



# Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area Summer Report - 2020

[www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders](http://www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders)

## Growing Season Conditions

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Despite the overarching circumstances associated with a global pandemic; once we were approved to return to work on the ground we were able to make quick work of planting crops and mother nature provided extremely favorable weather conditions for an amazing growing season. Although May was wet and cold, June was hot and dry. Timely rain throughout July resulted in excellent corn cover and small grain production.

## Planted Fields

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All of the hunting fields were planted by mid-June, which was basically right on time. The south end of the south field was the only delay due to a substantial leak in one of the dikes. Millet, buckwheat and milo planting was started the last week of June and was completed within two weeks. Weather conditions at that time were very hot and dry, however rain arrived right when it was needed. A mix of millet and milo were planted in the south field to help control cocklebur, which is a broadleaf plant. The refuge, north and middle field were planted to buckwheat.

### North Fields:

2-3 = solid stand, 6-7' tall

4-6 = solid stand, 6-7' tall

7 = no corn with some spotty areas due to deer damage

8 = spotty corn with deer damage throughout, 2-5' tall due to deer damage

9 = solid stand 6-7' tall

### Middle Fields:

10-12 = solid stand 6-7' tall

13-15 = solid stand 6-7' tall

16-18 = solid stand 6-7' tall

19-20 = solid stand 6-7' tall

### South Fields:

21-22 = solid stand 5-7' tall

23-24 = solid stand 4-6' tall, almost to south end of 24

25 = solid stand 4-6' tall

26 = no corn, intermittent flooding throughout most of summer

## **Marsh Zones**

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All marsh units have above average water depths due to the high water levels on Saginaw Bay. The east and north marsh has several breaches along the east barrier beach, so water levels are constantly changing.

## **Area Projects**

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During the early spring storms that occurred, the north supply channel that brings in water from the bay became plugged with sand; hopefully, this plug can be removed before fall flooding begins. This area continues to remain unstable with changing wind conditions.

Mallard road, which leads to the observation tower, is extremely degraded due to high water levels on the bay. Currently, vehicle traffic is restricted and there is no funding to make repairs. A permanent road closure may be necessary in the fall.

There are several leaks in dikes across the area and a large beaver dam that will restrict fall flooding unless removed.

## **Wetland Wonders**

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During the waterfowl season hunters can find information on waterfowl refuge counts, area conditions, and harvest information for the managed waterfowl hunt areas by visiting [www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders](http://www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders).