



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

Ohio

2024 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT



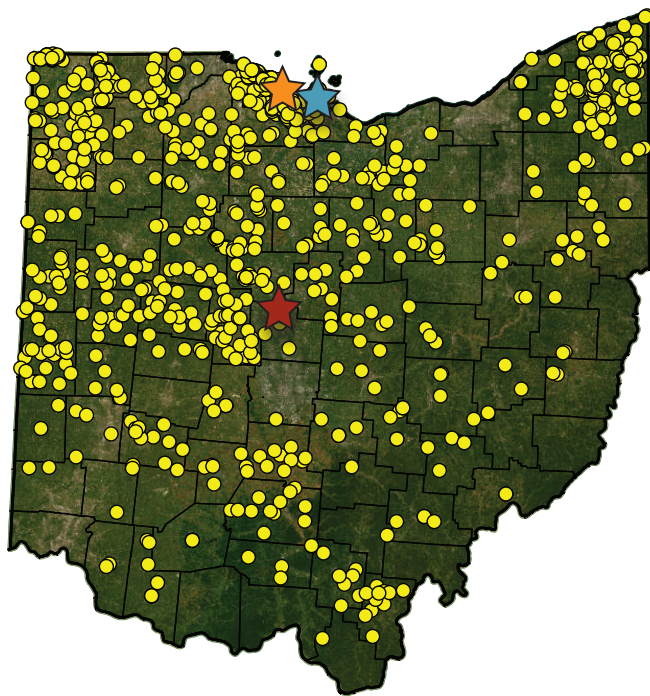
★ MOXLEY WILDLIFE AREA EXPANDS

Ducks Unlimited (DU) received \$894,162 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency who are serving as Trustees of the Ottawa River Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) settlement. DU used the NRDA funding to purchase four properties totaling 286 acres that expanded Pickerel Creek and Moxley Wildlife Areas, as well as Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. In 2023, DU purchased the final property under this grant, a 110-acre managed coastal marsh at Moxley that DU will transfer to the Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODOW) this year.



★ PUBLIC LAND H2Ohio PROJECT COMPLETE

This project addressed poor water quality at Delaware Lake and degraded habitat at Delaware Wildlife Area by restoring and enhancing 216 acres of emergent, forested and scrub-shrub wetlands. DU used a \$750,000 H2Ohio grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, \$79,000 from ODOW and \$100,000 of North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funding for this conservation work. As part of the restoration, a 41-acre agricultural field was converted into a wetland. Levees were renovated, water-control structures installed and hydrology improved at two degraded wetlands connected to the new 41-acre wetland. Pumped water from Delaware Lake will pass through the three wetlands, which will filter sediment and nutrients before re-entering the lake.



★ PRIVATE LAND H2Ohio PROJECT HELPS PUBLIC WATERS

This was the second H2Ohio project completed by DU and the last under Phase III of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act grant to restore wetlands on private land in the western Lake Erie basin. DU worked with USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife, ODOW, Ottawa County Soil & Water Conservation District, and the landowner to restore four wetlands, totaling 25 acres. As part of the H2Ohio funding, drainage from 236 acres of agricultural fields was diverted to two new pump basins, which will send runoff into the wetlands instead of the Toussaint River. The wetlands will filter nutrients from the water, improving water quality in the Toussaint and Lake Erie.



Ducks Unlimited
PROJECTS

.....
● Completed Project(s)
.....
Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DU'S WORK IN YOUR STATE VISIT WWW.DUCKS.ORG/OHIO



OHIO LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM CONSERVES HABITAT

DU receives a portion of the revenue from the sale of the Ohio DU license plate to support our wetland conservation mission. In 2023, DU used license plate revenue to help fund three wetland enhancement projects with ODOW and complete a habitat protection project with Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC). The license plate revenue was used to enhance the 2-acre Teal Wetland at Lake La Su An Wildlife Area; the 20-acre Abraham Marsh wetland at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area; and the 26-acre Racoon Wetland unit at Tycoon Lake Wildlife Area. DU also helped WRLC acquire and permanently protect the 80-acre Fullercrest West property in Ashtabula County.

ADM SOIL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

DU, Archer-Daniels-Midland Company (ADM) and Farmers Business Network (FBN) partnered to incentivize producers in Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio to implement 175,000 acres of cover crops. In Ohio, DU enrolled 34 producers, totaling more than 10,000 acres of cover crops. In return, the landowners will receive a \$10 to \$25 per acre incentive payment. Additionally, DU and ADM enrolled 27 producers in no-till or reduced tillage contracts, totaling just over 4,000 acres. No-till producers receive an incentive payment of \$2 per acre. The goal of the program is to improve soil health, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases, and improve water resources and wildlife habitat while providing economic benefit to participating producers.



ON DECK FOR 2024

- DU will receive \$6 million from two separate NAWCA grants in summer 2024 to conserve 6,610 acres of habitat within the Lake Erie watershed.
- Little Portage Wildlife Area (H2Ohio): Wetland infrastructure updates and restoration of 254 acres will be completed. More than 400 acres of agricultural drainage will be diverted through the wetlands to improve water quality.
- Ottawa NWR: Enhancement of 779 acres of coastal wetlands at the Navarre Marsh Unit (H2Ohio funds) and a 65-acre land transfer to USFWS to expand the refuge.
- Mallard Club Wildlife Area (H2Ohio): Restoration of a 43-acre coastal wetland and diverting more than 300 acres of agricultural drainage into the wetland to improve water quality.



DUCKS UNLIMITED conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

OHIO CONSERVATION STAFF

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OHIO NUMBERS

2023

- 1,170 acres conserved
- \$5,554,199 invested

HISTORICAL

- 130,941 acres conserved
- \$53.05 million invested



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