



Ducks Unlimited
Canada



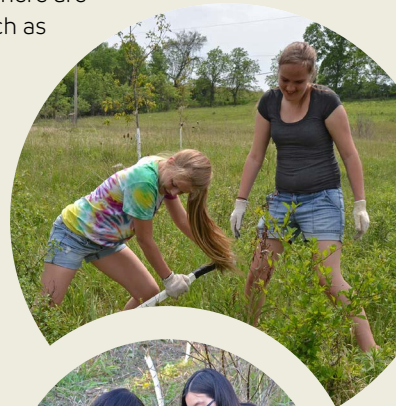
Create your own **wetland project**

You would be surprised how easy it is to make a difference for your wetland. What matters is that you act. The problem for most people is deciding what action to take. They often wonder if a small action really makes a difference. Of course, it does! There is no such thing as a project that's too small. Whether you want to get your hands dirty and start a conservation project, or spread the word about the importance of wetlands, all actions matter.

Need inspiration? Open your eyes and what do you see? Look at your wetland and understand how it works, whether it be water flow, habitats for animals, or trails for outdoor education. If you are interested in one feature, then perhaps your project can be about that aspect of the wetland.

Stuck for an idea? These conservation examples can get you started.

- + **Share your data globally** – Your wetland-related data can help others understand more about biodiversity, the impacts of climate change, species at risk and other environmental issues at a larger scale. There are a number of citizen science projects that may align to your project; for example, watch sites such as **Nature Watch, Bumblebee Watch, Bird Studies Canada** and **Fresh Water Watch**.
- + **Remove invasive species** – Removing invasive plants like purple loosestrife or water chestnut keeps them from overtaking and ruining a healthy wetland.
- + **Plant native trees and shrubs** – Birds, waterfowl and all sorts of other animals rely on native plants for nesting, food and habitat. These same trees and shrubs provide shade and help filter our air and water.
- + **Plant for pollinators** – A flower garden at home or school, or plants along a river or wetland edge, can be tailored to attract the right kind of pollinators, such as native bees, that are critical for plant reproduction.
- + **Plant and animal inventories** – Catalogue the plant and animal types, including invasive species, in and around your wetland.
- + **Maintain access trails** – Clearing trails, pulling weeds, fixing boardwalks are great projects that are always necessary at any public nature or wetland area.
- + **Design and install interpretive signs** – This project can enhance your wetland area for visitors and provide an opportunity to share what you know about these amazing ecosystems.
- + **Create a wetland** – Although this can be a large undertaking, it is possible to restore or build a wetland in your community that can provide important and lasting ecological benefits.
- + **Clean up a wetland** – Unfortunately, trash seems to end up everywhere, including wetlands. Removing this garbage is important and keeps the wetland healthy for plants and animals.



- ✦ **Collect water and soil data** – Collect and study your wetland’s water quality and surrounding soils. Study the changes throughout the year or from year to year for a longer-term project.
- ✦ **Build nesting boxes** – Building and installing wooden nest boxes near a wetland provides important nesting areas that some ducks such as goldeneye, bufflehead and wood ducks.
- ✦ **Build a boardwalk or viewing platform** – A small viewing platform or boardwalk can work as a great project for shop class and the WCE.

Rather use your voice? These awareness projects can get you started.

- ✦ **Write a media release** – By describing your event or project in a media release, media can then choose to cover your story and publish information about it on their channels, sharing your work to the public!
- ✦ **Use special dates** – Capitalize on special dates like World Wetlands Day or local festivals to create your own event, or take part in an event, showcasing the importance of wetlands.
- ✦ **Use social media** – The use of social media platforms is a useful way to engage with your community on a consistent basis. Share photos, videos, write a blog, join like-minded social media groups.
- ✦ **Set up a meeting** – For some issues, you may want to set up a meeting to speak with a decision maker so you can present your concern or your knowledge about an issue in person.
- ✦ **Send a letter** – Write a letter explaining your concerns and then mail it to someone who is a decision maker and can help solve this problem. Do your research to find out who would be the best person to address your concern. It could be your school principal, your mayor, city councillor or your member of legislative assembly.
- ✦ **Petition for a cause** – You can create a petition and gather support for something important in your community such as a boardwalk on a nearby wetland.
- ✦ **Hold a fundraiser** – Whether you need funds for your event or want to raise funds to give back to a specific organization. A fundraiser can go along way for not only raising money for your cause, but awareness in your community.
- ✦ **Art or photography projects** – Art, including photography, is a wonderful to inspire and speak up about wetlands. Create art or take photos to share. Or plan an exhibit or contest. The work can be used to showcase your concern.



Remember: do a project that you care about and make it your own.

You are not alone! DUC works with students across country and together we all make a difference. Find out what students of the Wetland Centre of Excellence network are up to. Visit wce-education.ducks.ca



Let us know!

Let us know what you’re up to! You could be featured as a Wetland Hero! Email us at education@ducks.ca or complete our online Wetland Hero application form.

