Mazonia Site Location
Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area consists of 1,017 acres and is located in Grundy County 3 miles southeast of Braidwood on Illinois Route 53 and Huston Road.

History
Mazonia was purchased in 1986 from Commonwealth Edison under the Wildlife Habitat Acquisition and Development Program. Peabody Coal Company surface-mined the area from 1951 thru 1970, and the name Mazonia comes from the EJE Railroad switching yard across from the site on Route 53.

Existing Resources
The area contains more than 200 water impoundments ranging from 3/4 acre to 30 acres. The water area currently contains largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, crappie, channel catfish and bullhead. Additional species will be stocked as the site is developed. Good wildlife habitat can be found on the site in the 700 acres of grassland, brushy draws and limited woodland cover.

Area Objectives
Mazonia is managed primarily for sport fish and waterfowl. Its purpose is to provide a quality sport fishery within the surface-mined lakes through habitat enhancement and supplemental stockings which, in turn, will provide the public quality bank and boat sport fishing opportunities. The site also will provide quality mid-migration and resident waterfowl habitat, including food, water and sanctuary components which, in turn, will provide the public a quality waterfowl hunting opportunity.

Although Mazonia features sport fishing and waterfowl hunting, a variety of other outdoor recreational opportunities are provided throughout the year. Upland game hunting, furbearer trapping, limited picnicking, nature study/birding, fossil hunting, and water dog training is also available.

Facilities
While minimal facilities currently are available, future development will include a paved access road to the main lakes, boat launches, ramps, parking lots and toilets.

Hunting and Fishing
Fishing and hunting are permitted on a seasonal basis and are subject to site regulations. Fishing closes ten days prior to the Central Waterfowl Zone season and reopen at the conclusion of the Upland Game season, or as the ice becomes safe.

Boating
Boats are restricted to electric motors only.

Mazonia South Unit
The Mazonia South Unit was purchased by DNR from Commonwealth Edison in 1999. This was the first acquisition under the landmark Open Land Trust, a program that sets aside dollars to be used to purchase acreage for multiple purpose recreation and to protect open space for future generations.

The land making up the south unit was formerly surface mined, resulting in rugged terrain, four large lakes and 10 smaller water impoundments that contain excellent fish populations. Access to most of the water will be available via boat launches, while some of the smaller lakes will be walk-in only. The area will be used for fishing, wildlife habitat, hunting and other recreational activities.