



MARYLAND

2026 REPORT AND FACT SHEET



WYE ISLAND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington College, Maryland State Parks, and DU completed a 12-acre restoration project at Wye Island NRMA. The addition of 3 potholes created 5 acres of freshwater wetlands that will support migrating and wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Included are two observation mounds which mimic natural wetland microtopography and encourage native plant diversity. Additionally, 7 acres of native tree plantings provide habitat for other native wildlife species. As a whole, the restored area provides ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, erosion control, and reduced nutrient and sediment runoff.

PHRAGMITES TREATMENT

Ducks Unlimited and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service agreed to deliver upwards of 5,500 acres of invasive Phragmites herbicide treatment throughout Chesapeake Bay through 2029. The current priority areas are on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, specifically the Nanticoke and Pocomoke watersheds. However, landowners with phragmites are encouraged to contact DU if they have over 20 acres of phragmites and are within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. DU is targeting private lands for this program, and there is no cost to the landowner. As of October 2025, DU sprayed 1,113 acres of private lands overtaken by phragmites.



MARYLAND'S EAST CREEK PROJECT

Using funding from Chesapeake Watershed Investments in Landscape Defense (WILD), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and another private foundation, DU restored 15.6 acres of freshwater wetlands. The East Creek project, located in the Big Annesmessex watershed, has converted marginal agricultural lands into two controlled impoundments, divided by a berm, which will now provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl, such as black ducks, mallards, teal, and Canada geese. The Chesapeake WILD grant program supports projects sustaining the health of the watershed by conserving habitat, enhancing climate resilience, improving water quality, increasing equitable public access, and building community partnerships and conservation capacity.

TRAIL CAMERA FOOTAGE WILL MAXIMIZE BLACK DUCK HABITAT

Ducks Unlimited has partnered with the University of Delaware and the Black Duck Joint Venture (BDJV) on a study evaluating the response of wintering black ducks to habitat restoration and enhancement of freshwater wetlands. The project also includes the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Working Lands for Wildlife Black Duck Program, which aids landowners who voluntarily enroll their properties in conservation easements. The study will utilize footage from dozens of strategically placed trail cameras to monitor the use of Chesapeake Bay and Delmarva Peninsula marshes by black ducks. BDJV's \$223,000 grant, along with \$28,000 and \$35,000 contributions from the University of Delaware and DU, respectively, will enable researchers to deploy 100 Bluetooth-enabled trail cameras over two years, allowing wetlands in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and New Jersey to be monitored with minimal human disturbance. The study, which is expected to take three to four years to complete, will also incorporate ground surveys. Over the past decade, the BDJV has prioritized research on the wintering ecology of Atlantic Flyway black ducks.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

ducks.org/maryland



MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 13,946
Members: 13,518
 General Members: 12,428
 Greenwings: 182
 Legacy Greenwings: 41
 Sponsor Members: 867
Major Sponsors: 428
Feather Society Members: 45

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$1,326,279**
 Number of committees: **27**
 Number of fundraising events: **75**
 Local chapter volunteers: **486**

FY25 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$222,650**

Location of projects:

Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (*historically since FY1984*): **54,895**

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **196**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$16,513,451**

Amount spent on projects in ATL Flyway (*through FY2025*): **\$358,750,076**

Primary waterfowl species:

Wood Duck; Black Duck; Mallard; Gadwall; Northern Pintail; Canada Goose; Scaup; Ring Necked Duck; American Wigeon; Canvasback and Bufflehead.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Steven Huettner
 State Chairman
 (410) 302-2103
huttymddu@gmail.com

For Information on DU Events:

Josh Voelker
 Senior Regional Director
 (410) 490-0968
jvoelker@ducks.org

Dan DeLayyer
 Director Fundraising & Volunteer Relations
 (607) 331-8695
ddelawyer@ducks.org

For Information on becoming a Major Sponsor:

Jake McPherson
 Managing Director of Development
 (410) 690-7346
jmcpherson@ducks.org

Taylor Deemer
 Director of Development
 (302) 245-4780
tdeemer@ducks.org

For Information on DU's Gift Planning Program:

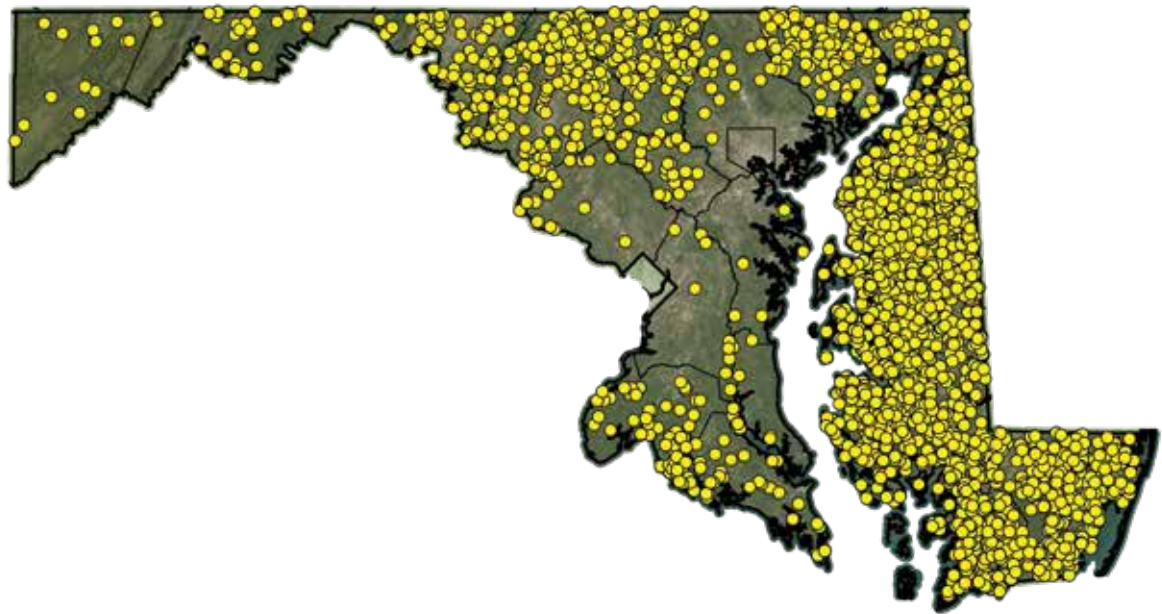
Sarah McCallum
 Senior Director of Gift Planning
 (734) 623-2000
smccallum@ducks.org

For Info on Maryland's Conservation Programs:

Amanda Hoyt
 Regional Biologist
 (443) 439-6593
ahoyt@ducks.org

For Information on DU's Youth Engagement Programs:

Hayley Faith
 Youth Engagement Coordinator
 (609) 233-6760
hfaith@ducks.org



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

.....
 ● Completed Project(s)

 Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



For a digital copy of this and other state reports, use your phone to scan the QR code.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

7322 Newman Boulevard
 Building 2 Suite 200, Dexter, MI 48130

For more information about DU's work in your state visit

ducks.org/maryland