

## Ducks Unlimited/Partner Projects - Ohio

### **Restoring Lake Erie Hydrology to Middle Harbor**

Ducks Unlimited, in partnership with Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Parks and Recreation and Division of Wildlife is restoring a 350 acre coastal marsh at Middle Harbor, located on Lake Erie in East Harbor State Park. Middle Harbor is currently disconnected hydrologically from Lake Erie has become nearly devoid of vegetation, has poor water quality, and offers limited benefits to fish, wildlife and the public. A water conveyance structure is being installed to restore the hydrological connection between Middle Harbor and Lake Erie and will significantly improve the productivity of this important wetland, particularly for fish passage. Construction is underway and the project should be completed by summer 2012.

### **Enhancement of Coastal Wetlands at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area**

Ducks Unlimited and ONDR, Division of Wildlife are making infrastructure improvements to restore or enhance 392 acres of wetlands at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Ottawa County, Ohio. The capacity to manage for desired aquatic plants and Lake Erie hydrology in 110 acres of wetlands near Turtle Creek is being restored. Also, the main water supply channel for 282 acres of marsh had deteriorated due to erosion and more than 2,500 feet of levee is being repaired and reinforced to provide a reliable water source to enhance 392 acres of coastal wetlands. Most of the channel and dike rehabilitation has occurred and erosion control will be applied this spring.

### **State and Federal Refuge Protection Buffers in the Southwest Lake Erie Watershed**

In partnership with Black Swamp Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited secured permanent conservation easements on 253 acres of lands in the Lake Erie coastal zone. The lands were identified by state and federal wildlife agencies as high priority areas for perpetual protection in the southwest Lake Erie watershed of Ohio and Michigan. The project is on track to protect over 500 acres and is ahead of schedule, focusing on providing buffer zones for existing public lands by protecting adjacent or nearby private wetlands and agricultural lands.

### **Habitat Restoration in the Maumee Area of Concern**

The Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited partnered to launch a multi-phase project at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge to enhance or restore 512 acres of wetland and upland habitats, restore Lake Erie hydrology and increase fish passage in coastal wetlands. This project will restore or enhance 415 wetland acres including seasonal wet meadows, wet prairies, emergent and forested wetlands, and 127 acres will be reconnected to Lake Erie, thus expanding fish habitat, particularly for spawning and nursery areas. DU has completed design work and the project is awaiting permits. Construction is planned for this summer.

### **Endangered Species Habitat Restoration**

Ducks Unlimited and ODNR, Division of Wildlife are restoring 44 acres of forested wetland and upland habitats for the Copperbelly Water Snake at the Lake La Su An Wildlife Area in Williams County, Ohio. The northernmost population of this wetland-dependent reptile has been identified as federally endangered, and increasing available habitat has been indicated as a primary mechanism to increase the population. Project restoration will occur spring 2012.

Submitted by Roy Kroll, [rkroll@ducks.org](mailto:rkroll@ducks.org) and Gildo Tori [gтори@ducks.org](mailto:gтори@ducks.org) 734-623-2000