

Inside Illinois DNR

April 2015

Volume 3, Number 4

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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



Fellow Conservationists,

Dozens of youth are enjoying wild turkey hunting opportunities in Illinois this spring thanks to an innovative partnership between the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and private landowners.

The Illinois Recreational Access Program, or IRAP, makes private land available for public recreation.

Illinois is a great place to spend time outdoors enjoying activities like hunting, fishing, wildlife watching and canoeing. But finding public lands to enjoy the outdoors is sometimes challenging.

That's where IRAP can help. A federal grant allows IDNR to provide payments to private landowners to allow youth and families to access their land for hunting, fishing, or launching a canoe. IRAP can also provide for management plans and projects to enhance habitat on private lands.

This spring, more than 120 youth are hunting turkeys on property leased through IRAP – and a third of them are first-time hunters. Many of those youth wouldn't have a place to hunt without IRAP coordinating access to private lands.

In addition to spring turkey hunting, youth and families can explore fishing opportunities, boat access, and outdoor naturalist opportunities including wildlife watching and photography through IRAP.

During its first three years, cooperating landowners enrolled more than 13,000 acres in 29 counties into the IRAP program. New federal funding – through a \$1.74 million USDA grant -- has opened enrollment to landowners statewide, and will increase public access opportunities to activities including archery deer, waterfowl, and small game hunting this fall.

Landowners interesting in participating in IRAP – and families interesting in access for recreation opportunities – can find more details on the IDNR website at

www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/IRAP

DNR in the news

**Batchtown
Habitat Rehab**

**Eagle Creek
Update**

**New Wildlife
Biologist**

Deer Permits

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
57 New Lawn Mowers	All Regions; various sites

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

Highlights



Biodiversity Field Trip Grants

Director Wayne Rosenthal announced the awarding of more than \$90,000 in Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants. The 95 grants, made possible through private donations, will assist more than 7,200 students to visit Illinois state parks, museums and other natural resources sites to learn about nature and conservation.

[For more information click here](#)



National Volunteer Week is April 12-17

You can join our team of volunteers who share their love of nature, their time, and their dedication to conservation. We welcome individuals, community organizations such as schools, scouts, church groups, and service organizations. Volunteers are needed throughout the state at parks, campgrounds, wildlife management areas, nature preserves, special events and many of our programs. Email

DNR.Volunteers@illinois.gov



CPO Honored

Conservation Police Officer Cody Mueller was honored by the United Bowhunters of Illinois on March 7, 2015 at Northfield Center in Springfield for the Wired Arrow Illegal Harvest of Whitetail Deer case.

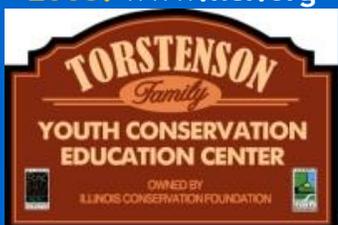
[For more information click here](#)

Illinois
Conservation
Foundation



Nominations for the
2015 Illinois Outdoors
Hall of Fame class are
now open!

Since 2002, the Illinois Conservation Foundation has recognized several Illinoisans for their dedication to promoting and enhancing outdoor recreation and natural resources conservation by selecting them for induction into the Illinois Outdoors Hall of Fame. Selection to the Hall of Fame is reserved for those individuals who have made significant contributions to or exhibited unparalleled dedication in preserving, promoting, enhancing or supporting natural resources or outdoor recreation opportunities. For more info contact the ICF at (217) 785-2003. www.ilcf.org



Highlights: IDNR's license year begins April 1



Trout Season Opens April 4

Spring trout fishing season opens on Saturday, April 4 at 46 ponds, lakes and streams throughout the state. In addition to the bodies of water that have been stocked in the past for spring trout fishing, three additional areas will be open to rainbow trout fishing for the spring of 2015. The new

locations for spring trout fishing are Morgan Lake (Nichols Park) in Jacksonville, Kings Park Pond in Pittsfield, and Willow Lake at Peabody River King State Fish and Wildlife Area in St. Clair Co. Photo: Philip Scrivens

[For more information click here](#)



New ENTICE Educator Workshop

The 2015-2016 ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) workshop schedule for educators is posted at

<http://www.enticeworkshops.com>. The workshops are designed with learning standards as their foundation and targeted

grade levels are listed in the descriptions. Professional Development Hours are available. Participants receive background information about the Illinois-specific topic, hands-on experiences, lessons, supplemental resources and teaching suggestions. Experience ENTICE!

[For more information click here](#)



Champaign Centennial Crowned State Champs

Champaign Centennial High School took first place in the National Archery in the Schools Illinois State Tournament held on Saturday, March 21 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Centennial's

winning score was 3,336. Schlarman Academy of Danville was second with 3,331. Roberto Clemente High School of Chicago was third with 3,288.

[For more information click here.](#)

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

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

