



# Inside Illinois DNR

May 2020

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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



“Green are the leaves, and sweet are the flowers,  
And rich the hues of May...”

Those words begin a poem that speaks to a wish we all share to get outdoors and enjoy the beauty nature presents to us each spring. Maybe you’ve taken advantage of the opportunity to take walks in your neighborhood, or simply experienced the unexpected joy of mowing the lawn or weeding the garden in your backyard. Our outdoor recreation options have been limited as we stay home, stay safe, and try to limit the spread of the dangerous, deadly COVID-19.

As May begins, we do have a bit of good news. Working with the Governor’s Office and the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has reopened select Illinois state parks, fish and wildlife areas, and state trails to some limited outdoor recreation opportunities.

The sites that reopened effective May 1 are located throughout the state. A list of those sites, and information on activities available, social distancing guidelines, and other COVID-19 best practices requirements for site visitors can be found on the IDNR website at this link:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/closures/Pages/ParksOpenDuringCoVID19.aspx>.

Protecting the health and safety of our site visitors, staff and first responders is our highest priority. That is why activities at our reopened sites are limited to things like hiking, trail riding, wildlife watching and fishing – and why areas like playgrounds, shelters and concessions remain closed. We will continue to work with the Governor’s Office and the Illinois Department of Public Health to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and assess the possibility of opening additional sites.

To keep up to date with developments regarding our IDNR sites, please bookmark and check the IDNR website for the latest information at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/Pages/default.aspx>.

Thank you for your support – and your patience – as we all continue to navigate through these trying times.

Colleen Callahan, Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

## [DNR in the News](#)

**Lake County to Buy 23 Flood-prone Properties, Return them to Open Space**

**A Ray of Sunshine**

**USACE River Construction Projects**

**State Funding Steps Up Fox River Dam-removal Projects**

## [Statewide Offices](#)

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

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

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

## Highlights

### Illinois State Museum Announces COVID-19 Collecting Initiative



The Illinois State Museum (ISM) announced a new collecting initiative that encourages Illinois residents to share stories that reflect their experience during the COVID-19 pandemic for the benefit of future generations. The COVID-19 pandemic is a vital moment in history, and ISM wants to document how it is affecting Illinois residents through its “Share your Story: Illinois in the COVID-19 Pandemic” collecting initiative. To read more information about this initiative, [click here](#).

### Illinois State Museum Presents Bugs Virtual Super Saturday



The Illinois State Museum (ISM) announces "Bugs! Virtual Super Saturday" – the first virtual event in its popular Super Saturday series – will take place online from Saturday, May 2 to Tuesday, May 5. [Click here](#) for more information.

### COVID-19 Prevention



Currently, a vaccine or drug is not available for COVID-19. Community-based interventions such as school dismissals, event cancellations, social distancing, and creating employee plans to work remotely can help slow the spread of COVID-19. Individuals can practice everyday prevention measures like frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, and covering coughs and sneezes. [Click here](#) for more information.

### COVID-19 Resources for Families and Children



Thousands of students across the state qualify for free meals during the school day, and the Illinois State Board of Education is working closely with local school districts to ensure no child goes hungry in the coming weeks. For more information, [click here](#).



## 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

### Boating Laws and Responsibilities



All boat operators in Illinois are required to obey laws that regulate their vessel's registration, titling, and operation. For more details [click here](#).

### Boating Safety Education



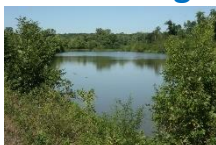
Check the IDNR website for information on boat safety. No person under 10 years of age may operate a motorboat, including personal watercraft (PWC). Age 10 years and less than 12 years of age may only operate under a parent or guardian's direct control. For more information, [click here](#).

### New Monarch License Plate



The sticker for Illinois' monarch license plate is being designed. The monarch plate will be one of the first in a series of new universal plates offered by the Illinois Secretary of State. Once available, motorists will purchase the monarch plate sticker from IDNR. Motorists will then take the receipt to the Secretary of State to purchase their universal plate. IDNR looks forward to sharing the sticker design and more information on the new plate when available.

### Private Pond Management-Constructing, Stocking and Maintaining Private Ponds



Pond management is more difficult than most people realize. Many enthusiastic beginners believe they can put up a dam, wait for it to fill, throw in some fish, wait a couple of years and then fish happily ever after. As the veteran pond owner knows, this is not the case. Proper pond management takes diligence, work, expertise and money. For more information, check the [I Fish Illinois](#) website.



## Lake Management Records



Check out your favorite Lake Status Summary information online. The IDNR Division of Fisheries provides lots of great information about the history and characteristics of lakes, species of fish, stocking information and more. Check the [I Fish Illinois](#)

website.

## Ticks



Ticks are among the most efficient carriers of disease because they attach firmly to people and animals, feed slowly and may go unnoticed for a considerable time while feeding. Learn all you need to know by visiting the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) website.

## IDNR Educate at Home



IDNR offers a chance for students to learn about the outside while inside. Educational resources are available for students to do while they are away from school, including ways to learn about the great biological diversity of Illinois. Learn more on the [IDNR website](#).

## Illinois Waterway Consolidated Lock Closures



The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has announced that to maintain reliable navigation and avoid unscheduled long-duration closures on the Illinois River system, the locks will undergo scheduled major rehabilitation and maintenance beginning this year. For more information, check the [USACE website](#).



## Stratton Lock and Dam Operations



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related Stay at Home Executive Orders, the William G. Stratton-Thomas A. Bolger Lock facility on the Fox River in McHenry County will be temporarily closed to the public. [Click here](#) for additional information.



## Resources for Learning about White-tailed Deer



Whitetails Unlimited offers educational resources that can be used for learning by students and adults! All publications are available for free download. [Click here](#) to access the items.

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



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