



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



Spring, summer, fall and winter, our Illinois state parks are great places to visit.

As we head into the busy outdoors seasons, why not come out and stay awhile?

If you haven't done so already, make reservations now to book a stay at an Illinois state park campground.

Riding or hiking the trails, casting a line from a dock or a boat, or setting up camp and simply playing catch with the kids, it's great to be able to hang out around your campsite or cabin instead of driving home, or driving to distant motel.

A campfire before bed is the perfect way to relax, and after a busy day at a state park, you'll probably be ready for a good night's sleep.

Whether you're in a sleeping bag in your tent, or you've invested in an extra-comfortable mattress in your RV, falling asleep to the sounds of nature at night has a special appeal.

Spending time outdoors can be a great stress-reliever. Spending a night, a weekend, or a week or more at a state park campsite – away from our busy routines – is exactly the kind of getaway many families enjoy.

Reserving a campsite at an Illinois state park, state recreation area, or other site is easy. For many of our popular sites, go online to the Reserve America website at www.reserveamerica.com. Just like booking a hotel room, you can reserve your campsite online, and it will be waiting for you when you arrive.

At some of our sites, campground cabins can be reserved. And advance reservations for picnic shelters can also be done online through the website at www.reserveamerica.com.

Don't wait. Summer is on the way and campsite reservations fill up fast, especially for holiday weekends.

Head out to your Illinois state parks. And stay awhile.

[DNR in the news](#)

**Volunteers &
Frogs**

**Green Before
Spring**

Bishop Hill

**Coollest Tradition
in the Outdoors**
[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



2017 Illinois Youth Turkey Season Preliminary Record Harvest Totaled 1,541 Birds

The dates for this year's season were March 25-26 and April 1-2. This was the first year two youth turkey hunting weekends were open for the entire state.

Previously, there was one weekend dedicated for the north zone and one for the south. In 2016, a total of 1,058 turkeys were harvested, combining both seasons and zones.

[For more information click here](#)



Schedule of Waterfowl Blind Site Drawings

Waterfowl hunters are encouraged to mark their calendars for upcoming waterfowl hunting blind site random drawings to be held at several public hunting areas in Illinois in June, July and August. Duck and goose hunters must register in person for waterfowl blind site drawings and must be present at the drawing – held at each location immediately after the registration period – to claim their blind sites. [For more information click here](#)



Genetic testing confirms new Illinois state-record crappie was a hybrid

The Division of Fisheries confirmed that a new state-record hybrid crappie was caught at Kinkaid Lake in Jackson County on March 28. The fish, caught by Ryan Povolish of Carbondale, weighed 4 pounds, 8.8 ounces. The fish appeared to be a black crappie, but genetic testing completed by the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) confirmed it to be a hybrid crappie. [For](#)

[more information click here](#)



IDNR Announces Operations Schedule at Stratton Lock and Dam

The Stratton Lock will open for the 2017 season on Wednesday, May 3. IDNR lock tenders will operate the Stratton Lock on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., and on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until midnight through October 29. [For more information click here](#)

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



The ICF has been busy this spring hosting youth turkey hunts at the Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center near Pecatonica, IL. Most of the credit for this successful program goes to volunteers of the National Wild Turkey Federation who organize and sponsor the youth hunts in partnership with ICF.



Highlights



Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month

Aquatic invasive species (AIS), like zebra and quagga mussels, round goby, and the fish disease VHS, can reduce or eliminate native species in local waters, making fishing for lunker smallmouth or a trophy walleye more difficult. Invasive plants can also overgrow and choke waterways, which degrades fish habitat and impedes your ability to boat and fish. Preventing the spread of AIS is essential to reducing environmental impacts and economic losses and also to preserving our waters so that we can fish and boat for many years to come. [For more information click here](#)



Volunteers Needed at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield

The Illinois State Museum in Springfield is looking for volunteers for its Summer Film Fest, and for assisting children, families and other museum visitors throughout the year. Illinois State Museum volunteers are provided with training and a few benefits in appreciation for their time. Some positions may require a background check. If interested in one of the volunteer opportunities contact Elizabeth Bazan at volunteer@illinoisstatemuseum.org or 217-782-0061. [For more information click here](#)



2017 Big Buck, Turkey, and More pins available

Lapel pins are available now online, or download the form and mail it in with a check or credit card information. Pins are \$5 each and past years are available. Proceeds support Illinois Sportsmen's Against Hunger and IDNR's youth archery program. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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

