



Lapeer State Game Area Habitat Management

Contact: Lapeer DNR Wildlife Field Office
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8,534 acres in Lapeer County

[Link to area map](#)

This area is being managed for the features species listed below and may include the following habitat management practices:

Canada Geese:

- Planting grain crops and green browse (winter wheat and rye).
- Maintaining short grasslands associated with water: planting, applying herbicides and fertilizer, and mowing.
- Maintaining areas of flooding.
- Controlling phragmites: applying herbicides and burning.
- Maintaining hunting and wildlife viewing access.

Eastern Wild Turkey:

- Providing roosting sites: retaining mature trees when harvesting timber.
- Establishing brush through timber harvesting practices.
- Planting food plots.
- Maintaining grasslands and forest openings: planting, applying herbicides, mowing, disking, fertilizing, haying, and prescribed burning.
- Maintaining hard mast (beech, oak) and soft mast (cherry, crabapples): allowing forests to mature, retaining mast-producing trees when harvesting timber.

Mallard:

- Maintaining a 50:50 ratio of marsh to open water condition: removing tree stubs, digging potholes, dredging channels, and maintaining ditch systems and culverts.
- Maintaining grasslands adjacent to wetlands: planting warm and cool-season grasses, applying herbicides, prescribed burning, mowing, and haying.
- Planting food plots (corn, buckwheat, oats, etc).
- Maintaining a good mix of seed-producing wetland plants: manipulating water levels, bulldozing, disking, and seeding.
- Controlling phragmites and narrow-leaf cattail: applying herbicides and prescribed burning.
- Maintaining water control structures and dikes: routine inspections of all structures, mowing, applying herbicides, removing brush, repairing pumps & valves, filling rodent burrows, replacing guard rails over dams, and removing debris.
- Providing and maintaining nesting tunnels.

Ruffed Grouse:

- Preserving brush, slash, and drumming logs during timber harvests.
- Maintaining forested stands, especially aspen, with diverse age classes by clear cutting adjacent stands on a 10 to 20 year rotation.
- Seeding log landings and access trails with clover.
- Maintaining a young, deciduous component in lowland and riparian stands.

White-tailed Deer:

- Maintaining and facilitating hunting opportunities on state land by planting: annual food plots, fruit-bearing trees, legumes, clover, rye, and pea/Sudan grass mixtures.

- Maintaining trees that produce hard mast (beech, oak): maintaining an oak component, promoting the regeneration of oak, and retaining a representation of mature acorn producing trees during harvests.
- Maintaining abundant browse by managing for young forests (particularly aspen and jack pine): performing clear cuts and rotational harvests of timber.
- Maintaining and expanding thermal cover in high snow areas by selecting for conifers, particularly the white cedar, and hemlock component.
- Maintaining grasslands for food and cover: planting, fertilizing, disking, mowing, haying, applying herbicides, and prescribed burning.