



### ★ POWER RETURNS TO OAKWOOD PUMPS

Damage to a power line prevented the U.S. Forest Service from turning on pumps to flood over 1,500 acres of timber at Oakwood Bottoms during the 2023-24 duck season. Repairs to the power line, which extended across five private properties, required righting and anchoring seven leaning poles, removing a fallen tree, and clearing 1,250 feet of brush along a narrow right-of-way. DU and the U.S. Forest Service secured permission from the landowners to conduct repairs. Power was restored before the start of the 2024-25 season.



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### \$19 MILLION GRANT WILL REDUCE SEDIMENTATION

In Southern Illinois, DU was awarded \$18.96 million from the Natural Resources Conservation Service through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to enroll producers in on-farm conservation practices to reduce sedimentation in the Mississippi River Basin. The focus areas are the Kaskaskia, American Bottom, and Lower Cache watersheds. By reducing soil loss, wetlands will experience less sedimentation, keeping them healthy and more useful to waterfowl and other animal species. Project goals include restoring 130 acres of wetlands, implementing 977 acres of native vegetative buffers, planting 48,865 acres of no-till cover crops, and forestry management.

### NORTHWESTERN IL NAWCA UPDATE

The \$1 million Rivers and Prairies of Northwest Illinois grant, funded by the North American Waterfowl Conservation Act (NAWCA), was awarded to DU in 2022. It impacts a total of 1,668 acres. DU collaborated with Partners for Fish and Wildlife biologists to implement wetland restorations on cooperative landowner's properties by disabling or removing drainage tiles, plugging drainage ditches, excavating shallow basins, and installing low-level berms. So far, the project has restored 24.5 acres of wetlands. Contractors were hired to grind, mow, and herbicide invasive species that have significantly reduced productivity and function on 26 acres of wetlands at Amboy Marsh Nature Preserve. Upcoming plans for this grant include restoring 201 acres of moist soil wetlands at Big Bend SFWA and enhancing water management capabilities on 103 acres of habitat at the Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center.



### ★ DELAIR BOTTOMLAND REFORESTATION

Thanks to a \$29,847 grant from the Arbor Day Foundation, the first phase of a 600-acre bottomland forest restoration was completed at the Delair Division of Great River NWR. Two agricultural fields (98 acres) were planted with bare root seedlings in spring 2024. The remaining 500 acres are distributed among 19 other fields or management units and will be reforested in the coming years. This project will benefit migrating and

nesting waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, bats, raptors, and songbirds. The conversion of ag fields to hard and soft mast trees decreases forest fragmentation, which is critical to the health of other wildlife. Funding from Dr. Scholl Foundation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the sale of DU license plates also supported the tree planting.

### 140,000 ACRES OF COVERS ENROLLED

DU provided technical assistance and staff support for the Fall Covers for Spring Savings Program (FCSS) through a continued partnership with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, enrolling 140,000 acres across 91 counties. Under FCSS, DU staff work directly with landowners to implement cover crops and regenerative agriculture practices. FCSS enrollment supports Illinois' Nutrient Reduction Strategy, which has set a goal of 15% nitrate-nitrogen and 25% phosphorous reduction by 2025. Cover crop implementation is one of the most effective in-field practices for filtering nutrients before they enter our waterways.



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# Illinois 2025 State Report

## MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 31,805  
**Members: 30,999**  
 General Members: 28,257  
 Greenwings: 1,123  
 Legacy Greenwing Members: 183  
**Sponsor Members: 1,436**  
**Major Sponsors: 806**  
**Feather Society Members: 171**

## STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised:  
 \$4,720,386  
 Number of committees: 98  
 Number of fundraising events:  
 232  
 Local chapter volunteers: 1,355

## FY24 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: \$16,092,615  
 Location of projects:  
 Saskatchewan: Prairie Care-Pelican Netal, Quill Lakes, & Saskatchewan Parklands;  
 Manitoba: NAWMP & NAWCA in Prairie Canada, Parklands.

## US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984):  
**64,805**

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2024): **174,546**

Amount spent on projects in the state (through FY24):  
**\$26,756,648.53**

Amount spent on projects in MS Flyway (through FY24):  
**\$794,952,058.59**

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