



Inside Illinois DNR

June 2019

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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 Colleen Callahan



Springtime flooding in Illinois is common. This spring has been anything but common. Record, or near-record, flooding has inundated portions of the state this year, rightly drawing regional and national media attention.

But, in reality, major floods are an annual occurrence in Illinois and historically have ravaged many homes and businesses. For example, flooding in 1973 caused severe damage to the village of Kampsville, Ill., located near the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

The 1993 flood, which was more severe than the flood 20 years prior, inundated the village for months, causing substantial damage to more than a dozen buildings.

Following the flood in 1973, the village used grant funds from IDNR to purchase 34 structures, clearing much of the repetitive flood areas. The buyout funding was the first of its kind nationally and filled a need a full 20 years before the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) adopted its own buyout program.

An additional 13 structures were purchased following the 1993 flood with grant funds from FEMA, IDNR and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. Today, the area where those properties once stood is now a community riverfront park and flooding is no longer a drain on the community's resources.

This story is much the same in dozens of communities across the state. Flood mitigation programs have helped prevent repetitive flooding and saved homeowners millions of dollars and months of stress. In fact, just last month, IDNR announced yet another voluntary buyout in Watseka, working with the community to purchase more than 60 homes.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which IDNR coordinates, also helps mitigate flood damage by preventing new structures or elevating older structures in flood-prone areas. IDNR's Office of Water Resources is responsible for ensuring enforcement of the NFIP, coordinating with local officials to make sure that new construction meets NFIP's requirements.

When you consider that 40 percent of small businesses never recover from a flood, and 90 percent will fail within a year unless they are able to reopen in five days, it's easy to see why IDNR, with the help of local officials who enforce these ordinances, continues to promote these invaluable programs.

In fact, these programs have helped make Illinois a national leader in flood mitigation efforts. After all, when flood mitigation works, nothing happens. This year, it wasn't nothing, but it certainly wasn't everything. And that's something to be proud of.

DNR in the News

Asian Carp and Lobsters

Relief for Flooding Victims in Watseka

Rend Lake Pollinator Trail

Turtles

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Chicago, IL
312-814-2070

Highlights

Flooding Cancels Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair



Flooding on the Illinois River has limited access to Pere Marquette State Park and has resulted in the cancellation of the annual Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair, which had been scheduled for June 8. Thanks to all event sponsors and donors. We look forward to better conditions and a resumption of the event in 2020.

Check Park Conditions before Visiting



Summer is a great time to visit Illinois' state parks, but before you go, make sure that unexpected park closures do not affect your trip. [Click here](#) or check for updates via social media by liking the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Facebook page and following the IDNR on Twitter @IllinoisDNR.

2019 Spring Turkey Harvest Totals



Illinois turkey hunters harvested a preliminary statewide total of 15,189 wild turkeys during the 2019 Spring Turkey Season. This year's total is up compared with the 2018 statewide turkey harvest of 13,494. The statewide preliminary total includes the 2019 Youth Turkey Season harvest of 1,364 birds, compared with the 2018 youth harvest of 1,143 turkeys. The statewide record total was set in 2006 when 16,569 turkeys were harvested. For

more information, including county totals, [click here](#).

Nominations Due for Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame



The Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) is accepting nominations for the 2019 class of the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame. Since 2002, the ICF has recognized individuals who have records of exemplary service in and commitments to improving conservation efforts and outdoor

recreational opportunities in Illinois. Nominees selected will be inducted into the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame this fall at the annual Illinois Conservation Foundation Gala. Nominations must be submitted by June 30, 2019, to be considered. For details and the nomination form, [click here](#).



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ICF 2019 Scholarship Recipients Named



The Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) announced that Killian Maire Delaney of Franklin, McKenna M. Gayon of Addison and Shelby Mitchell of Murphysboro are the recipients of the

2019 Conservation Achievement Scholarships. These high school seniors will each receive \$2,000 to apply to specified college expenses. Through the Conservation Achievement Scholarship program, the ICF is able to recognize and reward outstanding Illinois youth for their conservation stewardship and protection of our natural resources. For more information about the winners and this program, [click here](#).

2019 Waterfowl Blind Site Drawings



Waterfowl hunters are encouraged to mark their calendar for upcoming waterfowl hunting blind site random drawings to be held at several public hunting areas in Illinois in July and August. More details about the drawings can be found by [clicking here](#).

Illinois Free Fishing Days



The 2019 Illinois Free Fishing Days celebration will take place June 14 – 17, coinciding with Father's Day weekend. During this four-day celebration of fishing in Illinois, anglers can fish without purchasing a fishing license, salmon stamp or inland trout stamp. Discover the fun of

fishing or [introduce your kids](#) to the outdoor adventure of fishing during these free fishing days! If you're new to fishing, here's a [guide to everything you need](#) to get started.

Kids for Conservation®



Kids for Conservation® editions are posted online monthly and include information and a video podcast. Resources suggestions are provided for teachers. You can learn about kids who have been taking action to preserve and protect Illinois' natural resources, too.

For more information, [click here](#).



Wingshooting Clinics



The IDNR works with a variety of partners to sponsor wingshooting clinics at sites throughout Illinois. Two types of clinics are offered: youth/women’s clinics and hunters’ clinics. For more information about the program and to see

the current schedule, [click here](#).



187th Anniversary of the Battle of the Apple River Fort



On June 24, 1832, forty-five men, women and children successfully defended the Apple River Fort from Black Hawk and 200 of his braves. Join

us on June 23, 2019, to mark this important anniversary of the Apple River Fort State Historic Site’s history. Interpreters will reminisce about the battle and the war, cook a period meal and give musket firing demonstrations. [Click here](#) for more information.



Hawk Show at Starved Rock State Park



June 15 and 16, 2019, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

July 6, 7, 20 and 21, 2019, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Have an up close and personal visit with three very special hawks and their handler, falconer Rich Escutia. Mr. Escutia will cover the biology and

hunting instincts of each of his two Harris’s hawks and his red-tailed hawk at this show located by the Eagles Roost Cabin behind the Visitors’ Center. For more information, contact the park’s staff at

DNR.StarvedRock@illinois.gov or 815-667-4726.



Illinois State Museum’s Summer Pass



Visitors to the Illinois State Museum in Springfield can enjoy unlimited access to exploration, discovery, learning and admission with an ISM Summer Pass, allowing unlimited adult admission to the Museum through Labor

Day 2019. The Summer Pass is just \$10 and is available at the admission counter at the Museum. And remember - admission to the Museum is always free for children, seniors, veterans and military personnel. For more information, contact events@illinoisstatemuseum.org or 217-558-6696.



Tot Time for June: Fishin'



Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown hosts "Fishin'" as the Tot Time program on June 6, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. Live fish from the Illinois River will be featured. Admission is free, and registration is not required. [Click here](#) for additional information.

Civil War Weekend at Lincoln Log Cabin in Lerna



HISTORIC
Preservation
DIVISION

On June 15-16, 2019, learn about the men who answered President Lincoln's call for troops in 1861. Members of the 5th and 9th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiments will be encamped at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site on Father's Day weekend. Visit with the soldiers in camp, watch mounted and dismounted drilling exercises and learn about the lives of Civil War soldiers. Detailed information about the event can be found by [clicking here](#).

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



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