



# Inside Illinois DNR

October 2014

Volume 2, Number 10

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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



When I became director five-and-a-half years ago, I pledged to restore professional management and decision making based on sound science at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Those principles enter into everything we do.

Modern natural resources management also includes an understanding of the human dimension – the values and expectations of the people we represent. It is why we conduct hunter surveys to determine preferences for season dates, regulations changes, and attitudes about wildlife.

With waterfowl seasons upon us, we're reminded that detailed analysis of weather data, migration patterns, and the impacts of climate and habitat changes on waterfowl are now part of the science – and the art – of what we do.

Speaking of birds and climate change, a recent National Audubon Society study of the impacts of climate change on birds in the U.S. showed that while some species will adapt in the coming decades, nearly half of more than 600 bird species will be forced to find habitat elsewhere – and in many cases, habitat that is shrinking at that – between now and 2080. We know this thanks to science. We can best deal with the consequences by applying science in the search for answers.

On a broader scale, we need more research regarding the right mix of habitat for sustaining wildlife populations. Some of that research is national and international in scope. Some of it is close to home.

From barn owl recovery to white-nose syndrome impacts on bats – from Blanding's turtle nesting grounds restoration to invasive plant removal to promote forest habitat – we can better protect and enhance wildlife thanks to science.

Our Illinois Wildlife Action Plan – a guiding framework for much of our work – was developed and is being updated consistent with science-based natural resource management principles. If we do it right, Illinoisans benefit from increases in the amount and quality of habitat to support native plants, wildlife, and aquatic life – and from the recreational and commercial uses of our natural wonders.

That's why science matters, and that's why professional management and science-based decision making will continue to be our standards at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Yours in Conservation,

## DNR in the news

**DNR Grant helps bats**

**Pheasant population has increased**

**Forestry's Wildland Crew**

**High School Bass Fishing**

## 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 Playground Equipment	Beaver Dam, Wayne Fitzgerrell, Sam Parr & Morrison Rockwood State Sites.

## Legislation and Government



### Governor Announces Major Investment in Conservation and State Parks

Governor Pat Quinn announced the acquisition of a 51-acre parcel of land adjacent to Starved Rock State Park that will provide additional wildlife space and serve as a buffer to protect the park. The Governor also announced wildlife habitat land acquisition in Edgar, Woodford and Jackson

counties and improvement projects at state parks operated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

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

### Friends of the Chicago River Honored at River Summit

Governor Pat Quinn proclaimed October 3 "Chicago River Summit Day" to highlight stewardship efforts of the Friends of the Chicago River and other advocates on restoring and improving one of America's great urban waterways. The summit was held in conjunction this fall with the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends of the Chicago River

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/GovernorQuinnProclaims%E2%80%9CChicagoRiverSummitDay%E2%80%9DinIllinois.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

### Catchable



### Trout Program

### Fall Trout Season News

October 4: NEW Catch-and-Release Fly Fishing Season opens.

October 18: Illinois Fall Trout Fishing Season opens.

The 2014 Illinois fall trout fishing season opens on Saturday, October 18, at 50 ponds, lakes and streams throughout the state. New this fall will be catch-and-release fly fishing at a handful of sites beginning October

4. Fly fishing anglers can use their gear to catch and release trout on selected sites.

<http://www.ifishillinois.org>



### The 41st Annual Fort Massac Encampment

Fort Massac State Park's 41st annual Fort Massac Encampment will be held at the historic park on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 18 and 19. See what life was like back in the 1700s and early 1800s. The 2014 Encampment will feature the thunderous boom of cannons and a tempting assortment of foods and activities from which to choose. The event is more than an old-time crafts fair, as it pays tribute to Illinois' rich frontier history. Historical re-enactors and skilled craftspeople representing French, British and Americans gather at the Encampment to demonstrate the skills and lifestyles of early residents on the Illinois frontier.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Documents/FMEschedule14.pdf>

<http://www.metropolistourism.com/announcements/fort-massac-encampment>



### New Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Available

The *Illinois Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2014-2015* edition is now available. You'll find the digest at many IDNR license and permit vendor locations and state sites. The digest is also posted online in PDF format through the IDNR website.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Documents/DigestWaterfowlHuntingRegulations.pdf>

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

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