

REVISED STARTER QUESTIONS

- I. Sustainable Resource Harvest
1. How can our hunting & fishing programs be improved to protect resources?
Increase costs for licenses
Conduct surveys to see what are the costs for rangers, hunters, logistics and organizing, then base the fee structure as such.
Value hunters – need to recognize by other agencies
Public recognition for voice of resource
 2. What types of additional recreational opportunities can DNR provide?
Additional resources for other activities, such as; mushroom hunting and star gazing
Advertise for hiking, bicycling and trail usage to get people out and using the parks.
Utilize the Green Teacher Network to increase attendance at parks.
Explore ways to connect with other agencies and programs within area and include schools. Be available to help local schools with adding Nature in curriculum.
 3. What can DNR do to enhance conservation and habitat preservation and the availability of natural products from the land?
Get the word out – Market the agency. Connect with local businesses - create a partnership.
Increase communication within the Region – cultural and education.
Open communication – work together for example, provide seeds for Midewin /Prairie Parklands.
- II. Sustainable Provision of Outdoor Recreational Access
1. How do we engage new individuals and groups in outdoor activities?
Store boats – have equipment available for bikers, hikers and boaters.
Green Roofs Commission – State and Local Groups
Connect with local Mother’s Groups, Library and other non-traditional groups.
 2. How can DNR help provide more recreational activities on private lands or develop new opportunities on public lands?
Use public access TV/Cable to advertise local parks and activities
Create an App - mapping the natural resources / State Parks in area and what they offer.
 3. What steps can DNR take to best enhance access to outdoor recreation?
Water activities, trails....create a program for public access on private lands
Identify smaller pockets of lands and create a contest in the schools for kids
Get kids involved creating an urban landscape(s)
Provide assistance for teachers to include nature in lesson plans
Reach out to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts – create an IDNR patch for volunteer Lead activities
Star Parks – provide telescopes for children
- III. Sustainable Resource Protection
1. DNR is responsible for protecting the state’s natural resources, and aims to offer high quality experiences while sustaining natural environments. What is the DNR doing right? What improvements can be made?
Dam removal, water trails and overall water activities
Bring back funding for C2000/Partners for Conservation Program
Improve water quality standards and/or help manage the standards
Increase stewardship by training individuals with staff
Continue to support Millennium Reserve – try to engage the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and involve DNR in the MIKNA Challenge
Educate public about invasive species – get someone at State Parks for public
Protect our Land – IllianaB3 – Des Plaines Conservation Area
 2. What are your ideas for improving:

- i. Natural areas acquisition, **OSLAD – increase \$, increase opportunities for individuals to connect the community and state funding through C2000, State Planning for public, Connect the Parks (not just state property) increase bird watching opportunities. Do not mow around State Parks, set the example.**
 - ii. Natural heritage protection, **Update INAI data – Present after you prioritize**
 - iii. Endangered species, **Update tools and info for data – eco cat, portal/shared info and T & E species – make IDOT, Tollway and other transportation agencies follow recommendations by IDNR**
 - iv. Natural diversity **Share information on a portal drive – Eco Cat – share knowledge**
3. From reasonable fee structures to innovative partnerships, what ideas do you have for funding sustainable resource protection?
Engage private enterprise for \$ - use dollars for education and communication. For example; Busch needs clean water for product – have them contribute a required amount of funding to support IDNR mission. Identify large corporations surrounding State Parks and reach out for support for the IDNR
Develop a Cost Analysis for local community businesses and groups to show how maintain Native Communities is more cost effective in the long.
Charge Parking fees at parks
Urban Forestry Program – tap into the funding for this and utilize in IDNR

IV. Sustainable Resource Development and Extraction

1. Regarding the permitting process for extractive resources: what is DNR doing right, what is DNR doing wrong? What suggestions do you have for improving the process? **Wrong: economic interests are driving DNR – allow businesses to control and hurts thousands. Landscape in and around parks by BMP's - set the example. Not protecting Land and Water – job is to ensure resources are protected. Formulize methods of protections fracking is dangerous – educate public IDNR needs to stop fracking**
2. What are your ideas for best practices for protection of natural resources when developing extractive resources? **BMP's for protecting – look at long term benefits and market this to the public. Partner with local agencies with same interests – clean water. Explore partnering with tourism surrounding Natural Resources**
Statement from DNR regarding fracking
3. What are your ideas for developing post-mining recreational opportunities?
Don't mine. Maximize the benefits. Restore hydrology – establish natural resource value and connect back to system. Companies who mine should be responsible for paying to repair post mining. Charge fees from companies that mine – get funding up front for end.

V. Building Bridges

1. What is the most effective means for DNR to communicate the benefits it offers with the public? **Social media. Be creative. Create an App for parks in area. Tool kit for visitors at parks – Interpretive Communication Kit & staff at parks. Maximize partnerships – bring back C2000/Partners for Conservation and funding. Through this, TMDL's can be studied and addressed. Integrate a watershed based approach is all efforts.**
2. What are the most effective ways for DNR to expand its outreach efforts to youth and minority groups in urban and rural areas? **Engage CPS students in area – socials studies and science (service learning/John Schmidt) Urban teams in Chicago. Engage Board in West side. National Guard – recruit minority members, Veterans Conservation Corp. TNC programs. Develop a Summer Internship Program for every State Park – state wide program.**
3. How can DNR expand and enhance partnership opportunities with traditional constituent groups, land trusts and preservation organizations? **Share congress information with a larger audience. Get HS kids involved and engaged in community. Land Trust – reach out to NFP organizations. Create a liaison from IDNR to communicate within the specific region – not one person for entire – but rather assigned to location – similar to C2000 set up.**

4. What improvements would you like to see in DNR’s environmental education programming? What ideas can you offer for developing partnerships with constituencies for the enhancement and advancement environmental education? **Bring back C2000/Partners for Conservation funding. Create, train and oversee teams to lead and train teachers, scout leaders, and other interested individuals. Community Colleges – engage. Provide a “retirement” project list – engage the aging community to get out and volunteer and steward at locations.**

VI. We discussed five areas that cover much of the agency’s mission, but may not have covered your interests and concerns. What did we miss?

No fracking

Make space and give volunteers opportunity for disabled and elderly & other minorities

Fix existing infrastructure

Make plans based on keystone flora/fauna protection and future

Keep air & water clean and don’t forget the suburbs

Need to correlate what IDNR is doing with the camping & recreational master plans of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Idea/Concern</u>	<u>Potential Solution</u>
D	Prevent Economic Interests from rolling over protection/extraction	Separate Resource Protection funding from licensing/economic growth
E	Expand outreach to org. that expose youth/teens	Create resource data base for org.
C	Providing for space removed from artificial Illumination intrusion	Establish “star parks” with particular emphasis on the value of unimpeded Starlight