



# Inside Illinois DNR

July 2014

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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



In 1905, President Teddy Roosevelt established the U.S. Forest Service, marking the first meaningful protections for our natural resources and open space in America. That act, and thousands more like it, are the reasons we can enjoy the great outdoors today. In Illinois, our state parks are great parks – and thanks to your support, the Illinois

Department of Natural Resources has begun a new initiative to make our great state parks even better.

Illinois has so much to offer, and I encourage everyone to celebrate the wild freedoms we have in the outdoors. From the Cache River wetlands of southern Illinois, to the rugged trails of Starved Rock in the Illinois River valley, to the Lake Michigan shore at Illinois Beach, every Illinoisan and visitor to our state can enjoy the natural beauty and the accompanying outdoor recreation opportunities at our state parks.

The “State Parks, Great Parks” initiative is made possible thanks to new funding for state parks approved by the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Pat Quinn in 2012 as part of the IDNR Sustainable Funding legislation. We promised to invest \$2 from every motor vehicle registration in Illinois into improving our state parks, and with “State Parks, Great Parks,” we’re delivering on that promise.

Our state parks have so much to offer – from lakes and rivers, to forests and prairies. They’re great places to enjoy hiking, camping, wildlife watching, fishing, hunting, boating, or simply relaxing.

The essence of “State Parks, Great Parks” is to make our state parks places you want to visit and enjoy time and time again, now and for years to come.

I encourage you to learn more about our Great State Parks at our new website [www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation). Then, grab your friends and family and see for yourself why we have so much to celebrate in the Illinois outdoors.

Yours in Conservation,

## DNR in the news

### Initiative Program Worthwhile

### Perch Changes

### Officer Receives Medal of Honor

### Updated Coal Mine Maps

## 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
Trail Rehabilitation	Starved Rock State Park

## Legislation and Government



### Millennium Reserve

The public/private Millennium Reserve Steering Committee has delivered its report 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 that the committee believes will help realize the full promise and potential of the Millennium Reserve and improve the economy, community and environment of the area. Read more about the committee's priority projects and actions: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/MillenniumReserveSteeringCommitteeDeliversRecommendedActionstoGovernorQuinn.aspx>



### Governor Quinn Signs Laws to Protect Boaters

Governor Pat Quinn has signed three pieces of safe boating legislation intended to extend boating safety education to more people, improve safety and awareness of water skiers and tubers, and provide additional consequences for those who disregard the safety of others while operating under the influence.

<http://www3.illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=2&RecNum=12397>



### Officer of the Year

Illinois Conservation Police Officer Chris Johnson of Golconda was honored as the Officer of the Year during a recent ceremony at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources headquarters in Springfield. Johnson, an 11-year veteran of the Conservation Police, was honored for his commitment to all aspects of conservation law enforcement.

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

# Illinois Conservation Foundation

Founded in 1994

## SAVE THESE DATES

August 16<sup>th</sup> Hall of  
Fame Inductee  
Recognition  
Ceremony - IL State  
Fair/Conservation  
World Amphitheater  
at 11:00 am,  
Springfield.

October 4<sup>th</sup> - ICF 20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Gala,  
Hilton Chicago/Indian  
Lakes Resort,  
Bloomington, IL.  
5:30 pm.

Thanks to the  
generous donations  
of ICF supporters, the  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade class from  
Pecatonica  
Elementary School  
participated in  
outdoor education  
activities encouraging  
awareness of nature  
and the outdoors and  
the need to be good  
environmental  
stewards at the  
Torstenson Youth  
Conservation  
Education Center.

Donate to the ICF at  
[www.ilcf.org](http://www.ilcf.org)



## This Month's Highlights



**Waukegan Harbor Dredging;** Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Marc Miller has announced he has signed a formal request asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to lift restrictions on dredging in Waukegan Harbor following cleanup of historic industrial contamination of the harbor located on Lake Michigan.

"Thanks to the leadership of Governor Pat Quinn, and the hard work of state, local and federal partners, we are ready to take another step toward 'delisting' the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern," Miller said. "The health of Waukegan Harbor is a key to a healthy economy here in Waukegan, Lake County and all of northeast Illinois."

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



### Illinois Conservation Police Officer Trainee Exam Offered July 14-17:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Police Office of Law Enforcement is seeking qualified applicants to take the written exam for Conservation Police Officer Trainee. The exam will be offered at several Central Management Services (CMS) testing centers throughout the state on July 14 - 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each day. Tests will be administered on a walk-in basis at Springfield and Chicago testing centers. The Marion, Champaign and Rockford testing centers are by appointment only.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/IllinoisConservationPoliceOfficerTraineeExamOfferedJuly14-17.aspx>



**Endangered and Threatened Species Notice:** The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board is accepting comments and evidence regarding the Board's preliminary decisions for revision of the Illinois Lists of Endangered and Threatened Animal and Plant Species. The Board will receive written comments until midnight, July 11, 2014. Directions about how to submit comments and evidence via email, as well as a

complete list of the Board's proposed changes and additional references, including the current list of endangered and threatened species approved in 2011, can be accessed at <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/espb/index.htm>. To request a hard copy of the list of proposed changes, other materials, or to submit hard copy written comments, contact the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271.

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

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