



# Inside Illinois DNR

February 2020

Volume 8, Number 2

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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



### **New Year, New Job?**

Turning the page on a new year means it's almost time for me to turn the page on my first year at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

I've enjoyed my time at the agency over the past year, learning something new every day and working with our dedicated staff to address challenges head on. With funding from the Capital Bill, we've been able to move some long-neglected projects forward and begin some new ones and we've started the process of strategic planning, drawing up a diagram for the future of the agency.

But, perhaps what I'm most excited about are the strides we've made in adding staff over the last year. With appropriations to hire up to 1,250 people, our current headcount is 1,240, just ten people shy of our limit.

And while increasing our staffing is an accomplishment worthy of pride, there's still more to be done, especially when it comes to diversifying our workforce. Again, with the help of the agency's dedicated staff, we're making progress in this arena, too.

To reach potential employees in urban and suburban areas, we've begun reaching out to our elected officials, asking them to share current job openings with their constituents each time there's an opening at the agency.

We've also made it possible for job seekers to get up-to-the-minute job opening updates from the agency. By sending an email to [DNR.Jobs@illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.Jobs@illinois.gov), job seekers are able to opt-in to receive vacancy notices directly to their inboxes as they occur.

For applicants who don't want the extra mail, but love checking in on social media, we've begun posting available jobs to our Twitter, Facebook and newly created LinkedIn pages.

Of course, we're still posting vacancies on the State of Illinois' job board, <https://agency.governmentjobs.com/illinois/default.cfm>.

There are many reasons I've enjoyed my time at the agency – the varied nature of the work, being able to learn something new each day and getting out of my comfort zone are just a few – but the thing that ties all these together is our magnificent staff. And I'm so excited to build on that staff as we move into 2020.

## [DNR in the News](#)

**Eternal Indian**

**CPO & ISP Help  
Save Eagle**

**Riverfront Park  
Bridge Repair**

**Flood Outlook**

## [Statewide Offices](#)

**Springfield, IL**  
217-782-6302

**Bartlett, IL**  
847-608-3100

**Benton, IL**  
618-435-8138

## Highlights

### Deer Hunting Seasons Preliminary Harvest Totals 153,048 Deer



Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 153,048 deer during all 2019-20 archery and firearm seasons, which concluded Jan. 19, 2020. The total preliminary deer harvest for all seasons compares with a total harvest for all seasons of 151,709 deer in 2018-19. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site Receives Second Federal Grant



**CAHOKIA MOUNDS**  
STATE HISTORIC SITE

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has announced that \$30.9 million in grants to support 188 humanities projects have been awarded to expand access to the country's wealth of historical resources. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is among the recipients of NEH grant funding for the second consecutive year. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### Mason State Tree Nursery



forms at [this link](#).

Illinois landowners interested in planting native trees and shrubs for conservation purposes may order materials from the Mason State Nursery. Order forms will be accepted starting February 1, 2020 through the end of May. See Seedling Ordering Instructions and the order



## Accepting Applications for 2020 Conservation Achievement Scholarships

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.

Applicants must be an Illinois resident and a senior in an Illinois high school. Applications must be received by the ICF by March 1, 2020.

For more info call: (217) 785-2003 or

Visit ICF

### Gov. Pritzker Announces \$653,710 in Boat Access Grants



Governor JB Pritzker announced \$653,710 in grant funding for six communities to improve public boat access areas in Illinois. The Illinois Boat Access Area Development Program provides financial assistance to local government agencies for the acquisition, construction, and expansion or rehabilitation of public boat and canoe access areas on Illinois’ lakes and rivers. [Click here](#) for the information.

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



Applications are being accepted for grants through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program, and Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Spring Turkey Applications

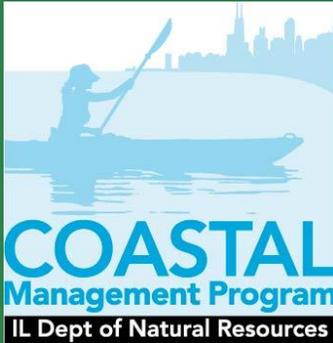


Apply now for the third lottery for 2020 Illinois Spring Wild Turkey Season hunting permits. The application deadline for the third lottery is February 10. [Click here](#) for more information.

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



IDNR and the Illinois Conservation Foundation announced 27 Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants have been awarded from the fall 2019 application period. A total of \$22,477.78 will be distributed. For more information [click here](#).



### Eagle Watch Event at Case-Halstead Library



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Case-Halstead Library in Carlyle and the IDNR, will host Eagle Watch on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The event is free and for all ages; [click here](#) for more information.

### Earth Day in the Park



*Earth Day in the Parks* is a natural-resources stewardship program for students held at participating IDNR state parks, museums and historic sites in April and May. Students conduct activities such as planting native wildflowers and grasses, building and installing nesting/roosting boxes and removing nonnative, invasive plants.

Teachers must apply to attend the event at a specific site. A drawing is held for each site from the applications for that site. Only the winners from the drawing are allowed to bring their students to the event. Applications are accepted from January 1, 2020, through February 28, 2020. For more information [click here](#).

### Donate to the Wildlife Preservation Fund at Tax Time



Donate to the Wildlife Preservation Fund. The fund provides a means by which natural resources protection may be financed through a voluntary check-off designation on Illinois state income tax return forms. Each individual taxpayer required to file a state income tax return may contribute to the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund by stating the amount of such contribution (not less than \$1) on the

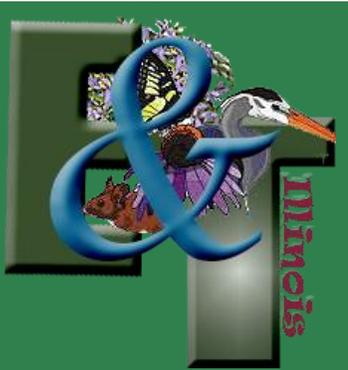
tax return, via the Schedule G Charitable Donations. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program Benefiting Communities



IDNR announced the second round of recipients for a new statewide historic preservation income tax credit program encouraging private

investment in historic properties in Illinois. For more information [click here](#).



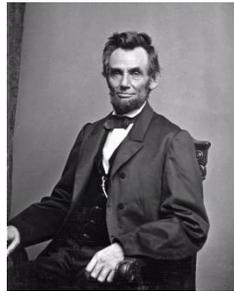
## Hunter Safety Courses Available



Anyone born on or after January 1, 1980 may not be issued a hunting license unless he or she presents a valid Hunter Education Certificate of Competency issued by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Safety Education Division or another state. Sign up for a safety course today. [Click here](#) for more information.



## Abraham Lincoln Birthday Dance



Join the folks at the Old State Capitol for the fifth annual Abraham Lincoln Birthday Dance! The Springfield International Folk Dancers will once again host a dance in honor of our 16th president's birthday. From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, dancers will enjoy the music and dance of Lincoln's era. For more information [click here](#).



## Governor Pritzker Recommends More Than \$3 Million in Grants for Illinois Recreation Projects



Governor JB Pritzker recommended to two federal agencies more than \$3 million in federal grants for projects to help communities acquire open space for development of outdoor recreational facilities and meet the growing demand for improved trails. For more

information [click here](#).



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



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