



**★ TUCKAHOE STATE PARK UNDERGOES REFORESTATION AND MEADOW PLANTING**

**A**t Tuckahoe State Park, DU is partnering with MDNR and the Washington College Natural Lands Project to restore 100 acres. This project includes 40 acres of reforestation, 50 acres of native meadow reestablishment and 10 acres of wetland restoration. MDNR and Washington College finished the upland enhancements. These tree and meadow plantings will complement the wetland restorations scheduled to be completed this summer. The restoration of this mosaic of native wildlife habitat was funded by the Maryland Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Trust Fund. It will improve water quality by increasing natural filtration of runoff and retiring active agricultural fields. This project site drains directly into Tuckahoe Creek, one of the largest tributaries of the Choptank River. This project is directly improving waterfowl habitat onsite, while indirectly improving waterfowl habitat in the Chesapeake Bay by helping improve water quality there.



**★ NEW WELL KEEPING OLD BOHEMIA WMA WET**

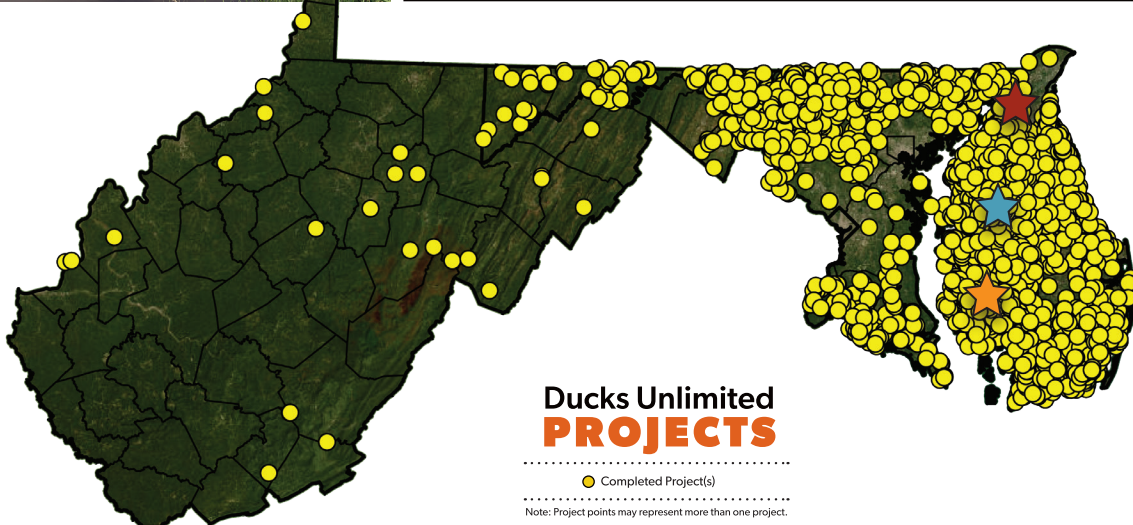
**M**aryland DNR and DU partnered on a second project in 2023 to install a well at Old Bohemia Wildlife Management Area. Two impoundments totaling roughly 8 acres were enhanced by this conservation work. MDNR funded the project, allowing DU to hire a contractor to install a well on the site. Drawing wetlands down during the spring and summer growing season helps to promote plant growth and seed production in wetlands. These seeds are an important source of food for waterfowl during the migration and wintering periods. During dry years, it can be difficult to flood the wetlands before waterfowl begin to arrive. The well allows MDNR to put water on the wetlands in the fall, regardless of weather conditions. In both dry and wet falls, the Old Bohemia impoundments will provide excellent waterfowl habitat and public hunting opportunities.

**★ HABITAT, INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES AT FAIRMOUNT WMA**

**M**aryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and Ducks Unlimited (DU) partnered to enhance two waterfowl impoundments at Fairmount Wildlife Management Area (WMA). MDNR funded the purchase of four water control structures. The new water control structures allow wetland managers to effectively manipulate water levels in the impoundments, which total 310 acres. Proper water level management is critical for providing high quality food for ducks. In

the spring, water is drawn down so that natural vegetation can grow. In late summer, the wetlands are flooded, giving waterfowl a place to rest and feed.

Two hundred acres of invasive phragmites, which were choking out native species and degrading waterfowl habitat in and around the impoundments, were also removed from the site. Herbicide was aerially sprayed to help control its spread. The conservation work will help ensure Fairmount continues to provide excellent waterfowl habitat and high-quality public hunting opportunities.



## CHESAPEAKE WILD PROJECT IS UNDERWAY

In the fall of 2023, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) awarded DU a Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) grant to restore 20 acres of wetlands in the lower shore of Maryland and initiate a land protection initiative in the same area. This project will lay the foundation for a strong, targeted conservation initiative in an area that is primed for protection and restoration. Both restoration and protection will be critical to ensuring the long-term integrity of the landscape in these watersheds. DU will directly deliver three wetland projects totaling more than 20 acres on private property in the Big Annesmessex River, Marumsco Creek-Pocomoke Sound, Back Creek and East Creek-Pocomoke Sound watersheds.

Additionally, DU has committed to planning and outreach that will create a cornerstone of conservation in those areas. DU staff will work with partners to prioritize parcels for both restoration and protection within these watersheds. A landowner outreach event to highlight wetland restoration opportunities and practices will be held using one of these sites. These outreach efforts will help DU to more effectively deliver technical assistance to achieve conservation goals.



Through this outreach and technical assistance, DU hopes to protect and conserve additional habitat beyond the direct delivery of this project. The work will directly and indirectly improve water quality. The wetland restoration projects will remove agricultural land from production to restore wetlands, which will provide immediate water quality benefits through reduced nutrient inputs in these watersheds. Our outreach and planning will enable DU to complete future work that will have similar conservation outcomes.

“The combination of habitat delivery, public outreach and technical assistance will pay immediate dividends for water quality,” said Ed Farley, DU manager of conservation programs. “At risk and listed fish and wildlife also benefit from this work because it improves the functionality and connectivity of their habitats.”



**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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### STATE NUMBERS

#### 2023

- 5 projects
- 285 acres conserved
- \$1.3 million invested

#### HISTORICAL

- 79,584 acres conserved
- \$23.3 million invested



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

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