

Background Image:

Wood Ducks

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Ontario

The land around Ontario's Atocas Bay, near Ottawa, is home to a 22-fold increase in waterfowl breeding pairs. This progress is not a natural phenomenon. It is the result of partners uniting from as far as Alabama, to transform the vision of a restored landscape into a reality.

Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Canadian Wildlife Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Alabama and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. partnered in 2001 to restore Atocas Bay's wetlands—80 percent had been lost due to land clearing and agriculture. As a result of this partnership, 713 hectares (1,762 acres) were purchased and 250 wetland basins restored. Conservationists and agriculturalists are working hand-in-hand to achieve the mutually beneficial results that the Atocas Bay Conservation Project offers the community and the continent. The Atocas Bay Conservation Project exemplifies the collaborative nature of North American Waterfowl Management

Plan partner initiatives. For example, the State of Alabama has invested nearly \$750,000 (US) since 1988 to conserve several provincially important Ontario wetlands, including Hilliardton Marsh, Pigeon Marsh, Oshawa Second Marsh and Atocas Bay. This generous contribution to Ontario's habitat program has been matched many times over by partners on both sides of the border.

State of Alabama Governor Robert Riley said it best: "This project is a testament to the power of partnerships in action. I am proud to see that Alabama's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is a partner in this effort and that we are contributing to the perpetuation of North America's waterfowl and wetland resources."

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Contributions (\$CN)

	2004	Total (1986-2004)
U.S. Federal	2,688,975	25,457,444
U.S. Non-Federal	2,273,047	26,749,050
Canadian	1,867,334	88,035,035
Total	6,829,356	140,241,529

Accomplishments (Acres)

	2004	Total (1986-2004)
Secured	522	480,947
Enhanced	536	403,350
Managed	645	416,334
Total*	522	480,947

* Secured, enhanced and managed acres are not additive. Acres are first secured, may then be enhanced and are subsequently placed under management.



Partners gather at the unveiling of the Atocas Bay Conservation Project plaque. From left, Karen Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Conservation Service, Environment Canada; Robert Riley, Governor of Alabama; Jack Messer, President, Ducks Unlimited Canada; Forrest Fitts, Alabama State Chairman, Volunteer; Honourable David Ramsay, Minister, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; Paul Cellucci, U.S. Ambassador to Canada. Ian Parsons, Environment Canada