducks Unlimited and several partners completed the next phase of breakwall construction on Lake Poygan. The 4,000-acre shallow lake in a mostly agricultural/suburban landscape once supported vast numbers of diving ducks. The proximity to Fox Valley results in heavy use from hunters, anglers, boaters and bird watchers. Phase 1 saw 1,000 feet of wall established to restore submersed aquatic vegetation, protect emergent marsh, improve fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality. Phase 2 constructed an additional 2,200 feet this year, impacting over 120 acres. Future phases will build 5,800 additional feet. Partners include the Poygan Sportsman Club, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Fox River Natural Resource Trustee Council.

◆ SUCCESSFUL DUNES LAKE PROJECT TO CONTINUE

Door County

A unique project to improve waterfowl habitat and water quality exceeded goals at Dunes Lake and will continue in 2021. Dunes Lake is Door County's largest inland lake directly connected to Lake Michigan and has received pollutants from sewage discharges and from non-point sources such as agricultural fertilizer run-off over the years. This resulted in the accelerated filling of the lake with sediment and invasive vegetation, and the degradation of adjacent wetlands. A pilot project removed more than 8,000 cubic yards of phosphorus-filled sediments from the bottom of the lake. New dredging in 2020 removed 30,000 cubic yards of sediment in a 20-acre "inner basin" of this wetland complex. Dredging in 2021 will remove an additional 18,000 cubic yards. Dredging the inner basin is critical as it holds the majority of the lake's legacy phosphorus. The lake is nearly free of development and is a hotspot for waterfowlers.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed ▲ Featured ◆ Featured
 Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



◆ 230 ACRES OF FOX RIVER LAND PROTECTED

Green Lake County

Ducks Unlimited in 2020 acquired a 230-acre parcel outside the city of Berlin that will be protected as public land for future generations. The land contains 114 acres of wetlands and 20 acres of prairie, with three-quarters of a mile of frontage on the Fox River and future restoration opportunities. The parcel is near two Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources properties on the Fox River, and eventually will be included into a new wildlife area for the City of Berlin, open to outdoor recreation and hunting. Protecting this habitat will keep it safe from intense development pressure surrounding the property. Funding came from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant, Natural Resource Damage Assessment, Bohn Farms and a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant.



★ DU EASEMENT PROTECTING HORICON MARSH

Fond Du Lac County

Ducks Unlimited's first conservation easement project in Wisconsin will continue substantial progress to keep Horicon Marsh a gem for wildlife and waterfowlers. The 151-acre easement was sold to DU by a conservation-minded family who wanted to protect the land for future generations. The parcel will now be protected in perpetuity against development. The strategic move by Ledgeview Acres LLC and DU allowed the family to recoup some money on their property while providing DU with matching dollars for a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant.

Conservation Spotlight:
MORE THAN 8,000 REASONS TO WORK TOGETHER

New wetlands for ducks and improved water quality aren't cheap. Sharing the cost, and resources, means a lot more waterfowl habitat in Wisconsin.

In 2018 Ducks Unlimited entered into a three-year partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help deliver and maintain the Wetland Reserve Easements across Wisconsin. Two years later, the program has far exceeded its goals and has been renewed for an additional three years.

"These Wetland Reserve Easements are the most powerful tool in our toolbox for wetland restoration," said Brian Glenzinski, Ducks Unlimited regional biologist in Wisconsin.

In just two years, the partnership has completed 25 projects and protected, enhanced or restored 8,250 acres across the state.

"Collaboration with DU has been critical in meeting our wetland restoration goals for the state. The wetland expertise and guidance this partnership brings to the conservation table is paramount in keeping our Wetland Reserve Easement program successful," said Greg Kidd, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Easements.

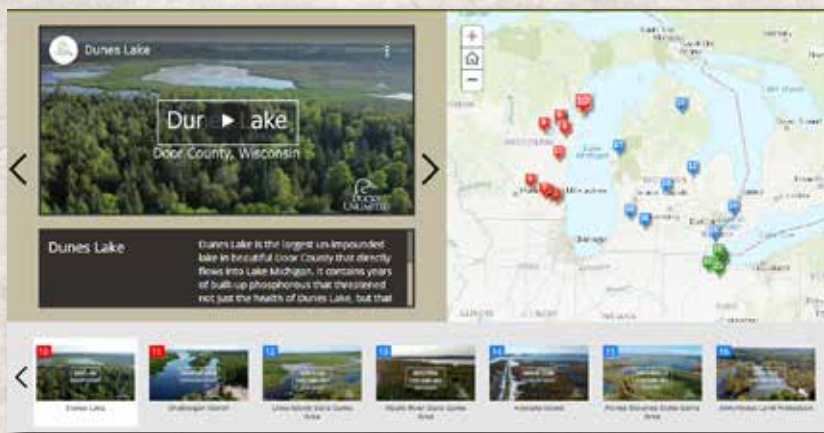
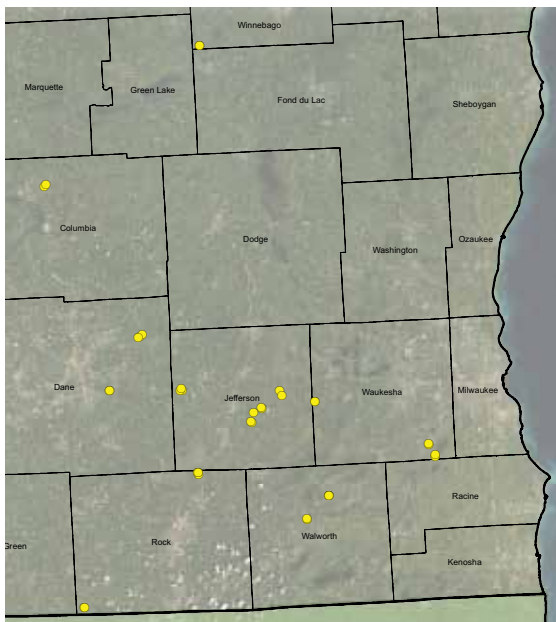
The program incentivizes landowners to place conservation easements on portions of their land. DU provides the expertise to design and build projects on the easements, and the NRCS holds long-term ownership of the easements. Those parcels of land are protected, and also opened up to restoration or enhancement efforts.

"In some situations, we've helped restore former agriculture land to wetlands, and in other places repair failing water-control infrastructure and rebuilt berms," Glenzinski said. DU has helped the NRCS with easements previously, but this concentrated program has produced better than expected results.

Many of these sites have turned into public recreation areas. A good example is Paradise Valley Wildlife Area in Waukesha County. The NRCS and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources developed the site through the easement program in 2007. Today, DU is helping to maintain the important 1,500-acre wetland complex by repairing berms and installing spillways to keep out an influx of invasive carp.

The partnership is expected to produce two to three new restorations per year, in addition to protecting land and improving existing wetlands.

"The Wetland Reserve Easement Program is a natural fit for landowners looking to retire ground which might not be productive for farming," Glenzinski said. "And interest is high. We have many landowners who want to get into the program and DU is working to find funding to meet the need."



LOOKING AHEAD

- Two new NAWCA initiatives look promising to secure \$1.1 million for Wisconsin wetland conservation in 2021.
- 2021 looks to be another busy construction year with projects scheduled at Powell Lake, Mullet Creek Wildlife Area, Badfish Wildlife Area, Oconto Marsh, Grand River, Rome Pond, Lake Puckaway and more.
- ◀ Fly across DU's Great Lakes Initiative through an interactive map (left) and watch nearly 25 short aerial videos narrated by DU biologists, including many in Wisconsin. Visit www.ducks.org/FlyDU

Wisconsin by the Numbers

2020

- 53 projects
- 4,333 acres conserved
- \$5,055,282 invested

HISTORICAL

- 2,751 projects
- 139,175 acres conserved
- \$41.3 MILLION invested

Wisconsin 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.

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