



Inside Illinois DNR

April 2020

Volume 8, Number 4

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IDNR Careers

IDNR offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. Click [here](#) to see the job openings available.

A Message from Director Colleen Callahan



Uncharted Territory

"A situation or circumstance that is foreign, unclear or unfamiliar and which may be dangerous or difficult as a result." That's the definition of 'uncharted waters.' And it perfectly describes this moment in time.

As we continue to navigate the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic, it requires decisions that are difficult, oftentimes painful and sometimes unpopular. As Governor Pritzker said in announcing the 'Stay at Home' order, "You can't have a livelihood without a life," and he's absolutely correct.

The same is true for those of us currently steering through these unfamiliar, turbulent waters here at IDNR. Understanding the need to act quickly and decisively in the face of a global pandemic, Illinois became the first state to fully close state parks, fish and wildlife areas, recreational areas and historic sites, doing so on March 15.

This decision was an agonizing one to make. Yet, I'm confident it was the right one. We made it to protect public health and our society as a whole. We've watched as other states have dealt with large crowds in their state parks, and then closed theirs as well, all while COVID-19 infections continue to move across the state and nation.

In Illinois, the closures mean our state sites are temporarily closed to the public while all scheduled events set to be held at a state parks, fish and wildlife areas, recreational area or historic sites have been canceled or postponed. This includes, but is not limited to, hunting and fishing on state sites for the duration of the closure.

Hunters and anglers who wish to hunt or fish during the Governor's Executive Order to 'Stay at Home' may do so provided they have the appropriate licensing and permits and are hunting or fishing on private property or at sites which are currently open to the public.

This clarification will help some of our outdoorsmen and women continue to enjoy their outdoor pursuits, but I realize it doesn't solve the problem for our many who hold site-specific permits. While our current administrative rules prohibit the issuance of refunds or transfer of permits, we are reviewing all possible solutions.

As you go outdoors this spring, or even as you're completing your essential errands, please remember to follow all public health directives, including staying at least 6 feet away from other sportsmen and staying home if you're exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. Additional information on COVID-19 can be found at coronavirus.illinois.gov.

Finally, IDNR will continue to work closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Governor's Office to monitor the situation and assess when sites can safely reopen.

DNR in the News

Trout Season &
Turkey Season

Illinois Learn to
Hunt

New Executive
Director at WSRC

Rare Lake
Sturgeon

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights

2020 Fishing Regulations Guide



The *Illinois Fishing 2020 Regulation Information* guide is now available for you to download. This guide is packed full of information for fishing in Illinois, including places to fish as well as site-specific and statewide regulations. The booklet is available where IDNR licenses and permits are sold. The new license year began on April 1, 2020. [Click here](#) for more information.

Spring Trout Fishing Season Opens April 4



Trout was stocked as scheduled, but please note that IDNR sites cannot be accessed for trout fishing or other activities until further notice. Sites managed by other entities may also be closed. Check in advance to be certain they are open. [Click here](#) for more information.

2020 Licenses Now Available



Illinois fishing, hunting and sportsman combination licenses for 2020 are now available from DNR Direct license and permit vendors throughout Illinois, or online through the IDNR website. The new license year in Illinois began April 1, with 2020 licenses valid through March 31, 2021. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Welcome Spring



If you've found sick or injured wildlife, either leave the animal or bird where you found it and let nature take its course or call a wildlife rehabilitator. Call the local animal control office or police department for assistance if the animal poses a threat to public health or safety. More information at [this link](#).



Become an ICF Member Today!

The mission of the Illinois Conservation Foundation, and the partners with whom we work, is to preserve and enhance our natural and cultural heritage by fostering and supporting ecological, educational, and outdoor recreational programs for the benefit of all people now and for generations to come.

In carrying out this mission, the Illinois Conservation Foundation inspires today's youth - tomorrow's leaders - by providing quality outdoor and conservation education programs that instill a life-long interest in conservation, outdoor recreation and sustainability.

For more info call:
(217) 785-2003

Visit ICF

Public Museum Capital Grants Program Deadline Extended



As a result of public and state agency closures due to COVID-19, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced the application deadline for the Public Museum Capital Grants Program is extended until May 29, 2020 at 5 p.m. The program, which is administered by IDNR, grants funding to public museums in Illinois to improve museum facilities and develop new exhibits. [Click here](#) for the information.

Contact IDNR



If you need to contact IDNR, visit the IDNR website. There are email and phone lists for field staff, office divisions and programs. Contact IDNR can be found at [this link](#).

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); What Illinois is Doing



STATE OF ILLINOIS
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of Illinoisans is Governor Pritzker's top priority. The administration continues to

work closely with local health departments, county officials and federal partners to put systems in place to respond to COVID-19. A website has been created to provide the latest news releases related to coronavirus, video archives of press conferences and tips from leading experts to keep you and your family safe. [Click here](#) for more information.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); Volunteer Opportunities; Serve Illinois



The State of Illinois is calling on all licensed healthcare providers available to help in the fight against COVID19 to register [click here](#).

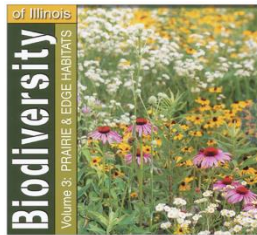


IDNR Announces Proposed Waterfowl Seasons for 2021-2025



The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife Resources has proposed waterfowl hunting zone lines and season dates for the 2021–2025 seasons. [Click here](#) for more information.

What Lives In My Yard? IDNR’s Division of Education Answers



Looking for something educational for students to do while they are away from school? Encourage them to learn about the great biological diversity of Illinois with resources from the IDNR. For more information [click here](#).

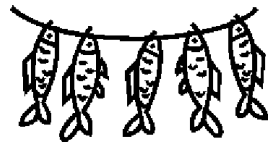
Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants to Schools Awarded



More than 7,000 students will visit Illinois state parks, natural areas, museums and other natural resources sites this year to learn about

nature and conservation thanks to grant funding through the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Program. Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Colleen Callahan announced more than \$96,000 in donated funds had been awarded for 120 field trip grants. Winners represented 31 counties in the state. [Click here](#) for more information.

Fish Consumption Advisory



Did you know the American Heart Association recommends eating fish at least twice per week as part of a healthy diet? In fact, most fish are healthy to eat and provide an excellent source of low-fat protein. Eating fish may also reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes and other chronic illnesses. [Click here](#) for more information.



Illinois Department of Natural Resources Guidance for Spring 2020 Turkey Seasons



Understanding the need to act quickly and decisively in the face of a global pandemic, Illinois was the first state to fully close state parks, fish and wildlife areas, recreational areas and historic sites; the closure took effect March 15. While it was an extremely difficult decision and one that IDNR did not make lightly, we know it was the right one as we continue to see other states encounter large crowds in their state parks, as well as closures of other state parks, recreational areas and federal sites. For more information [click here](#).

Safety Education Volunteer Instructor



The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is always looking for qualified individuals who would like to become volunteer instructors in the safety education programs. For more information [click here](#).

Boating Safety Courses Available Online



No person under 10 years of age may operate a motorboat, including personal watercraft (PWC). Age 10 years and less than 12 years of age may only operate under a parent or guardian's direct control. Boating safety courses are available online. Educational material is based on a sixth-grade reading level, and we encourage persons of all ages to participate in the programs. [Click here](#) for more information.

For more information check out our [monthly calendar of events!](#)

Visit the IDNR on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter!](#)