



Inside Illinois DNR

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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



Should you develop a wintertime case of cabin fever, Illinois has plenty of options for you to get outdoors and enjoy our winter landscape in the Prairie State.

Put on a coat and gloves, tie up your hiking boots or bind your ski boots to your cross-country skis, and hit the trails in one of our Illinois state parks. The scenery is beautiful, even on a frigid January day.

Wildlife watching is always popular, and seeing deer or wild turkey in a snow-covered field can highlight a frosty afternoon.

Birding in the winter can provide more action than you might think, with lots of bird species opting to hang around rather than migrate south. And with leaves off the trees, birds may be easier to spot as they forage for a winter meal.

While Illinois is now home to dozens of nesting bald eagles – eagles that call Illinois home throughout the year – literally thousands of other eagles migrate into Illinois to spend at least part of the winter months along our big rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

Take a day, or several days this winter, to go eagle watching. You can head out on your own, or head to one of a number of eagle watching events, some of them staged at state parks.

For many years, IDNR biologist Scott Isringhausen has led caravans of eagle watchers through and around great eagle watching locations at Pere Marquette State Park, near the confluence of the Illinois River and the Mississippi River. The Pere Marquette Bald Eagle Days programs, on select dates throughout the winter, begin at 8:30 in the morning with a briefing on eagles at the park's visitor center, followed by a driving tour to see eagles in the trees and on the bluffs in and near the park. The programs and tours are free, but reservations are required. Check the IDNR website for program dates and details.

One of the most popular weekends of the year at Starved Rock State Park is Bald Eagle Watch weekend, scheduled this year for January 28-29. Thanks to the Illinois Audubon Society, in partnership with Ameren Illinois and the Illinois Raptor Center, the Bald Eagle Watch weekend is a celebration of nature. There are programs and activities – and usually a lot of bald eagles along the Illinois River banks – throughout both days. Admission is free.

I encourage you to check out these and other bald eagle events. You'll find a list of events on the web at <https://www.illinois.gov/gov/eagles/Pages/EagleWatching.aspx>

Whether its eagle watching or a simple hike in the woods, get outdoors this winter and shake off that cabin fever.

[DNR in the news](#)

Fire is a vital habitat tool

Starved Rock referenced on NBC TV series 'Chicago Fire'

On The Prowl

Grants to help extent Kickapoo Rail Trail

[Statewide Offices](#)

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Chicago, IL
312-814-2070

Clinton, IL
217-935-6860

Highlights



More Opportunities for Turkey Hunting Through the Illinois Recreational Access Program

Youth Hunters Apply by Feb. 23 for Youth Season; Adult and Youth Hunters Apply by March 10 for Seasons 3 and 4. The Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) – a program of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources – has added adult turkey hunting to its growing list of outdoor recreation activities on private land in Illinois. [For more information click here](#)



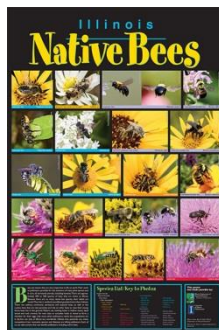
IDNR Reminding Anglers of the Importance of Safety When Ice Fishing

Being prepared could save your life. As the temperatures drop in Illinois, those who enjoy year-round fishing may start heading to their favorite location to participate in ice fishing. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is reminding anglers that heading to their favorite frozen fishing holes does come with risks this time of year. [For more information click here](#)



Governor Rauner announces over \$1 Million in Recreational Trail Grants

Governor Rauner announced \$1,019,200 in grant funding for multi-purpose recreational trail projects that will create or improve trails in six Illinois counties. Funding for the projects is supported by the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Recreational Trails Program. "Our trails showcase all the beauty Illinois has to offer," Governor Rauner said. "Whether you're enjoying them with family and friends or your pets it's a great opportunity to explore our state. These grants will improve access to our trails across Illinois." [For more information click here](#)



New Posters!

IDNR has two new posters available! Illinois Milkweeds and Illinois Native Bees can be ordered through the publications order form at www.dnr.illinois.gov/publications. These two-sided posters are great resources that can be used in a variety of ways. [For more information click here](#)

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



Visit the ICF at the Chicago Outdoor Sports Show at Rosemont

Director Wayne Rosenthal will cut the ribbon opening the show on Youth Conservation Day on Saturday Jan. 21

Show opens at 10:00am

The Director will be in the ICF both meeting sportsmen until 12:00 pm.

Food Drive for the ICF – Thursday 50% of admission. Friday – Sunday \$2.00 off admission.

For more info visit www.ilcf.org or call 217-785-2003.

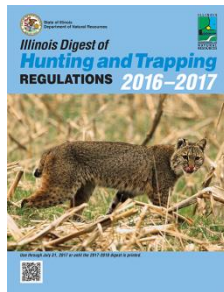


Highlights



Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Applications due by January 31

The application deadline for the 2017 Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant program is fast approaching. Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2017. Teachers in Illinois schools (prekindergarten through grade 12) and home-schooling educators in Illinois (prekindergarten through grade 12) can apply. [For more information click here](#)



Annual Photo Contest -Winner's Photo on the Cover of the Hunting and Trapping Digest

IDNR is soliciting pictures of live wildlife (that are hunted or trapped in Illinois) to be used for the 2017-18 Hunting and Trapping Digest. This contest is open to all Illinois residents. [For more information click here](#)



Illinois Conservation Foundation Scholarship Applications are due in January

Applications are now being accepted by the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) for the 2017 Conservation Achievement Scholarship program. The ICF annually awards scholarships to outstanding high school seniors in Illinois who demonstrate effective, voluntary, long-term dedication to the preservation, protection or enhancement of the state's natural resources. [For more information click here.](#)

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

Visit the IDNR on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter!](#)

