



OHIO

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



MALLARD CLUB WILDLIFE AREA

Mallard Club Wildlife Area (MCWA) is a 402-acre public use area on Lake Erie, a popular destination for hunters, paddlers, and bird watchers. MCWA is named after the duck hunting club that occupied the property until 1974, when it was purchased by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The wetland management infrastructure at MCWA had exceeded its life expectancy and needed to be replaced to ensure that the ODNR

Division of Wildlife (ODOW) could achieve productive wetland conditions for waterfowl, other wetland wildlife, and waterfowl hunters. DU and ODOW are collaborating on a two-phased project to restore more than 300 acres of coastal wetlands at MCWA. For Phase I, completed in December, DU received an H2Ohio grant and Pittman-Robertson (PR) funding from ODNR to provide engineering services to restore a new 43-acre managed coastal wetland, the Mink Unit. A new pump station diverts water from Niles Ditch to supply the wetland while improving the quality of water flowing into Lake Erie. For Phase II, DU is using additional H2Ohio, PR and North American Wetlands Conservation Act funding to provide the engineering services to enhance four managed coastal wetlands totaling 261 acres.

LAKE ERIE COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

The Lake Erie Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) was established in 2009 to provide invasive plant species management and education in Lake Erie coastal wetlands. A steering committee governs the CWMA, comprising six state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations, including DU. Funding was lacking for the CWMA to implement on-the-ground invasive species management, so DU wrote proposals and secured \$450,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's NAWCA and the Midwest Coastal Program. These funds support the CWMA Coordinator and pay contractors to manage phragmites, purple loosestrife, flowering rush, and water smartweed across more than 1,810 acres of public and private managed coastal marshes in four northwest Ohio counties. Each marsh received two rounds of herbicide application, either by helicopter or ground-based equipment. A burn was conducted between the herbicide applications where feasible.



OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: CAMP SABROSKE

In 2024, DU purchased the 64-acre Camp Sabroske property using Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding and donated the land to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to expand Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Camp Sabroske was formerly a muskrat farm with four wetland management units totaling 25 acres. It was not possible to manage water levels or aquatic vegetation in the wetlands because the pipes and pumps were inoperable, resulting in a significant decline in habitat quality. In 2023, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) committed GLRI funding to DU to provide engineering services to restore independent water level management and fish passage into the wetlands at Camp Sabroske. The enormous scope of work necessitated the project be completed in two phases. DU completed Phase I restoration at Camp Sabroske by removing trees from the levees and placing rip-rap along the river slope of nearly ¾ of a mile of exterior levee.

DU AND H2OHIO

Launches by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine in 2019, H2Ohio is a comprehensive water quality initiative to strategically address water issues, including harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie caused by phosphorus runoff. H2Ohio was created using long-term, sustainable, science-based, and cost-effective strategies, including the protection, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands. Since 2020, the ODNR has awarded \$15.3 million in H2Ohio funding to DU to complete 25 projects on public and private land that will protect, restore, or enhance nearly 3,000 acres of wetlands and filter more than 4,300 acres of agricultural runoff.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 17,613
Members: 17,279
 General Members: 15,172
 Greenwings: 1,155
 Legacy Greenwings: 63
 Sponsor Members: 889
Major Sponsors: 334
Feather Society Members: 76

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$2,289,446**
 Number of committees: **66**
 Number of fundraising events: **176**
 Local chapter volunteers: **716**

FY25 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Contributions by the Ohio Division of Wildlife:
 FY25: **\$150,000**
 Total Contributions: **\$5,653,829**

Location of projects: Ontario: Southwestern Ontario Landscape Initiative and Southern Ontario Habitat Initiative, Hullet WMA; Manitoba (historic)

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **100,772**

Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **41,873**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$63,141,126**

Amount spent on projects in MS Flyway (through FY2025): **\$921,117,840**

Primary waterfowl species:

Black Duck; Mallard; Wood Duck; Canvasback; Redhead and Blue-Winged Teal.

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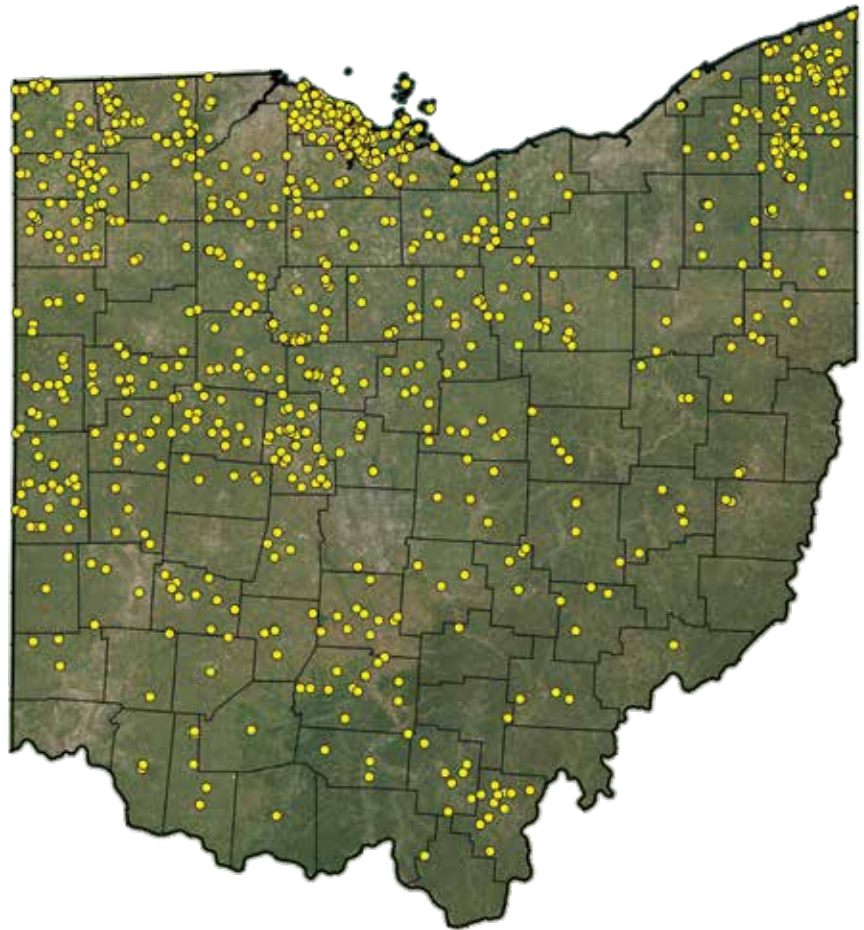
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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

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 ● Completed Project(s)

 Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

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

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