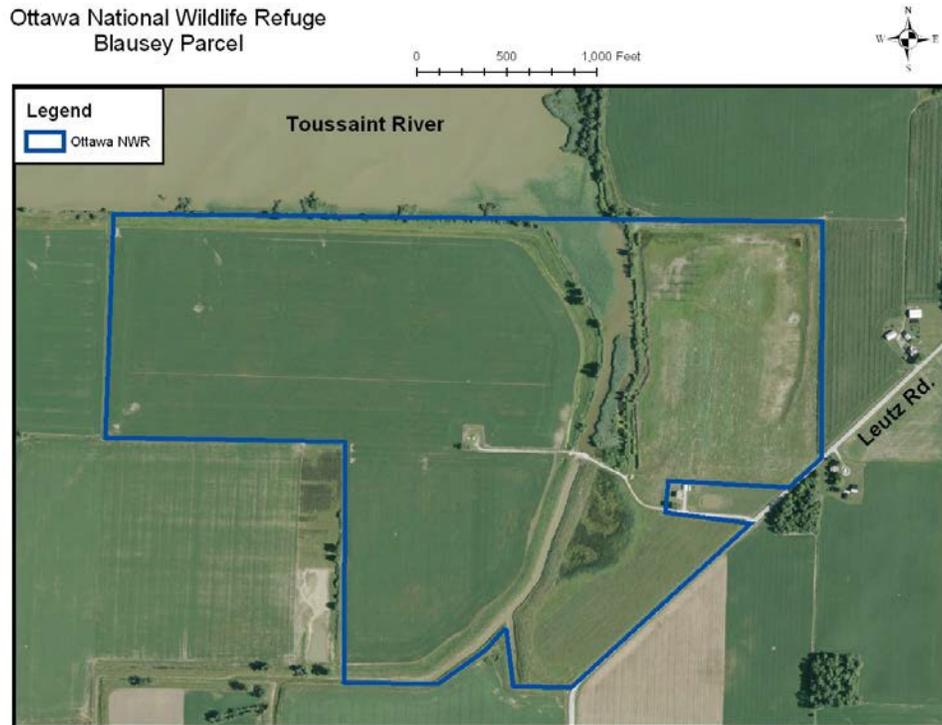


Blausey Tract – Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge



On the **171-acre Blausey tract**, approximately **171 acres of wetlands** will be restored. The following summarizes the primary actions and projected results:

- Approximately 100 acres of former coastal wetlands currently in row crop production will be taken out of production, and sub-surface drain tiles will be disabled so that hydrological restoration to natural habitat can occur.
- Restoration will include elevating the western side of the property, engineering a water conveyance system that includes water control structures, installing two pumps to divert water from an agricultural ditch into the wetlands to sustain wetland conditions, and installing a fish access structure to provide for fish passage between the restored wetland and the Toussaint River and Lake Erie. The fish passage structure will be placed through the dike in the northeast corner of the unit, which will allow a direct connection to the Toussaint River.
- The eastern 71 acres of this tract requires sub-surface drain tile cutting along the northern and eastern borders, elevating contours to permit increased floodplain area and pumping from the county drain discharge, providing the capacity to increase water levels during summer drought periods, and preventing invasive species establishment.
- The Blausey restoration will provide the following immediate management and ecological benefits:

- During storm events, water will gravity flow or be pumped from a county ditch to the 171 newly restored wetland acres, providing filtering for the agricultural drainage prevalent in the Area Of Concern, thereby improving water quality and providing flood attenuation.
 - Water control structures and fish ladders will permit reconnection to the natural hydrology of Lake Erie as desired (e.g., fully open), thereby creating walleye, yellow perch, and northern pike spawning and nursery habitat.
 - Structures can be managed, as needed, to retain water for maintenance of a diverse wetland plant community and prevention of invasive plant establishment. These structures permit management flexibility with different lake levels, including projected fluctuations due to climate change.
- Many wetland species, especially species of high conservation concern (e.g., American black duck, blue-winged teal, Wilson's snipe, American woodcock) and those fish species mentioned above would benefit from the additional habitat provided by this project.