



NEW YORK

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



UPPER AND LOWER LAKES WMA PROJECT COMPLETE

The Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area (WMA) consists of 8,757 acres between the Oswegatchie and Grasse Rivers in northern New York. Managed for wildlife and public use by NYSDEC, it is an important stopover for thousands of waterfowl during their annual migration. American black ducks, wigeon, ringnecks and wood ducks are just a few of the species that can be found feeding on stands of wild rice in the WMA.

In partnership with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Ducks Unlimited completed water-control structure restoration in the spring of 2025. The new structure improves management capabilities on 2,510 acres of habitat, benefiting vegetation management and providing high-quality foraging for migrating birds.

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY AT BLOOD ROAD MUCK AND MUCKY MARSH

In the fall of 2025, construction began on the Blood Road mitigation site in East Aurora, near Buffalo. DU is restoring a 29-acre abandoned muck field that has the potential to re-establish a medium fen wetland. After the demolition of an existing barn, work began to plug ditches, construct spillways to allow floodwater to enter the site and build berms to retain floodwater. Between snow showers this winter, we also kicked off the restoration of the Mucky Marsh mitigation site - 35 acres of a drained peatland in Oswego, New York. Restoration here consists of disrupting tile lines (0.5 miles found and disrupted), reintroducing hummocks and hollows, plugging ditches, regrading, and making cuts into the surrounding berms to enable sheet flow. DU will plant native species (seeds, trees and shrubs) at both sites to restore diverse wetland habitat.



WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING FUTURE WORK

The water quality improvement program (WQIP) is a competitive, statewide grant program that aims to improve water quality, restore habitat, and enhance flood and climate resiliency. Ducks Unlimited secured one grant in 2024 and two in 2025 to fund future work across New York.

Funding for the 100-acre Owasco Flats WMA floodplain restoration project was awarded in the 2024 round of WQIP funding. DU partnered with NYSDEC to restore the hydrological connections to the Owasco inlet. This property was historically an agricultural field with interior ditches that helped keep the site dry. DU intends to plug these ditches and create shallow scrapes that will not only benefit migrating waterfowl but also benefit the local community and help filter water that flows to Owasco Lake, a drinking source for Auburn and the surrounding townships.

ACQUISITION, PLANNING, DESIGN OF EASTERN NEW YORK MITIGATION SITES

DU is working to design a wetland restoration site in former hay fields along Dead Creek in Fort Edward, New York, a few miles east of the Hudson River. The project will include tile-drain exploration and removal, berm construction, disk plowing to reestablish wetland topography, invasive control, and planting native wetland species. DU is planning to partner with the local Grassland Bird Trust as the long-term landowner and steward of the property following the completion of restoration work.

The Cocksackie Creek restoration project in West Cocksackie, New York, will likely involve earthwork, disk plowing, invasive species control, and planting of native wetland vegetation. DU will develop designs for the restoration work over the next year. This is DU's first mitigation project in the Middle Hudson Service Area, which surrounds the Hudson River between Albany and Kingston, New York. DU plans to partner with the local Greene Land Trust as the long-term landowner and steward of the property.

DU recently purchased the property where it will develop the Squeak Brook mitigation project, in Norfolk, New York, in DU's Eastern St. Lawrence Service Area.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

ducks.org/new-york



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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 18,870
Members: 18,176
 General Members: 16,503
 Greenwings: 388
 Legacy Greenwings: 69
 Sponsor Members: 1,216
Major Sponsors: 694
Feather Society Members: 90

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$2,878,371**
 Number of committees: **71**
 Number of fundraising events: **162**
 Local chapter volunteers: **874**

FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$1,079,864**

Location of projects: Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland-Labrador; South River, Quebec

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **62,713**

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **2,737**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$54,810,781**

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

Primary waterfowl species:

Wood Duck; Black Duck; Mallard; Ring-Necked Duck; Canvasback; Green-Winged Teal; Northern Pintail, Redhead and Ruddy Duck.

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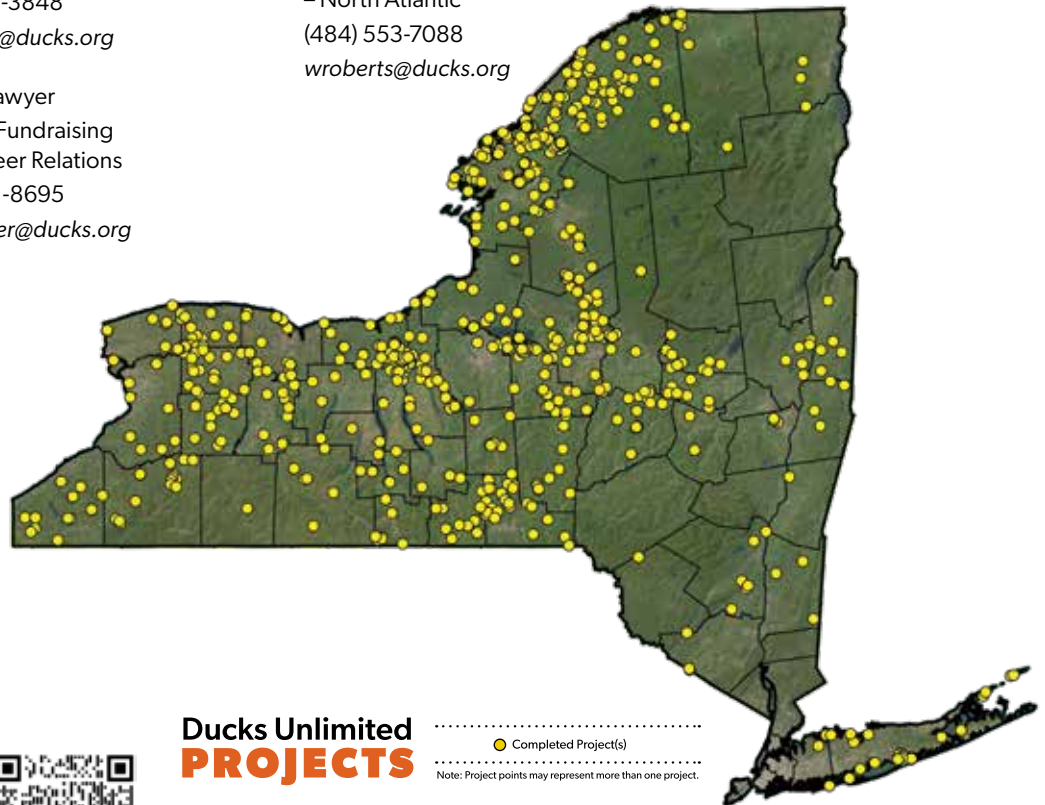
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