



# Inside Illinois DNR

November 2014

Volume 2, Number 11

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- *Public Access finally coming to Lake Calumet*
- *Future recreation expansion in West Central Illinois*
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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



Over the past 20 years, Illinois deer hunters have contributed more than 1 million pounds of venison to the Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger (ISAH) program, providing more than 4 million meals to families and individuals in need. I salute all of the hunters who elect to share the bounty of their harvest with others. I hope you will continue to do so.

Hunters donating deer to ISAH in counties open for the Late-Winter Antlerless-Only and CWD seasons will be eligible to have a portion of the processing cost paid for by the program. This is because federal funds are available for reimbursement only in counties where efforts are underway to reduce the number of deer. In counties that have met their objectives and have been removed from the Late-Winter season, processing costs are not eligible for reimbursement.

This does not mean food pantries are not accepting donations. This means that in some counties, ISAH can cover the \$50 deer processing charge. In those counties that have closed to the Late-Winter seasons, hunters are also asked to make a tax-deductible \$50 donation through the Illinois Conservation Foundation to help cover the cost of processing their deer.

This is just one of many recent changes on the deer-hunting landscape as we move from deer herd restoration over the past century to downward adjustments when numbers reached historic highs to the current management phase where we are working to keep deer numbers close to their target goal in each county.

I encourage your continued support of the ISAH program. As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, I am proud to know that Illinois hunters are not only fine conservationists, but active members of their community, always willing to help those in need.

Yours in Conservation,

## DNR in the news

Deer Harvest

Illegal Ginseng

Waukegan  
Shoreline  
Improvement  
Plan

\$2.4 Million in  
Park Grants  
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 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
New Snow Plows	Wayne Fitzgerrell and White Pines Forest State Parks.

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

## Legislation and Government



### Recreational Access to Expand in Fulton County

Illinois Governor Pat Quinn announced a new partnership with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) to expand public recreational access in Fulton County.

On behalf of Governor Quinn, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Director Marc Miller joined MWRD Commissioners, Senator Dave Koehler, and other local leaders announced a partnership that will allow the IDNR to manage a portion of MWRD's 14,000-acre property located nearly 40 miles southwest of Peoria for future hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation. The agreement, once final, will not include the IDNR taking over camping leases currently held by Fulton County.

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



### Governor Quinn Announces Major Expansion of Public Recreational Access at Lake Calumet

Governor Pat Quinn was joined by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to announce an agreement to purchase 282 acres of land from the Illinois International Port District that will provide unparalleled public access at Lake Calumet. The announcement

is part of Governor Quinn's agenda to increase opportunities for recreation across Illinois, and to promote stewardship of our natural resources while driving economic development.

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

## Illinois Conservation Foundation

Celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1994 - 2014



Have You Purchased Your 2015 Outdoors in Illinois Calendar?

The 9" x 12" calendar contains stunning photography of Illinois and can be purchased for \$12. Visit [www.ilcf.org](http://www.ilcf.org) to purchase yours today.

ICF Conservation Achievement Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors to promote the value of our natural world and encourage the next generation of leaders to engage in personal efforts to preserve and enhance a sustainable outdoor environment. Applications available at [www.ilcf.org](http://www.ilcf.org)



## This Month's Highlights



### Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is open for public comment. The Draft of the 2015 SCORP is now available for review and comment. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources prepares the SCORP to guide the Department's local recreation grant programs.

SCORP includes information about recreational activities, facilities, and resources.

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



### Firearm Deer Permits Available

Remaining Illinois firearm and muzzleloader deer permits are available over-the-counter from DNR Direct license and permit vendors through Dec. 7, or until quotas are exhausted. Find a vendor near you at this link:

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx>

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx>

Late-Winter and CWD Deer Special Hunt Area Applications: Hunters may apply online through Nov. 24 for site-specific permits for designated IDNR Special Hunt Areas for the Late-Winter and CWD Deer Hunts. The online application system and hunt area list is available through the IDNR website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov>.



### Spring Turkey Applications

Resident hunters may now apply for the first lottery for 2015 Illinois Spring Wild Turkey Season permits online. The application deadline for the first lottery for 2015 resident spring turkey permits is Dec. 1, 2014. Go to the IDNR website for more information at this link:

link: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/turkey>

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

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