



Quick Reference for Activities on CREP Easements

ALLOWED ON CREP:

1. Maintenance of existing structures, bridges, crossings, etc. at the state they were at time of enrollment.
2. Maintenance of existing roads and paths at the state they were at time of enrollment.
3. Maintenance of waterways and drainage ditches (unless otherwise specified under a Wetland Restoration Plan) as needed and in accordance with Illinois Drainage Law.
4. Use and placement of temporary duck blinds, deer stands or other hunting blinds.
5. Plant wildlife food as specified in the Conservation Plan*.
6. Harvest timber in accordance with an approved IDNR Forest Management Plan** for the property.
7. Hunt, fish, hike, temporarily camp, and other activities provided they do not impact ecological significance or value or disturb the surface vegetation.
8. Charge a fee for hunting, fishing, camping or other uses of the property – **commercial operations are not allowed!**
9. Scientific research projects or surveys in which the natural vegetative cover is not disturbed.
10. State agency personnel, or their designee, have the ability to access private land to perform normal monitoring of CREP Easements.
11. Can apply for special tax assessment through the IL Forestry Development Act (FDA) program (handled by IDNR Forestry). Participation in the CREP program does not guarantee a reduction in your property's assessment; please contact your County Supervisor of Assessment Office for further information.
12. Property can be enrolled in the Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) or other programs complimentary to CREP.
13. Property can be sold but the easement is bound to the deed of the property and is transferred from owner to owner. The conservation easement will forever stay with the property.

NOT ALLOWED ON CREP:

1. No row crops or agricultural uses other than what is allowed in the Conservation Plan*.
2. No commercialized recreational, industrial, or commercial activity.
3. No construction or placement of temporary or new permanent buildings, docks, or other structures.
4. No mobile homes, trailers, or recreational vehicles providing extended human habitation.
5. No construction of fences, billboards, lighted signage, or other forms of advertising or promotion that will detract from ecological value.
6. No construction of new roads or widening of existing roads; however, temporary access to deer stands or duck blinds is allowed (farm lanes, paths, etc.) granted they do not cause ecological concerns (i.e. erosion or water pollution concerns).
7. No race tracks or off-road recreational vehicle use that disturbs the surface vegetation.
8. No filling, excavating, mining, drilling, removal of topsoil, sand, gravel, or rock.
9. No disturbance of natural (uncultivated) vegetation - no cultivated crops are allowed on CREP Easements except as specified in the Conservation Plan* for wildlife benefit.
10. No installation of mechanical devices.
11. No timber harvest, livestock grazing, or cropping unless provided for in the Conservation Plan* or IDNR Forest Management Plan**.
12. No timber harvest for firewood except for control of invasive species (hedge, locust, etc. or other species as outlined in the IDNR Forest Management Plan**).
13. No mowing except for control of invasive species (honeysuckle, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, shattercane, thistle, parsnip, buckthorn, etc.) or as identified in the Conservation Plan*.
14. No sanitary landfills or underground storage tanks.
15. No dumping or incinerating of refuse, trash, garbage, rubbish, junk, ashes, or other material.
16. No public access unless granted by landowner – explicitly guaranteed in the State contract.
17. No removal or tampering with official survey boundary markers.

*= Conservation Plan – Plan written to outline the management practices for conservation to be carried out on the property contained in the CREP Easement and approved by IDNR.

**= IDNR Forestry Management Plan – Plan written to outline the management of the timber acres to promote a sustainable forest on the forested portions of the CREP Easement approved by IDNR.

This document cannot address every circumstance that may arise in the life of the Easement. If you have any questions about use of your CREP Easement please reference your recorded Grant of Conservation Right and Easement or contact us at 217-557-6498 or DNR.CREP@illinois.gov.