

MICHIGAN

GREAT LAKES/ATLANTIC REGION

GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE

★ ARMINTROUT-MILLBOCKER PRESERVE Allegan County

Ducks Unlimited (DU) has partnered with Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC) on the acquisition of the Armintrout-Millbocker Preserve on the Kalamazoo River just south of Allegan. DU and SWMLC received funds from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to purchase the 140-acre Preserve. The property includes nearly three miles of prime riparian frontage with steep 100-foot bluffs on the southern side covered by white oak-white pine forest. Armintrout-Millbocker contains 55 acres of wetlands, which provide valuable breeding habitat for mallards, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and Canada geese. Conserving the Armintrout property will help ensure the health of the entire riparian corridor, located less than a tenth of a mile from existing state-protected lands along the banks of the Kalamazoo River. The Preserve is now open to the public.



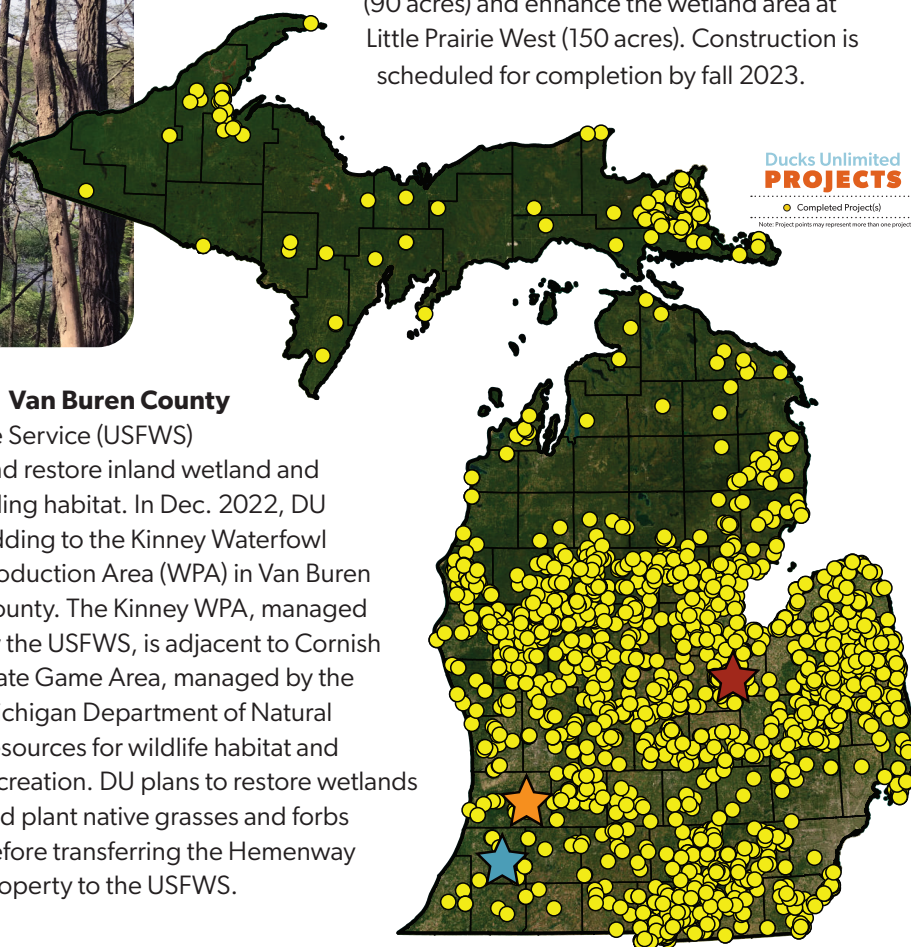
★ SHIAWASSEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE Saginaw County

Shiawassee Flats is a 40,000-acre floodplain basin formed at the confluence of the Bad, Cass, Flint, Shiawassee, and Tittabawassee Rivers. Historically the Flats were a diverse complex of emergent, forested floodplain wetlands. Today, much of the region and the upper portion of the watershed is intensively farmed. Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and DU have been at the forefront of an emerging paradigm shift to reconnect restored wetlands to the floodplain, allowing natural water fluctuations. DU is working with Shiawassee to install water control structures to connect Moist Soil Unit 9 (90 acres) and enhance the wetland area at Little Prairie West (150 acres). Construction is scheduled for completion by fall 2023.



★ KINNEY WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA Van Buren County

Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) administered a grant titled, "to safeguard and restore inland wetland and grassland complexes crucial for waterfowl breeding habitat. In Dec. 2022, DU closed on the 30.5-acre Hemenway property, adding to the Kinney Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Van Buren County. The Kinney WPA, managed by the USFWS, is adjacent to Cornish State Game Area, managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for wildlife habitat and recreation. DU plans to restore wetlands and plant native grasses and forbs before transferring the Hemenway property to the USFWS.



Ducks Unlimited
PROJECTS

● Completed Projects

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



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MIDWEST COVER CROP INITIATIVE

Ducks Unlimited (DU) partnered with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM), U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Farmers Business Network in 2022 to incentivize producers in Michigan and Indiana to plant 75,000 acres of cover crops to improve water quality and wildlife habitats.

Over the next four years, DU and ADM will work with partners and private landowners to enroll more acreage into cover crop contracts. In return, landowners receive a \$10 per acre incentive payment each year for four years (\$40 per acre total). DU will also assist landowners with filing the proper contractual paperwork and cover crop implementation.

The funding is part of a \$2.6 million NFWF program in partnership with ADM and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This grant, under NFWF's Midwest Cover Crop Initiative, aims to plant cover crops on 500,000 acres across Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, and Minnesota. Cover crops are a crucial conservation practice that benefit wildlife habitat and water quality.

Historically, converting native prairie and wetlands to intensively farmed row crops could result in soil erosion, loss

of soil health due to nutrient run-off, and river siltation, which damages wildlife habitat. The nutrient run-off also contributes to harmful algae blooms in the Great Lakes and the oxygen-depleted gulf hypoxia regions in the Gulf of Mexico. Algae blooms can be devastating to fish and aquatic plant species. They can also leave humans without clean drinking water.

Farmers are seeing new opportunities to plant cover crops to keep soil in place and reduce nutrient pollutants. However, according to the NRCS, cover crops are used on only 6% of cultivated land in the north-central U.S. DU's goal is to help farmers apply cover crop practices to improve soil health, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases, and improve water resources. Cover crops will also provide economic benefits to participating producers by limiting chemical costs, choking out weeds, and improving annual yields.

"Indiana and Michigan are losing millions of tons of topsoil each year," said Mark Flaspohler, a farmer and biologist, who directs agriculture conservation efforts in DU's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region. "Cover crops promote sustainable agriculture, thereby protecting local, rural agricultural economies. To begin addressing soil health, the importance of promoting conservation on private agriculture lands cannot be overstated."



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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MICHIGAN NUMBERS 2022

- 36 projects
- 1,856 acres conserved
- \$1,989,619 invested

HISTORICAL

- 490 projects
- 90,098 acres conserved
- \$55,572,924 invested



GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

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