Message from Director Colleen Callahan

Illinois is full of abundant natural beauty, from Giant City State Park in southern Illinois to Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Recreation Area in Stephenson County, from the parks and preserves dotting its cities to the countless acres of grassland watched over by farmers across the state.

The 30 by 30 Conservation Task Force wants to hear from Illinois residents about how we all – state and local government, nonprofits, private landowners – can improve and expand on these lands to provide a more robust natural landscape for future generations.

The 30 by 30 Task Force is part of the national and global effort to conserve 30% of the world’s land and water by the year 2030, prompted by the twin crises of climate change and loss of biodiversity. In the face of these problems, the role of natural lands and waters in providing wildlife habitat and mitigating other effects of climate change is more important than ever.

Conserving 30% of land and water by the year 2030 is the amount scientists have argued is the minimum effort needed to mitigate the effects of climate change and save an estimated 1 million species currently at risk of extinction.

The idea for an Illinois 30 by 30 task force originated with a group of Pontiac Township High School students who wrote the legislation, testified in hearings, and lobbied lawmakers about why the initiative is important. The plan was approved by both houses of the Legislature with unanimous bipartisan support, and Gov. JB Pritzker signed it into law Aug. 27.

The task force offers a valuable opportunity to bring together people from all over Illinois with diverse experiences and perspectives when it comes to land use and conservation. This is an important step in addressing climate change and protecting the environment for generations to come.

The task force is collecting input from stakeholders across Illinois and wants to hear about conservation goals and strategies we should strive for as a community. A series of virtual listening sessions begins March 3. To learn more about how to participate, click here.
**DNR in the News**

- **Look out for elusive jellies at Little Grassy Lake, Crab Orchard**
- **McHenry County Conservation District receives grant for snowmobile trail grooming**
- **Monumental makeover: Cahokia Mounds center to close for nearly $7 million in renovations**
- **Abandoned mine cleanup efforts in IL helped by federal money**

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**Statewide Offices**

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

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**Highlights**

### Deer Hunting Permit Applications
Illinois residents are reminded that it's time to apply for the [2022 Firearm Deer Season](#). Beginning March 8, resident Illinois hunters can apply online for the first lotteries for firearm and muzzleloader deer permits.

### Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education
Register soon for ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) professional development workshops for educators. ENTICE workshops provide background information, networking opportunities, hands-on lessons, supplemental resources on the topic and the opportunity to work with resources professionals. Professional Development Hours are available. [Visit here](#) for details, the complete list of workshops and to register. Experience ENTICE!

### Governor Pritzker announces $75 million in federal funding for abandoned mine cleanup
Illinois will receive more than $75 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Interior this year to boost efforts to clean up abandoned coal mines throughout the state, Governor JB Pritzker announced. The funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior is part of President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, designed to create good-paying union jobs and catalyze economic opportunity by reclaiming abandoned mine lands.

### Spring Turkey Firearm Permits
The [third Lottery Spring Turkey Drawing](#) has been held. Remaining Spring Turkey Firearm permits will be available over the counter March 8. One or more permits may be purchased during this period, subject to availability, except that no one may exceed the limit of three permits in total for Spring Turkey.
The 2022 Spring Youth Turkey Season is March 26, 27, April 2 and 3. The North Zone and South Zone are open concurrently for all four days of the Youth Season. Buy a turkey pin and print My First Turkey Certificate. Fill out and print a certificate to remember your first turkey hunt.

2022 Wingshooting Opportunities Schedule
IDNR, in cooperation with a number of partners and co-sponsors, have posted the schedule of wingshooting clinics to be held at sites throughout Illinois from March through mid-November. Wingshooting clinics are intended to provide instruction and improve the shooting skills of beginning shooting students as well as experienced hunters. Most clinics are conducted on weekends at IDNR sites, cooperating gun clubs and shooting ranges, hunting preserves, and farms.

2022 Illinois Licenses Are Now Available
2022 Illinois Hunting, Fishing and Sportsman Combination licenses went on sale March 1. The 2022 licenses will be valid through March 31, 2023.

Camping and Shelter Reservations
Make your camping and shelter reservations online for the 2022 season.
Join today for just $35!
By becoming a member of the ICF, your support will help build, preserve, and restore conservation all across Illinois. As an ICF member, you’ll also receive these exclusive member benefits:

- Personalized Membership Card
- ICF Branded Neck Gaiter & Vinyl Sticker
- VIP Opportunities at Future ICF Events

https://ilconservation.org/Who-We-Are/ICF-Membership

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**Lake Openings**
Braidwood Lake opened for fishing on March 1. LaSalle Lake is scheduled to open to fishing on March 15. For fishing ponds and river information visit the [I Fish Illinois website](https://ilconservation.org/Who-We-Are/ICF-Membership).

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**Final Deer Harvest Summary**
Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of [147,004 deer](https://ilconservation.org/Who-We-Are/ICF-Membership) during all 2021-2022 archery and firearm seasons, which concluded Jan. 16.

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**Boating Safety and Registration**
All operators are required to obey laws that regulate your vessel’s registration, titling, and operation. [Know before you go](https://ilconservation.org/Who-We-Are/ICF-Membership).

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**At Home in the Heartland exhibition at the Illinois State Museum**
The Illinois State Museum announces the opening of a new installation, “June’s Room,” in its permanent At Home in the Heartland exhibition at its headquarters in Springfield.

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**15 Illinois sites added to National Register of Historic Places in 2021**
Thanks to the efforts of historic preservation advocates in Illinois, 15 sites in the state were added to the [National Register of Historic Places](https://ilconservation.org/Who-We-Are/ICF-Membership) during 2021, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced.
Illinois Code of Angling Ethics
To increase the awareness of the important role we all play in protecting our fisheries, anglers are asked to embrace a Code of Angling Ethics to serve as a reminder that we are the stewards of our valuable aquatic resources. Read the anglers pledge.

Historical marker commemorating Obama’s presidential campaign announcements in Springfield to be placed on Old State Capitol lawn
A historical marker will be erected later this year on the grounds of the Old State Capitol to commemorate Barack Obama’s momentous 2007 and 2008 presidential campaign announcements from the building’s lawn.

2022 ICF Outdoor Hall of Fame Gala
The Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) will host the ICF Outdoor Hall of Fame Gala virtually on April 6, 2022. featuring keynote speaker, Nick Offerman. Make your reservations today. The ICF Outdoor Hall of Fame Gala is Illinois’ premier fundraising event for outdoor education, recreation and wildlife conservation.