



Inside Illinois DNR

February 2019

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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 what jobs openings are available.

A Message from Director Wayne Rosenthal



For the first time, Illinois will host the National Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic on February 22-24 at the Schaumburg Convention Center.

Illinois is proud to serve as host for the 2019 Classic, presented by Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, and we encourage pheasant and quail enthusiasts from throughout Illinois and around the country to attend. Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are among our most valued partners in promoting the expansion of upland habitat and hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities

in Illinois. We are pleased to welcome members and supporters to enjoy this great event here in the Prairie State.

IDNR staff will be on hand all three days to visit with attendees about upland hunting opportunities, assistance available for landowners interested in providing or expanding wildlife habitat on their property, and highlighting the many ways Illinoisans and visitors to Illinois can enjoy the outdoors.

The National Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic also shines a light on wildlife habitat projects and the status of conservation efforts in the host state. Included in that focus is recruiting, retaining, and reactivating hunters and the next generation of conservation leaders.

The IDNR is working to expand habitat, particularly upland habitat. Last fall, we opened to hunting two newly-acquired parcels of outstanding grassland habitat in Livingston County at the Chatsworth State Habitat Area.

IDNR is developing hundreds of additional acres of upland habitat in southern Illinois at the Burning Star site in Jackson County. The Department is also working on additional projects with similar habitat and hunting opportunities in mind.

Expanding habitat is the key to expanding upland outdoor recreation. The support of the women and men who buy Illinois habitat stamps and pheasant stamps is also key to expanding habitat.

IDNR recently announced more than \$2.1 million in Habitat Stamp grant projects, many of them targeted to expanding or restoring habitat for pheasants and quail. Another \$240,000 in Pheasant Fund grants will assist landowners in key focus areas in expanding wildlife-friendly habitat.

Learn more about these and other efforts by visiting the IDNR booths at the National Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic in Schaumburg on February 22-24. Find more information about the event at <https://www.pheasantsforever.org/Pheasant-Fest.aspx>

Wayne Rosenthal

[DNR in the news](#)

Asian carp Grant Program for Companies

New Public Land Added

Fall Turkey Harvest

A Higher Calling

[Statewide Offices](#)

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Chicago, IL
312-814-2070

Highlights



IDNR Accepting Applications for Recreational Trails Program, Off-Highway Vehicle, and Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Programs

The IDNR has announced it is accepting applications now through March 14 for grants through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV), and Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Programs. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a reimbursement grant program that provides 80 percent of project funding with a required 20 percent local match. This grant program is federally funded and is administered by the IDNR in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The funds can be used to assist government agencies and trail groups in the rehabilitation, development, maintenance, and acquisition of recreational trails and related facilities. [For more information click here](#)



IDNR Announces 2018 Habitat Fund Project Grants

IDNR announced the approval of more than \$2.1 million in grants for 17 wildlife habitat projects through the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program. The program provides for enhancing game and non-game wildlife habitat through projects developed by not-for-profit organizations and governmental entities. Funding for the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program comes from the sale of Habitat Stamps to sportsmen and sportswomen. [For more information click here](#)



Illinois State Museum Wins Leader Institution of the Year Award

The Illinois Association of Museums has recognized the Illinois State Museum as the Leader Institution of the Year (2018), one of the association's "Awards of Distinction" that recognize excellence in the museum field, the highest honor given by the IAM. In presenting the award, an IAM review committee member hailed the Illinois State Museum for continuing "its tradition of research, conservation, exhibits and programing." [For more information click here](#)

[Check out these amazing time-lapse videos of Illinois' Great State Parks](#)



ICF Membership Program

Become an ICF Member Today

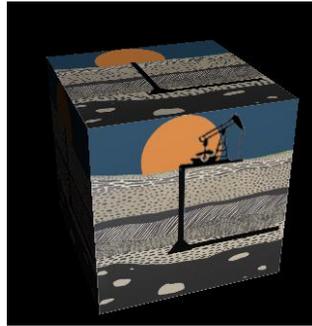
With your help, we are "Turning Screen Time into Green Time."

Join ICF Today

Call (217) 785-2003

Visit ICF

Highlights



Underground Natural Gas Storage Act Approved

Legislation providing authority to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to implement federal regulation requirements and enhance safety at underground natural gas storage facilities in Illinois has been approved. Senate Bill 3549 establishes the Illinois Underground Natural Gas Storage Act, which will allow the IDNR and the Illinois Commerce Commission to work with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to ensure that all underground gas storage facilities in Illinois meet federal minimum safety standards.

[For more information click here](#)

High School Seniors Can Apply Now for an ICF

Conservation Achievement Scholarship



Scholarship

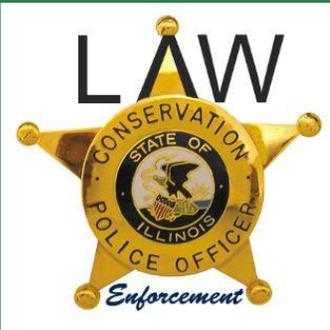
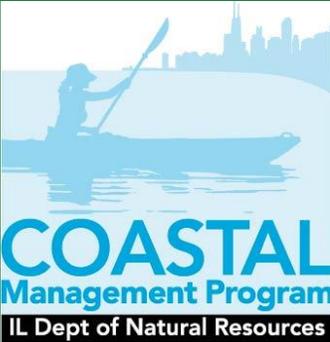
Applications are now being accepted by the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) for the 2019 Conservation Achievement Scholarship program. The ICF annually awards scholarships to outstanding high school

seniors in Illinois who demonstrate effective, voluntary, long-term dedication to the preservation, protection or enhancement of the state's natural resources. Up to three scholarships of \$2,000 each are available for the current school year. [For more information click here](#)

Youth Habitat Enhancement Projects Receive Funding Through Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Grant Program



The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) announced that 23 Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants have been awarded from the fall 2018 application period. A total of \$16,520.95 will be distributed. The Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program provides children and educators with an opportunity to increase the use of native plants in Illinois landscapes while benefitting wildlife species. [For more information click here.](#)



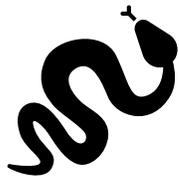
Mason State Tree Nursery is Taking Orders Now

Illinois landowners interested in planting native trees and shrubs for conservation purposes may order materials from the IDNR Mason State Tree Nursery. The Mason State Tree Nursery produces native Illinois Eco-Type, free of neonicotinoid pesticides. [For more information click here](#)



Vandalia Statehouse to Celebrate Lincoln's Birthday

The Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site will celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday with a special event on Saturday, February 9. The free party, a tradition at the site since 1973, will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. [For more information click here](#)



Zoo Animals at Dickson Mounds for Tot Time

At Dickson Mounds Museum's Tot Time on Thursday, February 7 at 9:30 a.m., the Peoria Park District Zoo will present 'Scales, Feathers, & Fur' featuring live animals. Whether its scales, feathers or fur, participants may take a closer look at what the animals are covered with and how these coverings keep the animals warm, cool, or safe from predators. Tots and their caretakers may enjoy fun crafts to take home. Admission to Tot Time is free and registration is not required. [For more information click here](#)



Deer Hunting Seasons Result in Preliminary Harvest of 151,577 Deer

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 151,577 deer during all 2018-19 archery and firearm seasons, which concluded on Jan. 20. The total preliminary deer harvest for all seasons compares with a total harvest for all seasons of 147,695 deer in 2017-18. During the 2018-19 deer seasons, hunters took 45 percent does and 55 percent males. [For more information click here](#)



IDNR Planning Underway for Property Adjacent to Matthiessen and Starved Rock State Parks

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has begun a comprehensive land use and recreation planning process for the 2,629-acre parcel adjacent to Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks acquired by the state last fall. Public comments are welcomed; **the site remains closed while planning proceeds.** [For more information click here](#)



IDNR Begins \$3.8 Million in Waterfowl Habitat Improvements

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has begun \$3.8 million in waterfowl habitat improvement projects at IDNR sites made possible by sportsmen and sportswomen purchasing Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps. [For more information click here](#)



Earth Day in the Parks

Applications are due by February 28 for the 2019 Earth Day in the Parks events. During April and May, students and their teachers will come to participating Illinois state parks to take part in natural resources stewardship activities such as planting native wildflowers and building and installing bird nesting boxes. [For more information click here](#)



Wildlife Preservation Fund

REMINDER: It's CHECKOFF time! On Schedule G of your Illinois tax return, you can check the box to make a charitable donation to the Wildlife Preservation Fund. [For more information click here](#)

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

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

