

# ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

## Office of Resource Conservation

The [Illinois Nature Preserves Commission](#) (INPC) works with private and public landowners to protect [high quality natural areas](#) and habitats of endangered and threatened species. Landowners [protect](#) their qualifying property through registration as a land and water reserve or dedication as a nature preserve. The owner retains custody of their property but voluntarily restricts future uses of the land in perpetuity to preserve its natural state and to perpetuate natural conditions.

INPC provides leadership in the [stewardship, management](#) and protection of these significant lands.

## Volunteer Opportunities

INPC partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 1983 to form the [Volunteer Steward Network](#) (VSN) as a resource for volunteers interested in stewardship of prairies, woodlands, wetlands and other high quality natural communities. The VSN is comprised of more than 140 volunteer groups across the state, with INPC and TNC lending support by supplying volunteers with tools, training, and conservation expertise.

Scroll to the map on the [VSN page](#) to find a group and site near you to work at.

[Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves](#) provides support to the INPC System by advocating for and finding increased resources, funding, and staff for the system and assisting local volunteer communities as they help restore and care for their Illinois biodiversity reserves. Check the links to learn more about ways to [Get Involved with Friends](#) and upcoming [Volunteer Events](#) around the State.

Throughout the State, sites in the Illinois Nature Preserves System are in need of volunteers.

### **Volunteers can help with:**

- \* Exotic/Invasive Species Control
  - \* Plant and Animal Surveys
- \* Species and Habitat Monitoring
  - \* Site Interpretation
  - \* Photography
- \* Volunteer Coordination and Retention
  - \* Other Administrative Tasks

**For more information about volunteer projects,  
contact Volunteer Groups directly  
or request INPC's Stewardship Program by contacting:**

[DNR.INPC@illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.INPC@illinois.gov) or  
217-785-8686

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