



Inside Illinois DNR

February 2016

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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 Wayne Rosenthal



The unseasonable Christmas weekend rainfall, and the resulting flooding throughout much of downstate Illinois, reminded us of the power of nature. The flooding resulted in the loss of lives, extensive damages to property, and cleanup efforts that will take weeks and months to complete.

While we grieve for the friends and neighbors who lost their lives in rushing floodwaters, and offer help and assistance for others whose homes and properties were damaged or destroyed, we can take lessons learned from the holiday season disaster and try to be better prepared for the next time the skies open and the streams

and rivers rise.

I want to salute those who helped their fellow Illinoisans during the flood disaster. From first responders with local police, sheriff's departments, fire and rescue agencies – to Illinois State Police, the Illinois National Guard, and our IDNR Conservation Police – to local community service organizations, citizen volunteers, and the American Red Cross – Illinoisans stepped up to help as Illinoisans always do.

IDNR Conservation Police officers, with boats, all-terrain vehicles and sophisticated search and rescue gear, were often first on the scene to provide assistance to local residents and local agencies. Their training and experience in times of disaster allow our Conservation Police to do what they do best: help protect and assist the people of Illinois.

During the recent flooding, CPOs rescued families and pets trapped by floodwaters, helped in search and rescue/recovery efforts for those missing, and helped monitor the life-threatening rise of river levels along soggy levees.

Leading the monitoring effort by providing state and local emergency management officials with constantly updated flood data were staff of the IDNR Office of Water Resources. These waterway engineers and flood preparedness and response experts worked around the clock throughout the Christmas and New Year's holiday weeks in efforts to keep Illinoisans safe.

Thanks to flood mitigation efforts coordinated by the IDNR Office of Water Resources, serious flooding has resulted in less-catastrophic flood damages in the state. Since the historic flood of 1993, Illinois communities have adopted and enforced strong regulations to prevent new structures from being constructed in flood-prone areas. Illinois now leads the nation in the fewest number of flood insurance claims on new structures. In addition, the same communities have taken advantage of state and FEMA buyout programs to purchase nearly 5,000 flood-prone homes and create open space within the floodplain. Although a quiet success, these programs have saved lives and prevented hundreds of millions of dollars in flood damages.

We still have much work to do in moving people and personal property out of harm's way in flood-prone areas of Illinois, but the holiday season flooding of 2015-16 showed again the value of flood mitigation programs – and of flood preparedness for the safety of all Illinoisans.

DNR in the news

Ornate Box Turtle Study

Conservation Educator of the Year Award

Water Access Rules

Peregrine Falcons

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Clinton, IL
217-935-6860

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



Deer Hunters Harvest Preliminary Total of 155,131 Deer During 2015-2016 Seasons

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 155,131 deer during all 2015-16 seasons, which concluded Jan. 17. The total preliminary deer harvest for all seasons of 155,131 compares with a total harvest for all seasons of 145,720 in 2014-15. During the 2015-2016 deer seasons, hunters took 46 percent does and 54 percent males. [For more information click here](#)



IDNR Delivers Rules to Implement Regulated Harvest of Bobcats

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has delivered rules to implement regulated harvest of bobcats in the State. Authority was granted by Public Act 99-0033, which took effect January 1, 2016. Proposed rules will be reviewed by the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) to determine compliance with statutory provisions. [For more information click here](#)



Earth Day in the Parks 2016

Applications for 2016 Earth Day in the Parks events will be accepted by the IDNR through February 28, 2016. Events will be held in April and May. Earth Day in the Parks is the IDNR's program to promote natural resources stewardship by school children. You'll find the application form, list of participating state parks and much more information at the IDNR website. [For more information click here](#)



Eagle Watching Events

There are numerous eagle watching events in February. The 16th annual Eagle Day Festival in the Havana and Lewistown area is February 6. Carlyle Lake, Lake Shelbyville and Alton all have eagle watching events on February 13. Starved Rock State Park and Pere Marquette State Park also have eagle watching programs this month. [For more information click here](#)

[here information click here](#)

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



Free Outdoors Education!

Did you know that the ICF offers FREE outdoors experiences at the Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center near Rockford?

From fishing, camping, hunting, animal identification, nature walks and STEM coursework, the ICF can accommodate kids ages 6 - 18.

If you can't visit our 750-acre property, there's always the Torstenson Education Station, a mobile trailer that we can bring these programs to YOU.

Please visit www.ilcf.org to learn more, or call our office at (217) 785-2003 to book your visit.



Highlights



IRAP Spring Turkey Hunting

The Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) has added first-time adult turkey hunting to its growing list of public access activities. A first-time adult hunter also includes anyone who hasn't hunted turkey in the past five years. In

addition, the IDNR has changed the age restrictions for youth turkey hunting to 17 years and younger. This will allow IRAP to permit additional young turkey hunters on their youth turkey hunting sites. IRAP is a public access program that leases property from private landowners throughout Illinois and makes it available to registered IRAP participants for specific activities. To apply for an IRAP spring turkey hunting site, hunters must download an application and liability waiver, complete and sign them, and mail them to IDNR. Deadlines for applications are Feb. 26 for youth season and Mar. 10 for turkey seasons 3 and 4. In order to apply for seasons 3 and 4, applicants must first apply for a turkey permit through IDNR lottery system. Links are available on the IDNR [For more information click here](#)

Hunters Reminded to Report Harvest



Illinois hunters who received a Free Upland Hunting Permit are reminded to report their harvest by Feb. 15. Even if they did not hunt at the site, hunters must report in to remain

eligible for the next year's drawing. For all of IDNR-managed state sites that utilize the Windshield Card system, the reporting deadline is Feb. 15. [For more information click here](#)

Spring Turkey Applications



Non-Resident and Resident Spring Turkey Permit applications are available online. The deadline to apply for the third lottery permits is February 9, 2016. The application deadline for all property-only applications for Spring Turkey (both renewal and first time) is February 27, 2016. For more information check the IDNR website. [For more](#)

[information click here.](#)

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

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