



THREE PROJECTS COMPLETE AT SHIAWASSEE

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge is one of Michigan's largest managed wetland complexes. The 10,000-acre NWR sits at the confluence of the Tittabawassee, Cass, Flint, and Saginaw Rivers, which flow into Saginaw Bay. It's a critical landscape for flood mitigation and water quality.

DU completed three restoration projects at Shiawassee in 2024, including two wetland projects reconnecting 160 acres to the Flint River, located at the main entrance to Wildlife Drive. The completion of these projects represents a culmination of a five-phase Floodplain Wetland Reconnection project, resulting in nearly 3,000 acres of wetlands within the Shiawassee Flats connected to four major river systems. The third project is located at Greenpoint Environmental Center, a former golf course that is being restored to native floodplain forest, including restoring the former settling pond.



PARTNERSHIPS DRIVE PRIVATE-LAND HABITAT

- I**n partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW), 50 private land wetland and grassland restoration projects totaling over 514 acres were completed. Habitat restoration projects vary in size and scope, but all aim to improve habitat for migratory birds, pollinators, federal trust species, and sometimes improve streams for fish. A wetland enhancement project was recently completed in Hillsdale County, on a DU employee's personal land to improve wildlife habitat and water quality and serves as a strong example of the impact of community-driven conservation efforts.
- T**o promote wetland restoration, DU has partnered with state and federal conservation agencies to host wetland conservation training. This training program pairs classroom-style and in-field training days for conservation field staff to learn more about wetlands and restoration programs available. This year, a field day was held in Lenawee County on identifying restoration potential and developing a restoration plan. The team hosted over 60 attendees from across the state.
- DU** continues to partner with Archer-Daniels Midland (ADM) and the Farmers Business Network to incentivize producers to plant cover crops. In 2024, 100,335 acres of cover crops were enrolled. Landowners receive various incentives based on their recent cover crop history. DU's goal is to find the best management practice to benefit the landowner, wildlife, water quality, and the community.



MICHIGAN TARGETS HABS THROUGH WETLAND CONSERVATION

Water quality in the western Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay watersheds is getting a major boost due to a \$10 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) initiative that will pilot a program to advance wetland conservation and reduce the impact of harmful algal blooms (HABs).

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and DU are partnering to establish the Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay Wetland Conservation Program. DU is working directly with non-governmental organizations, local governments, federal agencies, and private landowners interested in conserving wetlands. Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development are also involved in this program to reduce harmful nutrients in the Great Lakes.

Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay have lost over 80% of historical wetlands, significantly compromising water quality for Michigan residents and wildlife. MDNR and DU will advance several wetland projects to reduce phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment entering Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay. This project will also work to develop a sustainable wetland program to address goals outlined in the Domestic Action Plan for Lake Erie.





Michigan 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: 381

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised:
\$2,699,850
Number of committees: 93
Number of fundraising events: 215
Local chapter volunteers: 1,158

FY24 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: \$145,000

Location of projects:
SW Ontario Wetlands, Southern
Ontario Habitat Initiative

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in
the state (historically since
FY1984): **78,510**

Total acres of conservation
in the state (FY2024): **47,968**

Total amount spent on
projects in the state
(historically since FY1984):
\$53,054,404

Amount spent on
projects in the state
(FY2024): **\$2,788,953**

Total amount spent on
projects in MS Flyway:
\$794,952,058

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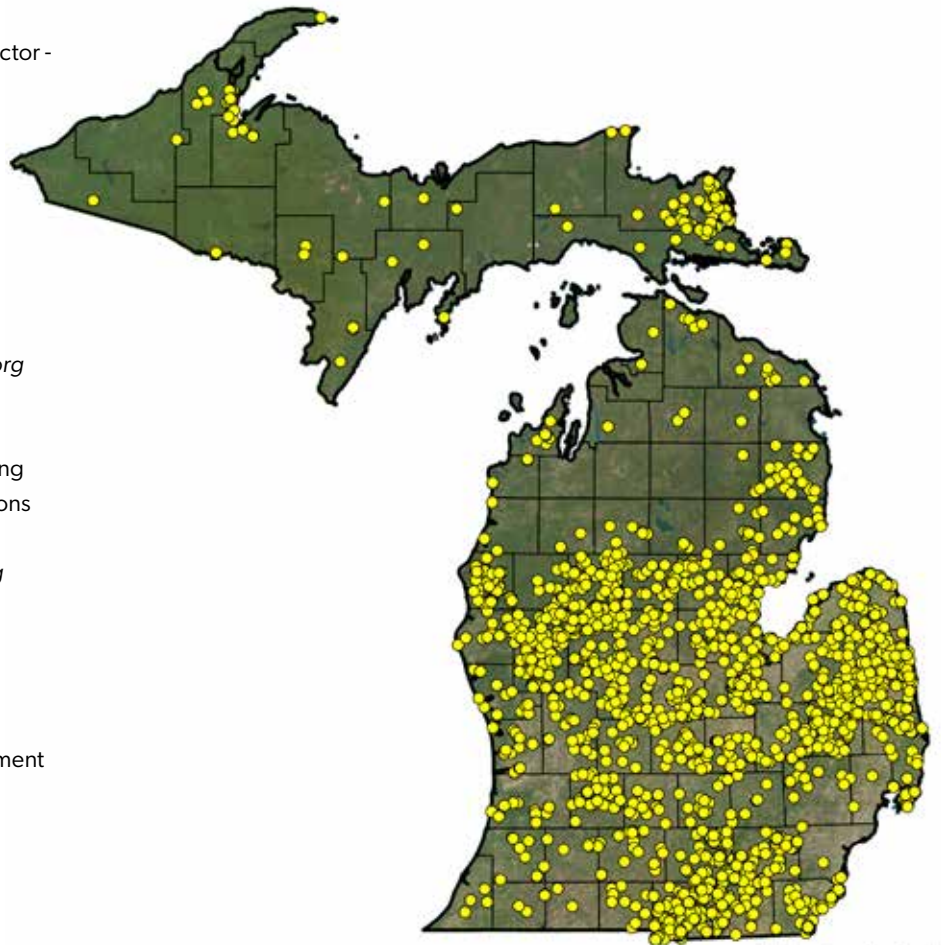
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