



Inside Illinois DNR

March 2016

Volume 4, Number 3

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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



During this month of March, as we show winter the exit and welcome the coming spring, there is much to look forward to outdoors in Illinois.

While basketball fans celebrate the madness of March, baseball fans eye spring training camps, gardeners long to get their hands in the soil, and farmers are anxious to get in the field, it's also time to plan for spring and summer recreation. You can sample some of it in March, even on days when the sun feels warm, but the wind still blows cold.

Your worn and tattered 2015 Illinois fishing, hunting or combination license expires on March 31, so be sure to get your 2016 license by the end of the month.

For anglers in Illinois, our Catchable Trout Program spring season opens on Saturday, April 2 at 50 lakes and ponds throughout the state. Unless exempt, you'll need a fishing license and inland trout stamp to catch and keep up to five trout per day once the season opens. The trout program is very popular each spring and fall. For the spring season, we're stocking 80,000 tasty trout, thanks to the anglers who buy trout stamps to support the program.

Again this spring, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is offering a chance for fly fishers to get out for a catch-and-release trout fishing opportunity at nine of those spring trout season lakes and ponds beginning March 19. For complete spring trout details, check the "I Fish Illinois" website at www.ifishillinois.org.

Hunters who gobbled up Spring Wild Turkey Hunting permits during the winter will be busy trying to fill those tags beginning April 4 in the South Zone and April 11 in the North Zone. Youth Turkey Season weekends are March 26-27 in the South Zone and April 2-3 in the North Zone. For more turkey season details, check the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/turkey.

Those who enjoy camping are already making reservations for our state park campgrounds, especially for busy weekends in the months ahead. Check your calendar and make reservations now for many IDNR campsites at www.reserveamerica.com.

Make your plans now to join us outdoors in Illinois in 2016. Spring is just around the corner!

DNR in the news

Prairie Chicken
Project

Fat Bikes

Paying For
Patience

Large Predators

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Clinton, IL
217-935-6860

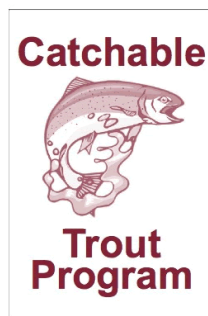
Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



LaSalle Lake Opens for the Season on March 15

LaSalle Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area will open for the 2016 season on March 15 and will be open daily, 6:00 a.m. – Sunset. All anglers must be off the lake by closing time each day. Hours may be adjusted due to staffing issues, so visitors should call ahead (815) 357-1608 to confirm operating hours. Visitors to LaSalle Lake are reminded that on opening day, and during the first two weeks of the fishing season, long lines are expected at the site entrance. [For more information click here](#)



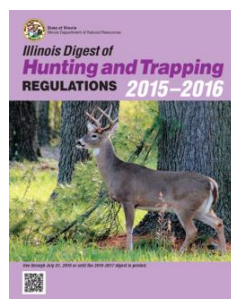
Spring Trout Fishing Season Opens April 2

The 2016 Illinois spring trout fishing season opens on Saturday, April 2 at 50 ponds, lakes and streams throughout the state. Prospect Park in Moline has been added to the list of spring trout fishing locations. The Spring Catch-and-Release Fly Fishing-only season will be available at nine sites beginning on March 19. Fly fishing anglers can use fly fishing gear to catch and release trout beginning March 19 at the nine select sites designated in the list below. No trout may be kept during the fly fishing-only period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning April 2. [For more information click here](#)



Bridge Work Closes IL 102 at Kankakee River SP

The Illinois Dept. of Transportation announced that IL Route 102 approximately 6.5 miles northwest of Bourbonnais (at Kankakee River State Park) will be closed beginning March 1. The closure is to allow for removal and reconstruction of the bridge carrying IL 102 over Rock Creek. [For more information click here](#)



Cover Photo Contest

IDNR is seeking photo images of live bobcats to be considered for use on the cover of the 2016-17 Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations. The photo contest is open to people of all ages, as long as they're a resident of Illinois. The selected picture will be placed on the front cover of the digest, and the photographer's name will be listed on the inside page. The cover photo contest winner will be selected by IDNR wildlife biologists, and the winning photographer will receive five copies of the printed digest. All photo entries must be submitted by March 31, 2016. [For more information click here](#)

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



Check "Yes" for Youth Hunting & Fishing

With license-renewal time upon us, remember to check "YES" to make your \$5 donation to youth hunting and fishing.

Your donation goes a LONG way towards making the ICF youth programs a reality.

We served more than 7,000 kids in 2015 thanks to your help!

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



Highlights



Visit the Revised IDNR Division of Education Website!

The IDNR Division of Education's Web page has been revised and is now available. You'll find a new look as well as new features. We have lessons, monthly updates, publications, lending locations for resources trunks and packs, suggestions of native plants For Your Garden, video podcasts, teacher professional development and more topics. Use the "A to Z" button to find a comprehensive content list. Updates are being made regularly so visit the site often. Change your bookmarks to reflect the new Web address! [For more information click here](#)



New License Year Begins April 1

Illinois fishing, hunting and sportsman's combination licenses and stamps for 2016 are available from DNR Direct license and permit vendors, online through the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov, or by calling 1-888-6PERMIT (1-888-673-7648). The 2016 licenses and stamps are valid through March 31, 2017, unless otherwise noted. [For more information click here](#)



Prairie State Hike App

Visitors to Starved Rock State Park can take a guided hike on the park's most popular trails by using a new smartphone app. Download the Prairie State Hike App for 99 from iTunes or Google Play. Features of the app include a map, points of interest, audio for each stop, photographs and video. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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