



Inside Illinois DNR

October 2019

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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



ENCOURAGING LOVE FOR THE OUTDOORS, ONE KID AT A TIME

Spending time outside is good for the health of all ages. So, in an era of “screen time,” getting more kids outdoors is one of our most important initiatives at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Being outside not only creates health benefits, it’s also a great way to spend time with friends and family, a good opportunity for learning, and a springboard to a conservation ethic that kids will carry with them for a lifetime.

But there’s more than just the obvious health and social benefits of being outdoors; it is also critically important to the future of outdoor recreation! Outdoor recreational enjoyment – from hunting and fishing to wildlife watching; from camping and hiking to boating – will only continue to thrive if today’s young people are engaged and encouraged now to participate.

That’s why we need to make it as enjoyable as possible – and as easy as possible – for kids to take part in outdoor recreation.

And it’s why I was pleased to be invited to attend the recent ceremony at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta where Governor J.B. Pritzker signed legislation making it easier for kids to enjoy, what may be for many of them, their first Illinois hunting experience.

The governor signed House Bill 3623, which gives IDNR the opportunity to create a pilot program for the three-day Youth Firearm Deer Season held each October. Currently, permits are issued for the youth deer hunt by county. The pilot, starting next year, will allow youth deer hunt permits to be used in any county open to the youth season. This flexibility may make for a more enjoyable experience for young hunters.

In fact, two brothers, ages 11 and 13, testified in support of the legislation, telling lawmakers about how poor weather kept them from hunting with their county permits when they might have been able to hunt in another county where the weather was better.

The new law also allows young and novice hunters to buy an Apprentice Hunting License more than once. That means those interested in trying hunting don’t face a “one and done” situation, perhaps helping recruit more novice hunters to give hunting a try over a longer time.

As the governor said in signing the bill, "I'm here today because I want to emphasize that it ought to be easier for our youth to enjoy all the outdoor recreation our state has to offer. The Illinois hunting community asked for these changes, and we listened...".

[DNR in the News](#)

**Endangered
Species Meeting**

Fall Trout Season

**Mason State Tree
Nursery**

Asian Carp

[Statewide Offices](#)

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

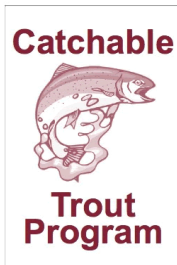
Highlights

Fort Massac Encampment: A Southern Illinois Tradition



Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis will again host the Fort Massac Encampment Oct. 19-20. One of Illinois' most popular fall festivals, the annual encampment provides visitors with a chance to experience what life was like at Fort Massac during the 18th and early 19th centuries. The site served as a military outpost along the Ohio River for personnel from France, Britain, and the early years of the United States from 1757 to 1814. [Click here](#) for more information.

Fall Trout Season Opens Oct. 19



The 2019 Illinois Fall Trout Fishing Season opens Saturday, Oct. 19 at 57 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state. An early opportunity at select trout sites – the Fall Catch-and-Release Fishing Season – will open Oct. 5 at locations marked with an asterisk (*) on the list provided on the link. No trout may be kept during the catch and release fishing period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning Oct. 19. The Illinois catchable trout program is funded by those who use the program through the sale of Inland Trout Stamps and through the Illinois Fish Management Fund. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Catchable Trout Program and sites.

Waterfowl Hunting Open Houses



The IDNR invites hunters to mark their calendars for upcoming public open houses to provide input on waterfowl hunting regulations for the 2021 through 2025 hunting seasons. Hunters will have the opportunity to review information used to make waterfowl season recommendations, talk with IDNR biologists and provide their preferences for waterfowl zone lines and season dates. [Click here](#) for the information.



ICF Membership Program

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With your help, we are "Turning Screen Time into Green Time."

Join ICF Today.

Call: (217) 785-2003

Visit ICF

Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program Encouraging New Efforts at Bringing Historic Buildings Back to Life



IDNR announced the first recipients for a new statewide historic preservation income tax credit program encouraging private investment to rehabilitate historic properties in Illinois. The Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, administered by the IDNR State Historic Preservation Office, is available to owners of historic structures who undertake certified rehabilitations making them eligible for a tax credit of up to \$3 million per project based on a percentage of their rehabilitation costs. Credits are limited to a total of \$15 million in allocations per year, with a total of \$75 million in tax credits available over the five years that the program is to be in effect. For more information [click here](#).

Special Deer and Turkey Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities Set for Nov. 14-16 at Rock Cut State Park



IDNR will host a three-day deer and turkey hunting opportunity for hunters with disabilities Nov. 14, 15 and 16 at Rock Cut State Park in Winnebago County. A total of only 20 hunting blind sites will be available for the event this year due to ongoing work on the Rock Cut State Park Road Improvement Project, which will prevent the safe access to and use of an additional 20 blind sites normally open for the hunt. [Click here](#) for more information.

State and Federal Sites to be Open for 2019 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Seasons



A number of Illinois state parks, fish and wildlife areas, conservation areas and recreation areas will be open to youth waterfowl hunting during the 2019 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Seasons, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced. Federal sites that fall under the IDNR waterfowl administrative rule that will be open for the youth hunts can be found at [click here](#).



Illinois State Museum to Return Artifacts to Australian First Nations



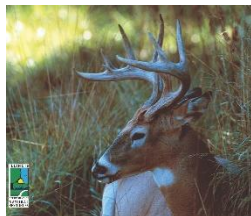
The Illinois State Museum will return 42 culturally significant objects currently in its collection to Australian First Nations after ten months of consultation with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and Aranda and Bardi Jawi communities. AIATSIS, based in Canberra, Australia, partnered with the communities to research, identify, and request the unconditional repatriation of secret/sacred, ceremonial, and secular artifacts from museums around the world. For more information [click here](#).

New Photographic Exhibition at Cahokia Mounds



A new photographic exhibition *Enduring Earthworks of the Western Great Lakes and Beyond*, by Daniel Seurer, is on display at Cahokia Mounds now through Nov. 18. The Enduring Earthworks photographic exhibit explores the long history of mound building in the Western Great Lakes, and the Mississippi River region. For more information [click here](#).

White-tailed Deer Rut



Be on the lookout as you travel! White-tailed deer will be on the move to find mates during their breeding season (rut) October through January. To report a sick or dead deer or claim a road kill deer [click here](#).

Candlelight Walk & Fall Festival at Lincoln's New Salem



Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site's Candlelight Walk is Oct. 4, 5 and 6, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Candlelight Walk offers the only opportunity to see the village at night. Period clothed interpreters will be inside many of the log homes and shops in the village to talk about life in 19th century Illinois. The New Salem Fall Festival is Oct. 26 and 27, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Period clothed interpreters will demonstrate daily tasks throughout the historic village such as candle dipping, soap making, basket making, spinning wool, gardening, natural dyeing, and broom making. For more information [click here](#).



Explore Like Lewis and Clark at The Nature Institute



Join IDNR's Brad Winn at The Nature Institute on Oct. 12 for a hike that allows you to experience the plants and animals like Lewis and Clark would have on their expedition out west. Many of the things that they encountered would have been completely new and foreign to them, so they had to keep detailed descriptions in their journals. Hike the trails like this is an uncharted territory

and use your observation skills to create detailed descriptions of the plants and hopefully animals we encounter along the way. For more information [click here](#).

Fall Color Walks at Volo Bog SNA and Moraine Hills SP



As the Midwestern trees come ablaze with their fall colors, join in for Fall Color Walks at Volo Bog State Natural Area and Moraine Hills State Park. Find out how and why leaves change color while strolling along the sites' beautiful trails. For registration information [click here](#).

Youth Firearm Deer Hunting Season



The 2019 Youth Firearm Deer Hunting Season is Oct. 12, 13 and 14. The Youth Firearm Deer Season is open to hunters who have not reached their 18th birthday prior to the opening date of the season. Unfilled Youth Firearm Deer Permits are also valid on private land during the first Firearm Deer Season (Nov. 22-24, 2019), but on public land they may only be used on sites that

allow unrestricted hunting to any hunter with a valid county permit. For more information [click here](#).

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

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