



Inside Illinois DNR

December 2014

Volume 2, Number 12

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IDNR Careers

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources 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 Marc Miller



Taking stock at the close of the year is a time-honored tradition. We like to see where we've been and where we are going. It can be a healthy exercise to take a moment to sit back and reflect on the previous 12 months.

Personally, I am always pleased when we acquire or secure additional land for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreational opportunities. Right now, the IDNR's Realty and Environmental Planning staff is dotting the "i's" and crossing the "t's" on a pair of significant acquisitions. This fall, we announced agreements to purchase about 4,500 acres of the former Burning Star Mine #5 in southern Illinois and 282 acres at Lake Calumet in the Chicago region. Both will provide much needed access for Illinois citizens.

In addition, the Illinois Recreational Access Program staff was able to secure a grant to expand that program beyond the 13,000 acres already leased for youth turkey hunting, boat access or other activities. We're also working with those landowners to implement habitat management plans on those acres, improving their productivity for wildlife. Looking back is important, but so is looking forward. Not only are we providing recreational access for the present, we are working with landowners to improve the habitat they have for the future. Our children are the future of conservation, but we must leave those resources in the best condition possible.

So as you gather with friends and family this holiday season, be grateful for those around you. I know I smile when my family members tell and re-tell old stories about past hunting or fishing trips. Let's continue to work together to be sure those opportunities – and those stories – have the chance to be experienced and told for years to come.

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving and I wish you and yours a warm and wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Yours in Conservation,

DNR in the news

Chi-Cal River Grants

Mattheissen State Park growing in popularity

Study looks at Sangamon River

Conservation officer receives promotion

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Clinton, IL
217-935-6860

Alton, IL
618-462-1181

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

State Parks, Great Parks Initiative



The Illinois General Assembly passed a funding package for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources giving the agency much-needed new revenues after a decade of severe budget and staffing cuts.

The Illinois DNR is committed to protecting the integrity of these funds by using them for the purposes for which they were intended.

The 'State Parks, Great Parks' initiative has a clear and simple goal: Use these new revenues to improve the state park visitor's experience. A majority of the new funds will be used to hire critical staff at state parks, and to cut down on the hundreds of millions of dollars in backlogged maintenance at our state parks.

Here's how IDNR Sustainability dollars are being used in our state parks this month.

Description	Location
New Dump Trucks	Rock Cut, Lowden-Miller, Mississippi Palisades, White Pines & Channahon State Sites.

Check out these amazing time-lapse videos of Illinois' [Great State Parks](#)

Legislation and Government

ILLINOIS



Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is implementing provisions of the Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act. Rules submitted to the Illinois General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) were posted on the IDNR website on Nov. 15 and published in the *Illinois Register* on Dec. 1.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/OilandGas/Pages/HydraulicFracturing.aspx>



Fees for Senior Citizens Reduced

Governor Pat Quinn signed a law that reduces sport fishing and hunting license fees to \$1 for Illinois residents over 75 years of age. The action was part of Governor Quinn's agenda to help more older adults enjoy recreational opportunities in Illinois.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/ApplyForOver75Refund.aspx>



Millennium Reserve

The public/private Millennium Reserve Steering Committee reported to Governor Pat Quinn recommending priority actions within the Millennium Reserve, a 210-square mile region being developed into a thriving area for commerce, communities and wildlife in the Calumet region and southeast Chicago lakefront.

The report recommends 14 specific regionally-significant opportunities to help improve the economy, community and environment of the area.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/MillenniumReserveSteeringCommitteeDeliversRecommendedActionstoGovernorQuinn.aspx>

Illinois Conservation Foundation

Celebrating our 20th Anniversary
1994 - 2014



#GivingTuesday™!

The Illinois Conservation Foundation was proud to be a partner in the #GivingTuesday™ campaign, a global effort to celebrate giving back! As we enter the holiday season, the ICF invites all our supporters and friends to join other charities, families, businesses and students around the world who are coming together for one common goal: to celebrate generosity and to give.

Make a donation to the ICF and help us fulfill our mission to educate and inspire the next generation of conservation leaders.

at www.ilcf.org



This Year's Highlights



Update to the Wildlife Code

The gray wolf, American black bear and mountain lion (cougar) will come under the protection of the Illinois Wildlife Code on January 1, 2015. Senate Bill 3049, signed by Governor Pat Quinn, gives the IDNR the authority to manage these species for the protection of both wildlife and public safety.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/Americanblackbears,mountainlionsandgraywolvestobeprotectedinIllinois.aspx>



Changes for 2014-2015 Deer Hunting Season

The IDNR implemented changes to the 2014-2015 deer hunting seasons, including the removal of 20 additional counties from the late-winter season and a reduction in the number of firearm permits available in some counties. IDNR biologists made

recommendations for the 2014-2015 seasons following a review of deer hunting harvest data, deer-vehicle accident data, a survey of Illinois deer hunters, hemorrhagic disease reports and other factors.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/IDNRAnnouncesChangesfor2014-2015DeerHuntingSeasons.aspx>



Future of Yellow Perch

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission hosted a Yellow Perch Summit last spring at the University of Illinois Chicago to consider the future of Yellow Perch. The natural resources agencies, organizations, and individuals who attended are committed to

working together on lakewide efforts to sustain the perch fishery in the lake.

http://www.glf.org/lakecom/lmc/yellow_perch_videos.html

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

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