



Inside Illinois DNR

June 2015

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In This Issue

- *Boating Safety*
- *Turkey Harvest*
- *Update on White-Nose Syndrome*
- *ICF Hall of Fame Nominations*

Find Out More

DNR Home Page

Natural Resources

Parks and Recreation

Mines and Minerals

Hunting and Trapping

Fishing

Education/Outreach

State Museums

Safety and Rules

Online Services

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



Fellow Conservationists,
Welcome to a busy summer season – and please accept my invitation to consider spending part of your summer visiting one, or many, of our great state parks in Illinois.

Illinois has an amazing array of state parks, fish and wildlife areas, conservation, and recreation areas, with an even wider array of natural features and outdoor recreation opportunities.

From the Lake Michigan shore at Illinois Beach, to the canyons and waterfalls at Starved Rock – from the vistas above the mighty river at Mississippi Palisades to the hill prairies of Jim Edgar Panther Creek – all the way to the sandstone walls of Giant City to the backwater swamps along the Cache River – Illinois has some of the most unique landscapes in America. They're all here for you and your family to enjoy.

Recreation opportunities are limitless in Illinois. Anglers enjoy lakes, rivers and streams at our parks and downstate reservoirs. Campers can go online to reserve a full-service campsite at dozens of locations, stay in a state park campground cabin, or pitch a tent in primitive campground seclusion. Our beautiful state park lodges offer great accommodations, great food, and breathtaking settings.

There are bicycle paths, mountain bike trails, hiking trails and horseback trails to explore. Trailer a boat to many of our sites. When summer gives way to fall, check out hunting season opportunities that make Illinois a destination for hunters from throughout the state and throughout country.

Our site superintendents and park personnel work hard every day to make your state park visit enjoyable. And we are making progress on repair and maintenance projects that help make our state parks great parks.

I hope you'll plan a day trip to a state park, a weekend at a state park campground or lodge, or a hike in a state forest this summer.

Find more details on all our Illinois state parks have to offer at www.dnr.illinois.gov. For campsite reservations, log onto www.reserveamerica.com.

DNR in the news

Deer Reg Changes
Proposed

Soaking Up
Knowledge

New Boating Laws

Funding Awarded

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



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.

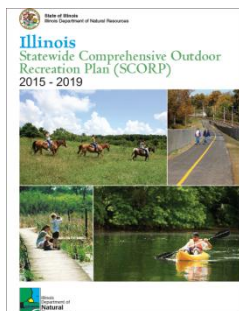
The 'State Parks, Great Parks' initiative has a clear and simple goal: Use these new revenues to improve the state park visitor's experience. A majority of the new funds will be used to hire critical staff at state parks, and to cut down on the hundreds of millions of dollars in backlogged maintenance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

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

Description	Location
Culvert Pipe Replacement	Johnson-Sauk Trail State Rec Area

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

Highlights



Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The new 2015-2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was approved by Governor Rauner and has been submitted to the National Park Service. The new SCORP demonstrates DNR's commitment to the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program and its conservation and outdoor recreation legacy here in Illinois. Enjoying the natural resources and recreational opportunities of our great state enriches the lives of all Illinoisans. [For more information click here](#)



[click here](#)

Illinois' Amphibians and Reptiles Field Pack

The Illinois' Amphibians and Reptiles Field Pack from the IDNR can help you and your students to learn about these fascinating creatures. The field pack contains binoculars, field guides, magnifying glasses, a head lamp, frog call recordings and many other items. You can access the content list and lending locations at [For more information](#)



Free Fishing Days Set for June 5-8

Summer is a great time to take the family fishing. The IDNR is announcing resources, clinics and other events designed to make fishing more enjoyable [For more information click here](#)

Illinois Conservation Foundation



Illinois Outdoors Hall of Fame Nominations.

Do you know someone who's earned the honor of being inducted into the Illinois Outdoors Hall of Fame?

Nominations are open through June 19th.

Selection is reserved for those who have made significant contributions and unparalleled dedication to preserving, promoting, enhancing and supporting natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities in the State of Illinois.

If you'd like to nominate an individual for this prestigious award, please click here to learn more.

For more information about the ICF, please contact the ICF at (217) 785-2003.

www.ilcf.org



Highlights



Wear a Life Jacket and Stay Safe on the Water

"As we head into our busy summer boating season in Illinois, we are reminding everyone who enjoys time on the water to make safety their first consideration. Our message is pretty simple and straightforward: Fastening a life jacket can save your life, and staying sober while operating a boat is not only common sense, it's the law." Illinois Conservation Police Chief Rafael Gutierrez. [For more information click here](#)



White-Nose Syndrome Found in Three Additional Illinois Counties

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), a fungal disease that has killed millions of bats in North America, has been found in three additional Illinois counties, bringing to seven the number of new counties where the disease has been found this year. Adams, Carroll and Pike Counties are the most recent counties to be added to the list where WNS has been confirmed. [For more information click here](#)



Turkey Harvest

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary statewide total of 14,999 wild turkeys during the 2015 Spring Turkey Season, including the youth seasons. The 2015 total compares with the statewide turkey harvest of 13,514 in 2014. The statewide preliminary total includes Youth Turkey Season harvest of 896 birds, compared with youth season harvest of 781 turkeys in 2014.

[For more information click here.](#)

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

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

