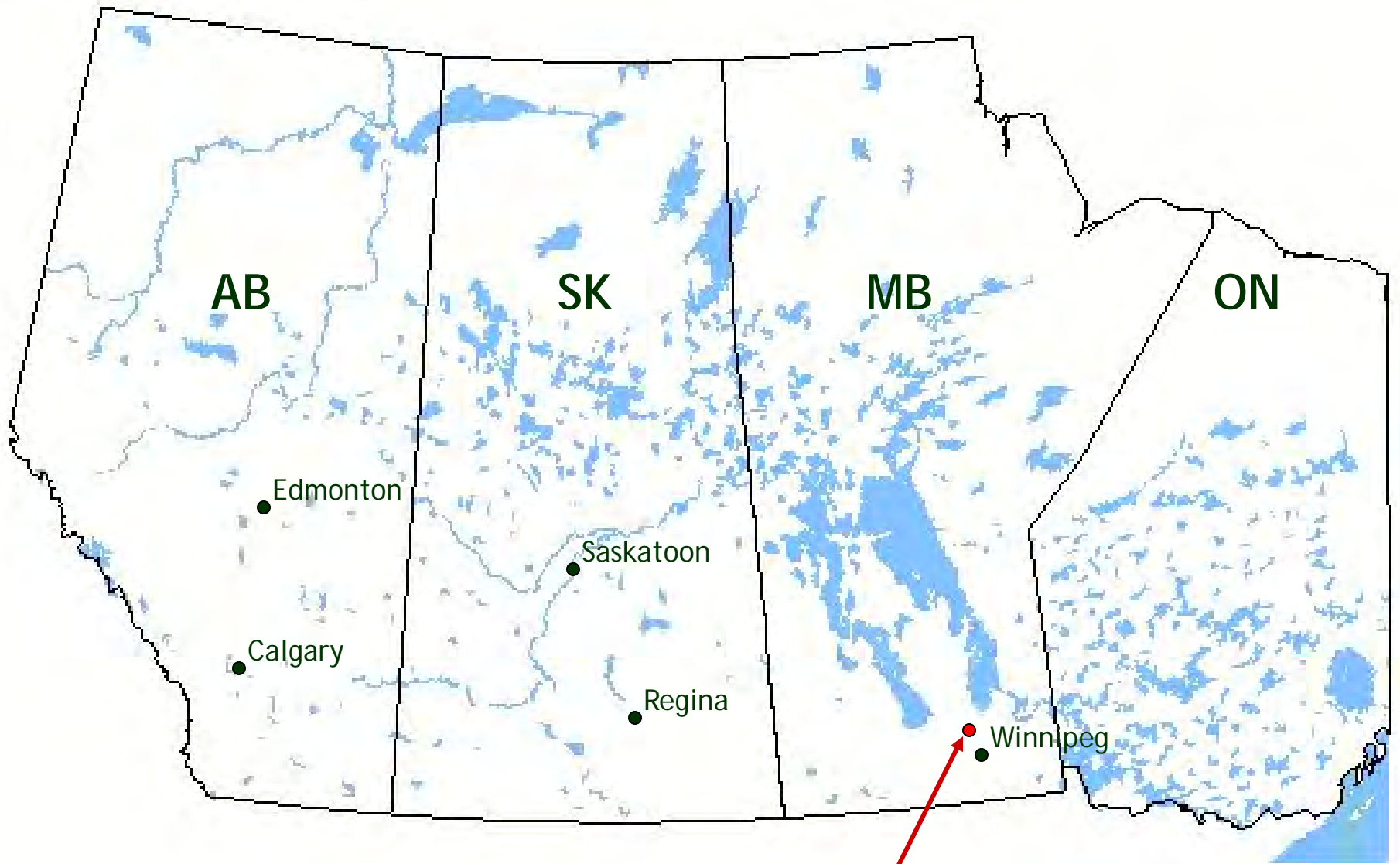




Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands





Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

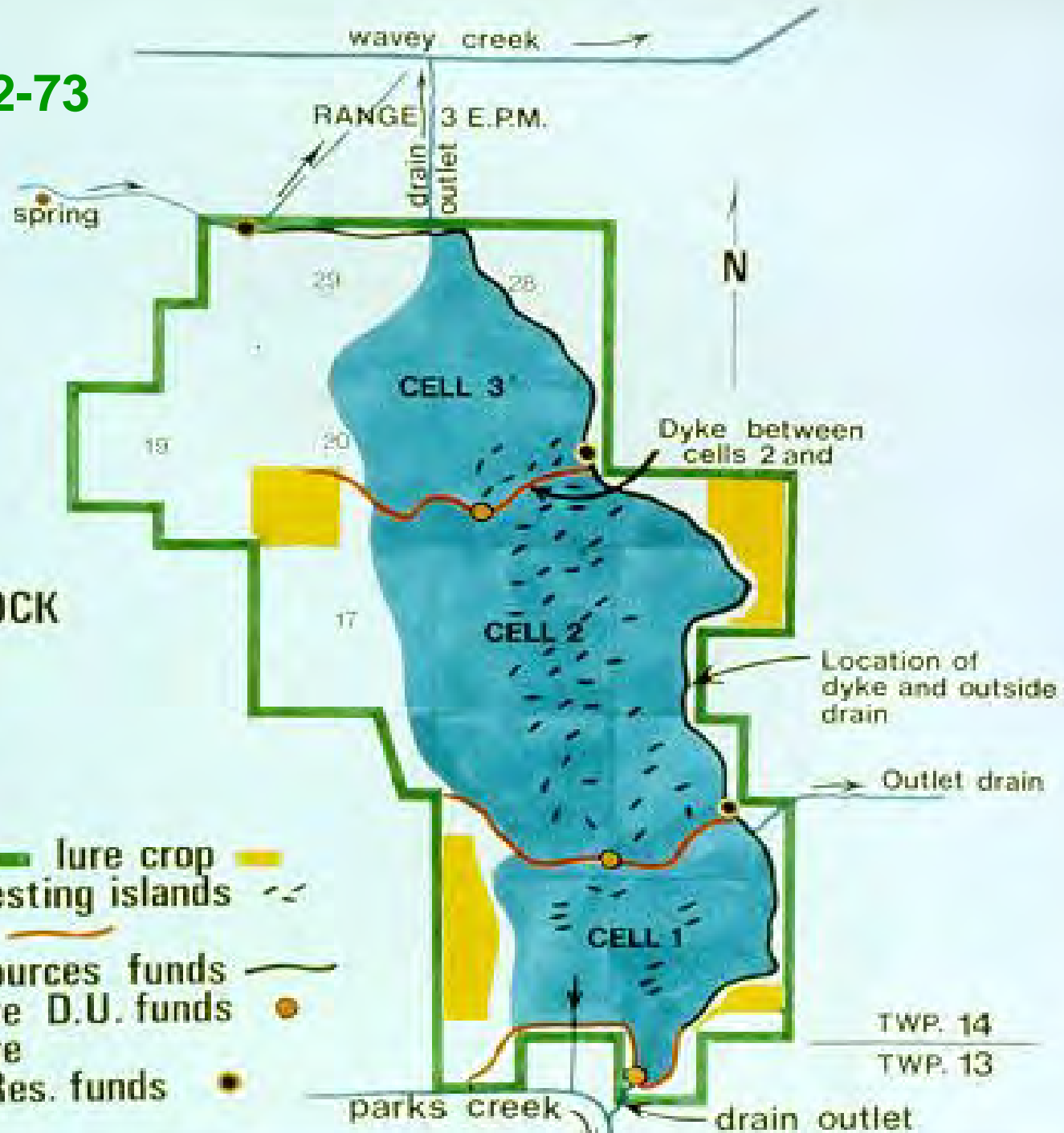


\$800,000 in 1972-73

OAK HAMMOCK MARSH PROJECT

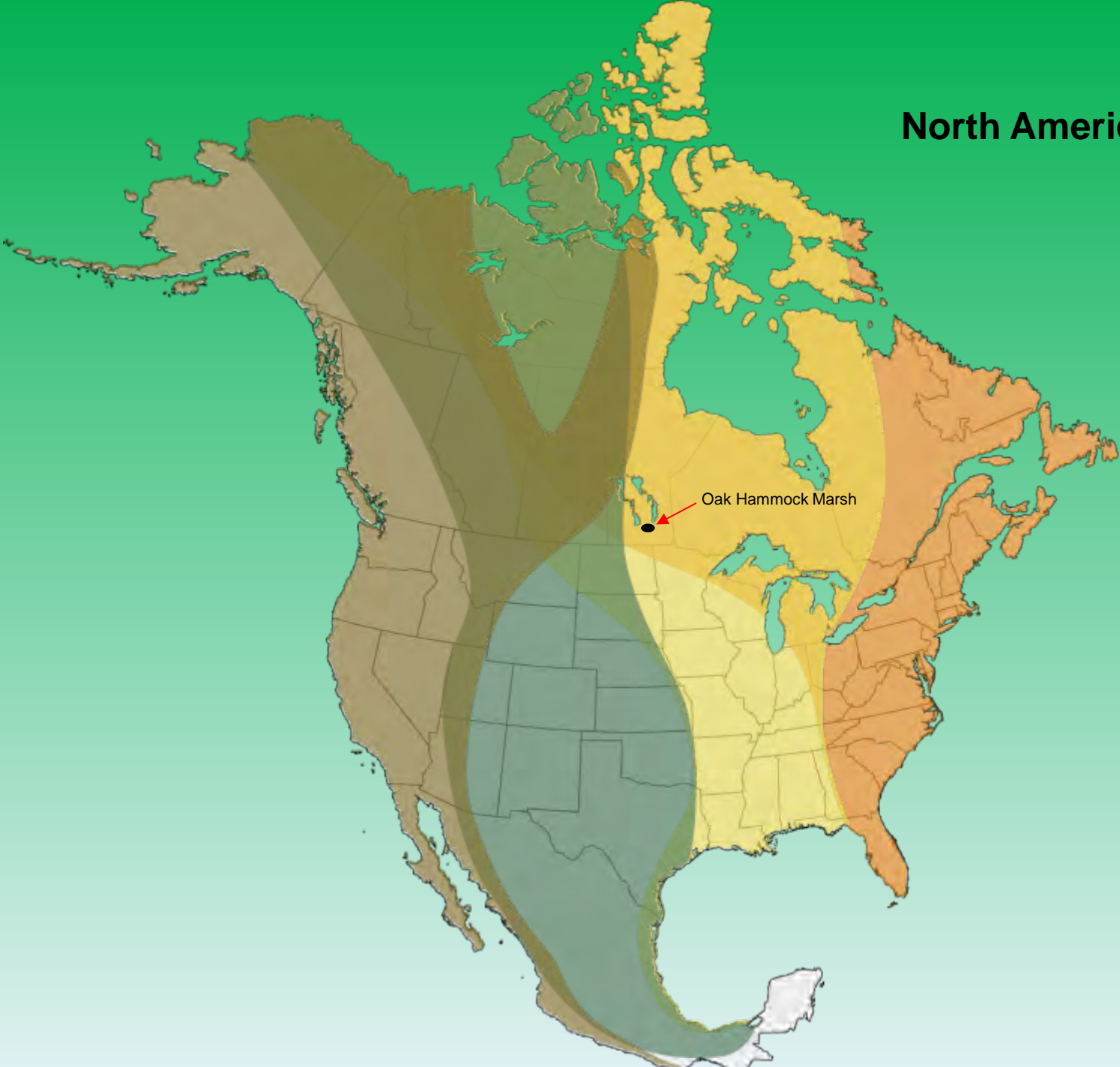
Legend :

- project boundary █
- lure crop █
- approx. location nesting islands ▒
- dykes D.U. funds —
- dykes Water Resources funds —
- water control structure D.U. funds ●
- water control structure Water Res. funds ●





North American Flyways





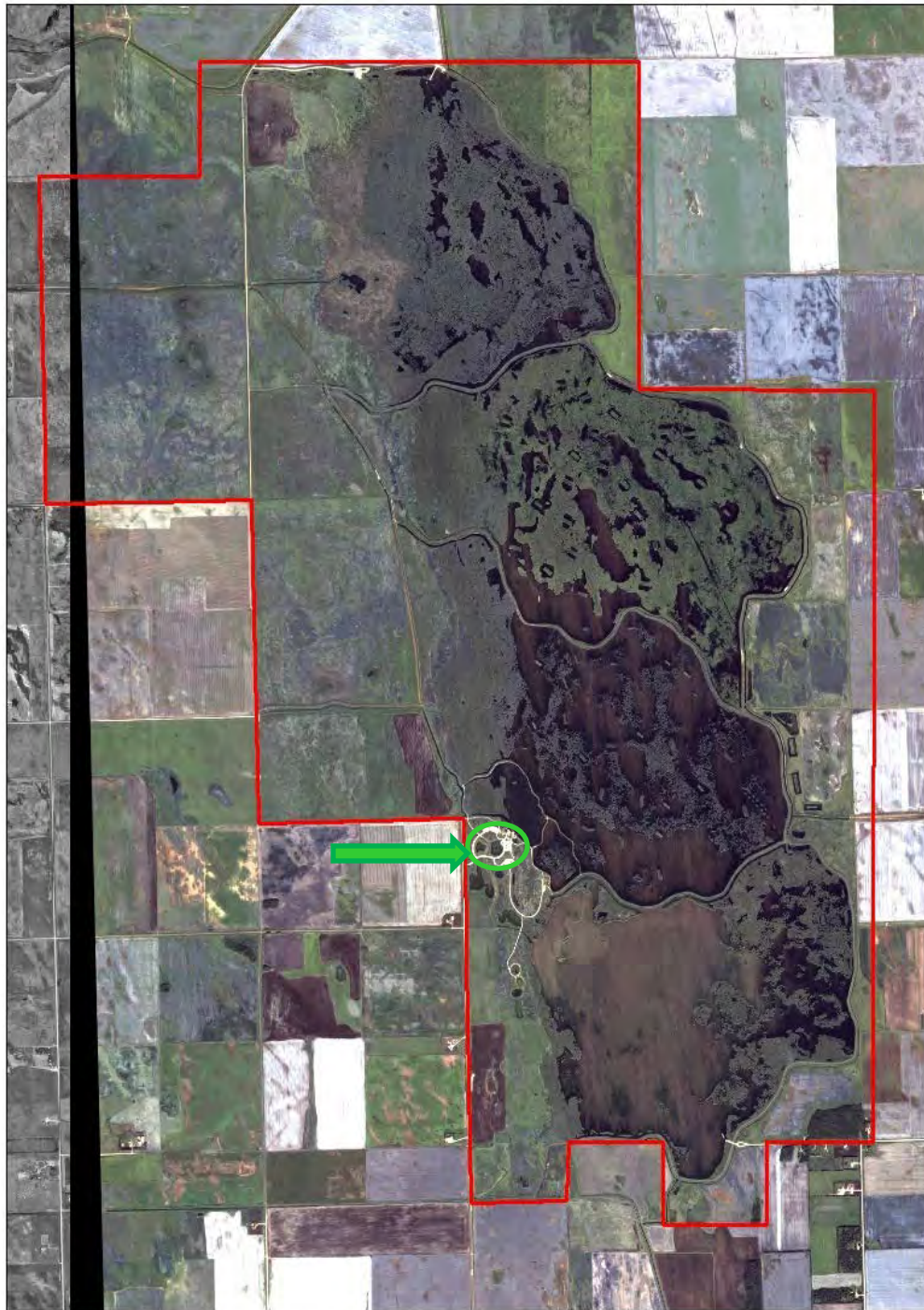
Oak Hammock Marsh was designated a Ramsar site in **1987**:

“50°10'N 097°06'W. A restored complex of freshwater marshland and marginal agricultural land under intensive management to encourage nesting and staging waterbirds. Regulated water levels provide optimum conditions for nesting ducks and "lure" crops promote flock retention and prevent damage to commercial crops. Numbers of migratory geese may reach 100,000 in both spring and fall, while spring concentrations of migratory shorebirds have reached 30,000 individuals. Being close to the urban area of Winnipeg, the site is important for conservation-based education and recreation. Ramsar site no. 366.”

Source: Ramsar.org

Ramsar Sites in Canada

- Canada acceded to the Convention in 1981.
- 37 designated Ramsar Sites in Canada covering 13,086,771 ha (13,086,771 acres)
- Home to the second largest Ramsar site in the world, Queen Maude Gulf (Nunavut) - 6,278,200 ha (15,513,770 acres)
- Representing all provinces and territories
- In 2012, Canada expanded its Alaskan Ramsar Site to the larger, more ecologically inclusive Fraser River Delta Ramsar Site, adding 20,096 ha (49,658 acres) to Canada's Ramsar Sites.
- Most of Canada's Ramsar sites are composed of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, National Wildlife Areas, Provincial and National Parks, and are therefore protected through a variety of designations.



Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area:

- 36 square kms (19 square miles – 9,000 acres)
Provincial Wildlife Management Area
- 300 species of birds have been identified
- Important staging area for migratory birds (millions of bird fly through site)
- Habitats include: wetland, tall-grass prairie, lure crops, nesting cover, wet meadow, aspen/oak forest, willow bluffs
- Designated as a Ramsar site in 1987
- (IBA) Important Bird Area
“Bird Life International”

**Oak Hammock Marsh
Wildlife Management Area**
Zone de gestion de la faune
du marais Oak Hammock



The Wildlife Management Area is a 3600 hectare restored wetland. The marsh supports as many as 299 species of birds, and hundreds of species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish & insects. It is an ideal site for bird watching, photography, environmental education, or just going for a walk. We hope you enjoy your visit.

L'aire de gestion de la faune occupe une superficie de 3600 hectares de milieux humides restaurés. On y dénombre jusqu'à 299 espèces d'oiseaux différentes et des centaines d'espèces de mammifères, reptiles, amphibiens, poissons et insectes. C'est l'endroit idéal pour observer et photographier les oiseaux, en apprendre davantage sur l'environnement ou tout simplement pour s'y promener. Nous vous souhaitons une agréable visite.

Legend/Légende

- Road/Route
- Dike/Trail/Sentier sur église
- Trail/Sentier
- Observation Mound/Borné d'observation
- Point of Interest/Point d'intérêt



Approximate Walking Time
Durée approximative de la randonnée

Moose/Élan	75 minutes
Parakeet/Paroquet	90 minutes
Osprey/Grande aigle	90 minutes



Legend/Légende

- Water/Eau
- Nesting Island/Île de nidification
- Point of Interest/Point d'intérêt
- Trail/Sentier
- Road/Route
- Boardwalk/Trottoir



“The Ramsar Convention strongly encourages the establishment of education centres at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands as they are important places for learning and training about wetlands.”



- Wetland Link International (WLI) is a support network for wetland education centres that deliver engagement activities on site.
- **CEPA activity** (communications, education and public awareness)
- Being linked with WLI has permitted the Centre to be in dialogue with other Centres across the world.
- Have participated in webinars



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Awards

- 2014 Finalist, Sustainable Tourism Award (Tourism Industry Association of Canada)
- 2014 Project Development Award – “Bird in Hand” (Interlake Tourism Association)
- 2013 Partner of the Year Award (Winnipeg Tourism)
- 2011 Marketing Excellence Award (Tourism Manitoba)
- 2011 Visitor Experience Award for Wetland Outreach (Assn. of Science-Tech. Centers)
- 2011 Marketing Excellence Award (Interlake Tourism Association)
- 2010 Community Connections: Exploring our Culture through Mapping, Spirit of the Earth Awards, Manitoba Hydro
- 2008 Award of Distinction (Interlake Tourism Association)
- 2008 Conservationist Award (Manitoba Chapter, The Wildlife Society)
- 2007 Science Achievement Award (Science Teachers’ Association of Manitoba)
- 2007 Canadian Association of Science Centres (CASC) – Best Outreach Program
- 2006 Air Canada Business of the Year – (Tourism Industry Association of Canada)
- 2006 Sustainable Tourism Award (Interlake Tourism Association)
- 2004 Award of Excellence for Environmental Education (EECOM)
- 2002 Global Winner: Environmental Experience (British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow)
- 2000 Best Outdoor Site in Canada/Best Outdoor Site in Manitoba (Attractions Canada)

MISSION:

To CONNECT PEOPLE WITH WETLANDS

Vision:

OAK HAMMOCK MARSH INTERPRETIVE CENTRE
WILL BE A WORLD LEADER IN
WETLAND EDUCATION AND ECOTOURISM

OAK HAMMOCK MARSH INTERPRETIVE CENTRE
IMAGINES A FUTURE IN WHICH ALL
CANADIANS UNDERSTAND THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF WETLANDS
AND TAKE ACTION TO CONSERVE THEM









Site exploration



Programming

- Public (walks, presentations, canoe, workshops)
- School (curriculum-based, all ages, on and off site)
- Youth (sleepover, birthday parties, camp)
- Special events & Public workshops
- Educator training (In-service days)
- Offsites (festivals)
- Wildlife surveys (seasonal bird counts, frog, fish and dragonfly surveys)



World Wetlands Day – Ramsar partnership

- Colouring contest – schools and public
- Ramsar materials and promotion
- Snowshoeing & “Shuffle Duck”
- Themed presentations/wetland films
- Media attracted to Groundhog Day!



Twinning of two Ramsar Sites

In 2010, an MOU was signed to “twin” two major Ramsar wetlands – Agamon Hula in Israel and OHMIC. The agreement was signed between the Lelsrael - Jewish National Fund and the Province of Manitoba.

- Each respectively situated in important north-south migration routes for many hundreds of bird species.
- Both marshes were significantly degraded by early drainage then both marshes were more recently restored including the establishment of infrastructure supporting wetland monitoring, management, education and tourism.
- Work closely with and in co-operation with many governmental and non-governmental organizations including Ducks Unlimited Canada, an organization with a strong interest and a long history of restoring and protecting wetlands.

The intent was to share best practices, research and education/tourism initiatives.



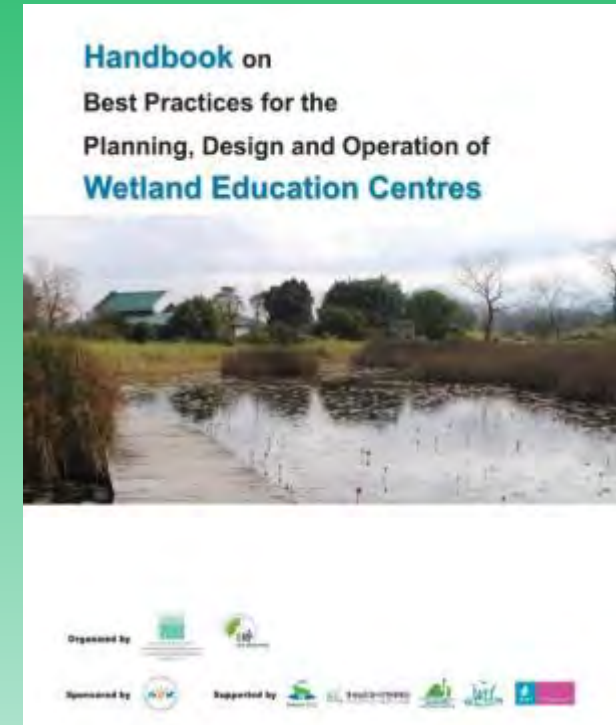
Agamon Hula, Israel



Oak Hammock Marsh, Canada

Ramsar partnership

- The handbook on “**Best Practices for the Design and Operation of Wetland Education Centres**” was launched on June 5th and is a compilation of information from a conference held in Korea in November of 2013.
- Topics covered in the *Handbook* include:
 - ❖ Planning or redeveloping a wetland education centre
 - ❖ Ensuring the financial sustainability of a wetland education centre
 - ❖ Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) programmes and learning content at wetland education centres
 - ❖ The sustainable design of wetland education centres
- Wonderful opportunity to exchange best practices
- The handbook can now be used internationally to help other Centres or organizations hoping to establish a Centre in their area.



Future goals with Ramsar:

- Additional partnership opportunities
- Increased communication: Environment Canada

