



# Inside Illinois DNR

January 2020

Volume 8, Number 1

## In This Issue

- *Rural Fire Dept. Grants*
- *CMP Grants*
- *Snowmobile Trail Grants*
- *Late-Winter/CWD Season*

## Find Out More

*DNR Home Page*

*Natural Resources*

*Parks and Recreation*

*Mines and Minerals*

*Hunting and Trapping*

*Fishing*

*Education/Outreach*

*Safety and Rules*

*Online Services*

## 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



Winter time is the perfect time to head outdoors!

With the new year upon us, we hope your plans for early 2020 include spending some time outdoors! Winter is the perfect time to enjoy the beautiful Illinois landscape hiking, snowmobiling, ice fishing and more.

You don't have to hit the elliptical or treadmill to elevate your heart rate this winter. Illinois' state parks and recreational areas are the perfect places to enjoy winter hikes, especially when the trails are clear — or if you're good on a pair of snowshoes.

If horsepower is more your speed, enjoy some of Illinois' 462 miles of snowmobile trails. Before heading out, be sure to check important snowmobile safety information on the IDNR Safety Education webpage; for information on snowmobile accessible trails in Illinois, visit the parks and recreation section of the IDNR website.

When the temperatures really dip, venture out for some ice fishing. Always make sure to review the safety checklist on ice thickness and prepare for the elements if winter fishing appeals to you.

For thousands of Illinoisans interested in spending time outdoors in the winter, nothing matches the thrill of bald eagle watching along our big rivers, lakes and other waterways. While Illinois is home to more and more nesting bald eagles, thousands of other bald eagles migrate to Illinois during the winter — and they put on quite show while they're here.

Thanks to our partners, including Illinois Audubon and the Illinois Raptor Center, Starved Rock State Park hosts the annual Bald Eagle Watch Weekend Jan. 25-26, with activities indoors and outdoors at the Starved Rock Visitor Center, Starved Rock Lodge, and Illinois Waterway Visitor Center. For more information, visit <https://illinoisaudubon.org/programs/bald-eagle-watch-weekend/>

Pere Marquette State Park's popular Bald Eagle Days tours are planned for select dates in January, February and early March. You'll spend the day touring the area near the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers where eagles congregate each winter. Get a preview of Pere Marquette's eagle watching at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLCx5CH3rGE&feature=youtu.be> Or, to check the Pere Marquette Bald Eagle Days schedule and access reservation information, visit <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Event/Documents/PereMarquetteSPBaldEagleDays.pdf>

For more bald eagle events and information, check the Bald Eagles in Illinois webpage at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/eagles/Pages/EagleWatching.aspx>

Enjoy the winter outdoors in Illinois!

## [DNR in the News](#)

**Calumet Region  
Projects**

**Local Gov't Apply  
for Grants**

**Deer Harvest**

**Park to get Splash  
Pad & More**

## [Statewide Offices](#)

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

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

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

## Highlights

### **IDNR Announces 2019 Coastal Management Grants**



The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Coastal Management Program announced more than \$1 million in grants for local coastal education, recreation, water quality protection and habitat restoration projects along the Lake Michigan shoreline. These projects are federally funded through Illinois' partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Zone Management Program. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Illinois Firearm Deer Season Preliminary Harvest Totals**



A preliminary total of 75,349 deer were taken by hunters during the seven-day Illinois Firearm Deer Season that concluded Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019. The 2019 preliminary harvest total compares to the final total of 80,957 deer harvested during the firearm season in 2018. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### **IDNR Awards Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants**



The IDNR announced 31 Illinois communities will benefit from more than \$225,000 in federal grants to rural fire departments and fire protection districts. The USDA Forest Service Volunteer Fire Assistance federal grant program provides matching funds to aid fire departments in the purchase of new equipment and helps fund training. [Click here](#) for the information.



## 2020 Illinois Collectors Pins Now Available

New Pins Feature Bass, Bluegill and Pheasant.

Sales of the Collectors Pins through the ICF help to advance conservation efforts maintain and restore natural habitats for wildlife, and inspire and educate future generations of leaders.



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

### IDNR Announces Snowmobile Trail Grant Recipients



IDNR announced \$597,742 in grant funding for development, rehabilitation, operations, and maintenance for snowmobile trails in the state through the Illinois Snowmobile Grant Program (SNOW) and the Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund Grant Program (STEF). [Click here](#) for the information.

### Park and Recreational Facilities Construction Program Grants



IDNR is accepting grant proposals for the acquisition and development of land for public indoor/outdoor park, recreation or conservation purposes through the Park and Recreational Facility Grant Program (PARC). The application submission deadline is January 21, 2020. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Spring Turkey Applications



Apply now for the second lottery for 2020 Illinois Spring Wild Turkey Season permits. The application deadline for the second lottery is Jan. 13. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Late-Winter/CWD Deer Season Jan. 17-19



The Illinois Late-Winter Antlerless-only and Special CWD deer hunting seasons conclude on Jan. 17-19. There will be 20 counties open for the final segment of the Late-Winter season and 15 counties open for the final weekend of the Special CWD season. Hunters should check the information page on the IDNR website to make sure the county they intend to hunt is open for the Late-Winter or Special CWD season. For more information [click here](#).



## Fulton-Mason Eagle Day Feb. 1



The annual [Fulton-Mason Eagle Day event](#) will be held Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Activities will include live raptor programs, hands-on activities and crafts for kids, and bird watching in various locations in Lewistown and Havana, Illinois. The event is free and for all ages.



## Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants



Teachers in Illinois can apply now through Jan. 31 for the annual Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant program. Funding

for the program is donated by the Independence Tube Corporation in Bedford Park, the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie, and the D. F. and M. T. Grohne Family Foundation in Wilmington. Donations are administered by the Illinois Conservation Foundation. For more information [click here](#).



## Ice Fishing Safety



Ice fishing can be great fun, but safety should be taken seriously. Review important ice fishing safety information on the [I Fish Illinois website](#).



## Eagle Days on Old Chain of Rocks Bridge Jan. 18-19



The Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge Festival is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18-19 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. both days. Visitors can view eagles through spotting scopes from the historic Old Chain of Rocks Bridge at Granite City.

For more information [click here](#).





## Camping Reservations



It is not too early to make reservations for campsites and shelters for many Illinois state parks and other IDNR sites for 2020. Reservations can be made online through the [Reserve America website](#).



## January Kids for Conservation®: Red Fox



The January edition of the IDNR Kids for Conservation® Web page features the topic of the Red Fox. You can learn basic facts about this topic in the information section. Watch the video podcast, too. Educators, there are resources for you to utilize. “Kids in Action” features students who are taking action to benefit the environment. For more information

[click here](#).



## Lecture: Fluorite Workshops and Bead Making



CAHOKIA MOUNDS  
STATE HISTORIC SITE

The first presentation of the three-part Winter Lecture Series at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site will take place Jan. 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Iseminger Auditorium. In this presentation, Dr. Paul Welch discusses the excavations by SIUC of Kincaid’s Fluorite

Workshop area. The Kincaid site, contemporary with Cahokia, is a large, multi-mound palisaded town on the Ohio River opposite Paducah, Ky. No reservations are needed, and the event is free. For more information

[click here](#).



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



---

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