



# Lakeview Wildlife Management Area Habitat Restoration

The **Lakeview WMA** habitat restoration project will improve habitat for fish and wildlife in northern New York by using the “channeling and potholing” method.

## Project Highlights

Restore 180 acre of coastal wetlands

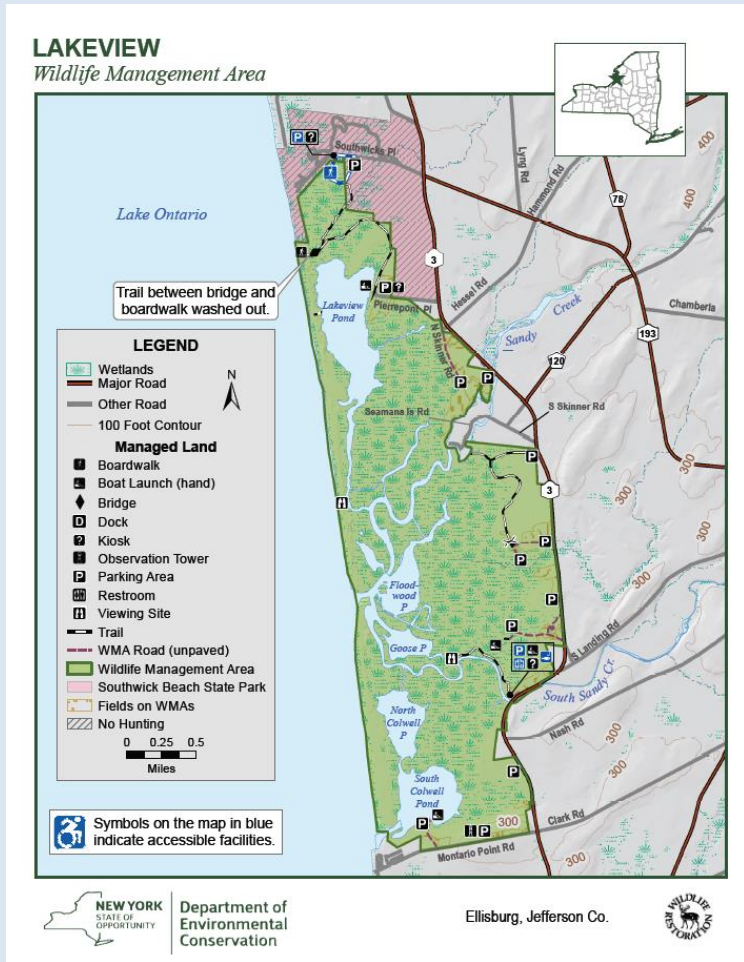
Create 5,000 linear feet of 8-foot-wide channels

Improve 7 acres of open water habitat

Conduct pre- and post-restoration monitoring

Funding is provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/Great Lakes Commission (GLC) Regional Partnership

Audubon New York and Audubon Great Lakes are the local implementation partner and will be working with Ducks Unlimited to complete the project.



Project location at the Lakeview Wildlife Management Area

### Environmental Benefits

- Create fish and wildlife habitat
- Improve hydrologic connectivity

### Economic Benefits

- Improve sport fishing
- Improve tourism
- Enhance recreation

### Community Benefits

- Improve fishing access
- Control flooding
- Improve birding

## Lakeview WMA Background



Aerial photo of the Project Site (Photo provided by NYS DEC)

The Lakeview Wildlife Management Area is a 3,461-acre parcel in southern Jefferson County managed by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). Lakeview WMA contains five large coastal ponds that are connected by numerous natural and manmade channels. The wetlands at the site provide important spawning habitat for northern pike, which are a keystone fish species as identified by the Great Lakes Action Plans, and the target species for this work. The site also supports many migrating, wintering and breeding bird species, including at-risk species such as the American black

duck, common loon, pied-billed grebe, American bittern, black tern, and sedge wren. Many wetland-dependent species use the area as a migratory staging and feeding area as well.

Due in part to artificial manipulation of water levels, the habitat at Lakeview WMA has been altered, becoming less diverse with increasing stands and mats of dense cattails and encroachment of invasive species. There is a need to create more open-water habitat and hemi-marsh conditions to restore historic habitat quality and improve coastal resilience to fluctuations in water levels. This project will utilize a wetland enhancement technique known as “channeling and potholing” to improve coastal marsh habitat so that it more closely resembles historic conditions prior to cattail invasion. These methods have been used elsewhere in Lake Ontario and other Great Lakes and monitoring has indicated successful natural reproduction and young fish fry using the newly restored sites. The restoration will improve the hydrology, water depths, amount of open water, and habitat connectivity, allowing access to shallow water areas for spawning and nursery habitat for northern pike and other fish as well as breeding habitat for nesting Black Terns and migrating marsh birds and waterfowl.

## Project Progress

The engineering and design for this project began in fall/winter of 2021 and is expected to be finished by fall 2022. Construction is scheduled to begin in fall/winter 2022 followed by post-monitoring in spring 2023.

## Funding and Partners

Approximately \$640,000 is available for this project through the GLRI, a regional program that is supporting implementation of a comprehensive restoration plan for the Great Lakes. The project funding comes from NOAA through a Regional Partnership with the Great Lakes Commission. The project is being managed locally by Audubon Great Lakes and Audubon New York in collaboration with Ducks Unlimited.

### For More Information

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