



Rockwood Island Wetland Restoration -- IL



BACKGROUND

Ducks Unlimited is committed to the restoration of bottomland forest and wetland habitats that waterfowl need to thrive.

LOCATION

Rockwood Island is part of the Middle Mississippi River system; an unimpounded reach maintained for navigation with wing dams and by dredging. The Middle Mississippi is generally considered the reach between the confluence of the Missouri and the Ohio Rivers.

ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED

Historically this river reach has many islands and sand bars. Channelization and dredging have greatly reduced the habitat diversity. Flood control levees disconnect the floodplain from the river. This project will restore both wetland and upland forest habitats.

RESULTS

When completed it is expected that 110 acres of frequently flood cropland will be restored to an emergent wetland habitat frequented by waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife. Also 125 acres of mast producing trees (pin oak, pecan, swamp white oak, bur oak, shellbark hickory) will provide a very important food source.

OUTCOMES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Upon completion of the restoration work Ducks Unlimited plans to donate the Rockwood Island property to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion in the Middle Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge. The site will continue to be used for landowner outreach teaching about restoration techniques.

PARTNERS

Ducks Unlimited
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Middle Mississippi River Partnership

CONTACTS

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GRANT AMOUNT

\$ 43,615 NFWF
\$ 87,240 Match

\$130,855 Total Project Cost

The Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have partnered to initiate the Upper Mississippi River Watershed Fund. The Foundation grants projects that benefit the forests of the Upper Mississippi while improving wildlife habitat and water quality.