

# ILLINOIS' NATURAL DIVISIONS



**Wisconsin Driftless**  
Apple River Canyon State Park, Jo Daviess County  
Photo © IDNR, Office of Public Services



**Rock River Hill Country**  
Castle Rock State Park, Ogle County  
Photo © IDNR, Office of Public Services



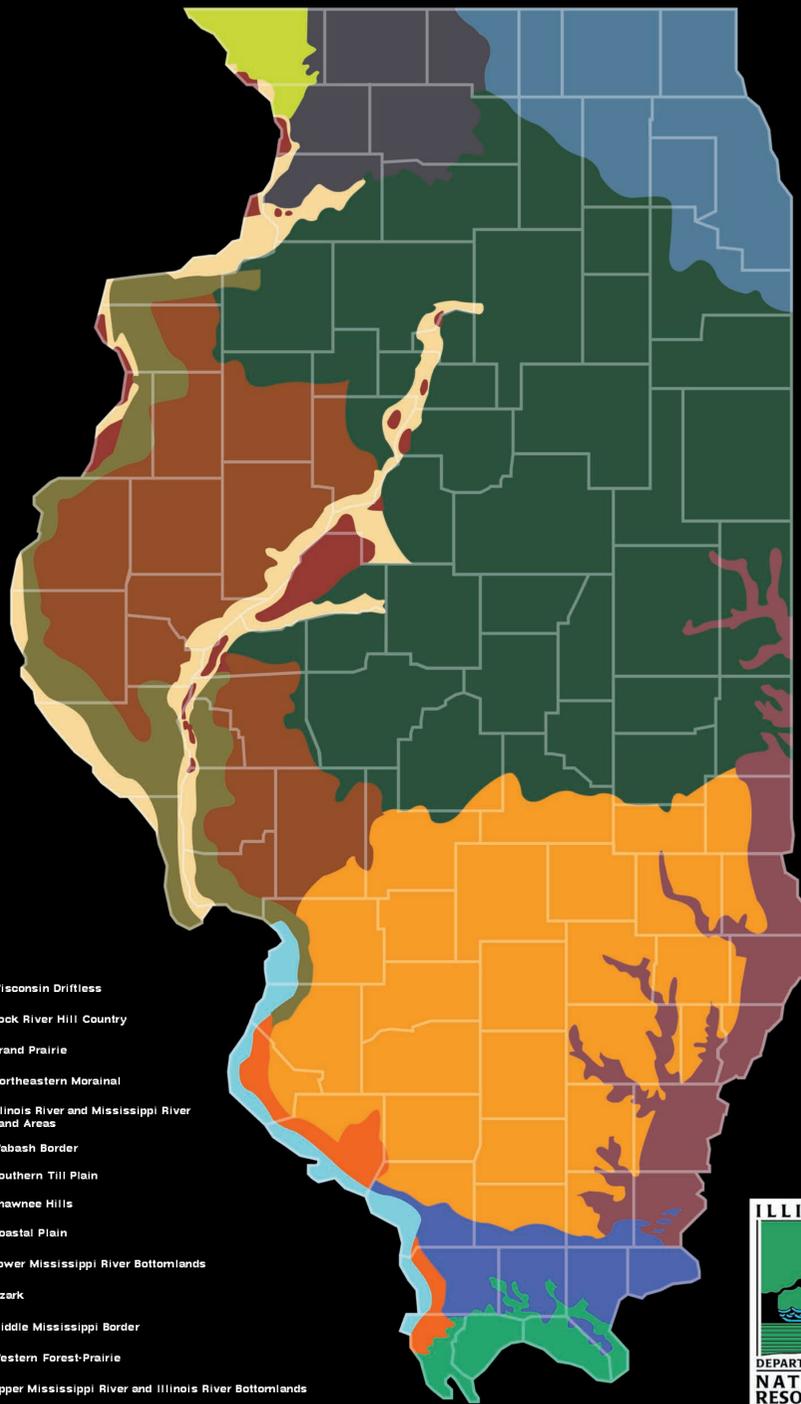
**Grand Prairie**  
Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, Grundy County  
Photo © IDNR, Office of Public Services



**Northeastern Morainal**  
Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County  
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**Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River Bottomlands**  
Sanganois Conservation Area, Mason County  
Photo © IDNR, Office of Public Services



**Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas**  
Sand Prairie - Scrub Oak Nature Preserve, Mason County  
Photo © Illinois Nature Preserves Commission



**Western Forest-Prairie**  
Siloam Springs State Park, Adams County  
Photo © IDNR, Office of Public Services



**Wabash Border**  
Beal Woods Nature Preserve, Wabash County  
Photo © Illinois Nature Preserves Commission



**Middle Mississippi Border**  
Pere Marquette State Park, Jersey County  
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**Southern Till Plain**  
Ramsey Lake State Park, Fayette County  
Photo © IDNR, Office of Public Services



**Ozark**  
Pine Hills Recreation Area, Union County  
Photo © IDNR, Office of Public Services



**Lower Mississippi River Bottomlands**  
Kidd Lake Marsh - Fulls Hill Prairie Natural Area, Monroe County  
Photo © Illinois Nature Preserves Commission



**Coastal Plain**  
Heron Pond - Little Black Slough Nature Preserve, Johnson County  
Photo © IDNR, Office of Public Services



**Shawnee Hills**  
Giant City State Park, Jackson County  
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# NATURAL DIVISIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

## What are Natural Divisions?

The natural divisions concept is a classification system of natural environments and biotic communities based on the bedrock, glacial history, topography, soils and distribution of organisms. Each natural division contains its own similar landscapes, climate, soils and bedrock, for instance limestone or sandstone, and supports similar vegetation and wildlife. In general, the more natural divisions present in an area, the more species diversity. Illinois has 14 natural divisions, which provide a great variety of habitats. Some species live in only one or a few of the natural divisions while others are more unspecialized in their needs and can survive in many different habitats. Over time, species adapt to the specific physical conditions in the habitats where they live and evolve complex interrelationships that help them survive.

## What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth. There are several ways to describe biodiversity.

- Species diversity includes all living things from the tiniest bacterium to the large white-tailed deer and white oak tree. About 1.4 million species have been identified worldwide. It has been estimated that the number of species on earth is somewhere between 10 million and 100 million.
- Biodiversity is also the word used to describe the habitats that house all life forms and the interconnections that tie living things together.
- It includes the variety within species, which is determined by the genes. Genetic diversity makes every living thing unique. Each species is like a book of genetic information, containing billions of genetic letters that give it a particular code of life. Its traits are the result of coded messages in the genes that are passed from one generation to the next. When a species becomes extinct, all the information is lost. Genetic diversity is a safeguard against future problems like disease or natural disasters.
- Biodiversity can also refer to the many communities that exist side by side.

According to the world's leading scientific and environmental experts, loss of biodiversity is one of the most urgent environmental problems facing the planet. Habitat loss, introduced species, pollution, population growth and over consumption are the main threats to biodiversity. As human populations grow, they exert increasing pressure on natural resources — pressure that is endangering species and ecosystems around the world. The extinction of each additional species brings the irreversible loss of unique genetic codes and the potential loss of medicines, foods, products and jobs. At the same time, degradation of natural systems threatens the very services, such as water purification and nutrient recycling, that support all life on earth. The natural rate of extinction is about one species per 1,000 years. It is estimated that today, three species become extinct every hour.

## Biodiversity and the Natural Divisions

Some people believe that Illinois is a state with little more diversity than corn and soybeans. However, Illinois actually has a surprising variety of organisms. Nearly 54,000 species have been identified in Illinois so far. The rich diversity of life in our state is due to a good variety of habitat types provided by the 14 natural divisions. Further separation of the divisions based on specific habitats within them creates 33 sections. Each of the sections contains its own characteristic organisms, thus increasing the variety of species found in the state. For more information about the natural division sections, see the Resources portion of this poster.

The people of Illinois are significant controllers of the landscape and its diversity. Clearing of forests, plowing of prairies, draining of wetlands, urban development, highway construction and other human activities have drastically reduced the diversity of habitats in Illinois and the overall biodiversity of the state. When people alter habitats they kill or force out the organisms that live in them, upset ecological relationships and reduce the ecosystem's ability to perform services like flood control, water purification and nutrient recycling. Some of the habitats that originally occurred in our state can be found in nature preserves, state parks, conservation areas and other protected sites that shelter the state's biological diversity. Some habitats are very small and rare because of extensive urban and agricultural development in Illinois during the past 150 years. As land use changed, the number of species and the population sizes of most declined.

We can help protect biodiversity. Scientists are working together to conduct biological inventories to find out more about the diversity of life throughout the world. Scientists are also working to understand the connections among living things so that we can better comprehend what we need to protect. But protecting biodiversity will involve all of us. Many scientists and conservationists believe that the future of the earth's biodiversity depends on moral values and on biophilia, or love of life — an inborn human love for other organisms. Thus, human appreciation of organisms provides the strongest hope for preserving the biodiversity that makes our earth unique. Because each species contains unique biological and genetic information, conservation of species may be critical to the future quality of our lives. All living species are significant, many in unknown but, perhaps, vitally important ways. We must value biodiversity for its own sake.

## Illinois' Natural Divisions

### WISCONSIN DRIFTLSS DIVISION

**Description:** Found in northwestern Illinois, this area is part of a larger region that extends into Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota. It has rugged terrain because it has not been covered by glaciers. Rolling hills and wooded ridges are characteristic land forms, including the highest elevation in Illinois at 1,257 feet above sea level. Canyons, ravines, bluffs and palisades are present. Much of the area was originally covered by forests. With the coldest climate in the state, many organisms living here are typical of areas found further north in the United States. Algic slopes are a unique feature of this division. They exist on north-facing rocky slopes that retain ice under ground most of the year. In Illinois, there are fewer than a dozen algic slopes. The cold microclimate created supports many rare species. Even on a warm summer day, the cold from the ice trapped below the surface may be felt in these areas. When the air temperature is 90° F, the surface temperature of an algic slope is 42° F.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 1.0

**Places to Visit:** Apple River Canyon State Park in Jo Daviess County and Mississippi Palisades State Park in Carroll County

**Typical Plants:** black oak, red oak, white oak, sugar maple, American basswood, green ash, eastern white pine

**Characteristic Plants:** northern paper birch, mountain clematis\*, birds-eye primrose\*, jeweled shooting star, cliff goldenrod\*, moschatel\*

**Typical Animals:** bullfrog, tiger salamander, scarlet tanager, wood thrush, cliff swallow, fox squirrel, woodchuck

**Characteristic Animals:** Iowa amphipod\*, Iowa Pleistocene snail\*\*

### ROCK RIVER HILL COUNTRY DIVISION

**Description:** This division encompasses the Rock River watershed in northwestern Illinois and contains the Freeport and Oregon sections. Low hills are present, which historically supported the growth of prairies on the uplands and woodlands along the streams. Sandstone outcrop areas along the Rock River sustain distinctive plant species. Limestone and dolomite environments are also present in this division. This area was covered by glaciers.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 4.3

**Places to Visit:** Castle Rock State Park and White Pines Forest State Park, both in Ogle County

**Typical Plants:** black oak, red oak, white oak, bur oak, wild black cherry, sugar maple, American basswood, slippery elm, eastern white pine, Canada yew, silver maple, Indian grass, big bluestem, prairie dropseed, cordgrass, cattail, sedges, bunchberry\*

**Characteristic Plants:** oak fern\*, ground pine\*, rusty woodsia\*

**Typical Animals:** spring peeper, central newt, Blanding's turtle\*, western fox snake, red milk snake, smooth green snake, American woodcock, red-bellied woodpecker, turkey vulture, coyote, beaver, muskrat

**Characteristic Animals:** blue-spotted salamander, pickerel frog, western hognoe snake\*

### NORTHEASTERN MORAINAL DIVISION

**Description:** This glaciated section of the state has beach sands, dunes, sedge marshes and peatlands. Peatlands have acidic conditions created by lack of drainage and accumulation of layers of peat.

These wetlands support uniquely adapted plants. The bed of glacial Lake Chicago and the shore of Lake Michigan are also part of this environment. The rolling topography in this region is the result of moraines (long ridges of glacial debris) and kames (cone-shaped mounds of glacial debris). Moraines form where the advance of glacial ice was balanced by its melting. At this place, thick piles of rock dust, silt, gravel, sand and boulders were deposited and covered with sand and gravel from streams of meltwater. Moraine Hills State Park in McHenry County contains small "kettle holes" left by blocks of melting glacial ice. The Morainal, Lake Michigan Dunes, Chicago Lake Plain and Winnebago Drift are all sections within this division.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 6.9

**Places to Visit:** Illinois Beach State Park in Lake County, Moraine Hills State Park in McHenry County and Volo Bog State Natural Area in Lake County

**Typical Plants:** little bluestem, prairie dropseed, big bluestem, blueberry, skunk cabbage, great angelica, blue iris, silver maple, sugar maple, swamp white oak, bur oak, white oak, black oak, red oak, shagbark hickory, gray dogwood

**Characteristic Plants:** leatherleaf\*, large cranberry\*, pitcher-plant\*, round-leaved sundew\*, tamarack\*, round-lobed hepatica, ill-scented trillium\*

**Typical Animals:** mottled sculpin, Ozark minnow, Blanding's turtle\*, six-lined racerunner, greater yellowlegs, yellow-headed blackbird\*, dunlin, sora, oldsquaw, white-tailed deer

**Characteristic Animals:** Hine's emerald dragonfly\*\*, lake chub, ninespine stickleback, banded killifish\*, blackchin shiner\*, pugnose shiner\*, blue-spotted salamander, spotted turtle\*, sandhill crane\*, common tern\*, black tern\*, golden-winged warbler, Nashville warbler

### GRAND PRAIRIE DIVISION

**Description:** Found in central and northern Illinois, this natural division is the largest in Illinois and historically included tallgrass prairie, marshes, prairie potholes and forests along the streams. The Grand Prairie was glaciated and has flat landscapes, loess (a silt deposited by wind) soil and poor natural drainage. Today, most of this land is used for agriculture, with prairie communities being among the rarest in Illinois. The Grand Prairie, Springfield, Western, Green River Lowland and Kankakee Sand Area are sections within this division.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 36.1

**Places to Visit:** Goose Lake Prairie State Park in Grundy County and Funk's Grove Nature Preserve in McLean County

**Typical Plants:** white oak, bur oak, black oak, shagbark hickory, sugar maple, silver maple, slippery elm, big bluestem, prairie dropseed, little bluestem, Indian grass, purple prairie clover, yellow star grass, goldenrods, New England aster

**Characteristic Plants:** leadplant, coneflowers, prairie dock, compass plant, Culver's root, rattlesnake master, prairie violet, queen-of-the-prairie\*

**Typical Animals:** mottled sculpin, Blanding's turtle\*, smooth green snake, western fox snake, lined snake\*, northern harrier\*, least bittern\*, Virginia rail, Franklin's ground squirrel\*, thirteen-lined ground squirrel, badger

**Characteristic Animals:** snuffbox mussel\*, eryngium stem borer moth\*, greater redhorse\*, Kirtland's snake\*, Henslow's sparrow\*, upland sandpiper\*, grasshopper sparrow, short-eared owl\*

### UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND ILLINOIS RIVER BOTTOMLANDS DIVISION

**Description:** The rivers, bottomlands and backwater lakes of the Mississippi River, above its confluence with the Missouri River, and the Illinois River south of La Salle are included in this division. The broad floodplains and gravel terraces support forests, prairies, rivers and lakes. Oxbow lakes occur throughout this division. Springs are common in the gravel terraces. The bottomland forests are exposed to extended periods of flooding. The Illinois River and Mississippi River sections are part of this division. The majority of the area was glaciated.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 3.3

**Places to Visit:** Marshall State Fish and Wildlife Area in Marshall County and Anderson Lake Conservation Area in Fulton County

**Typical Plants:** green ash, pecan, pin oak, bur oak, honeylocust, black walnut, hickories, silver maple, sycamore, river birch, black willow, swamp privet, sugarberry, black ash

**Characteristic Plants:** decurrent false aster\*\*, small burhead\*

**Typical Animals:** smooth softshell turtle, eastern hognoe snake, canvasback, redhead, pied-billed grebe, bald eagle\*, double-crested cormorant, red fox, beaver, white-tailed deer

**Characteristic Animals:** Higgins' eye mussel\*\*, lake sturgeon\*, Mississippi kite\*, osprey\*

### ILLINOIS RIVER AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER SAND AREAS DIVISION

**Description:** The sand areas division consists of the sand deposits left by glacial meltwater floods in the bottomlands of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers and the dunes on bluffs in Jo Daviess County. Dry sand prairie, dunes and scrub oak forests are the main communities in this division. Some plants and animals that live here are more typical inhabitants of the shortgrass prairies found to the west of Illinois. The Illinois River and Mississippi River sections are part of this glaciated division.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 1.2

**Places to Visit:** Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve in Mason County and the Big River State Forest in Henderson County

**Typical Plants:** prickly pear cactus, little bluestem, Indian grass, sand primrose, porcupine grass, blackjack oak, black oak, mockernut hickory

**Characteristic Plants:** silvery bladdernut\*, false heather\*, umbrella sedge\*, Patterson's bindweed\*\*

**Typical Animals:** six-lined racerunner, ovenbird, veery, upland sandpiper\*, western meadowlark, grasshopper sparrow, dickcissel, sedge wren, common yellowthroat, badger, plains pocket gopher, Franklin's ground squirrel\*

**Characteristic Animals:** regal fritillary\*, bullsnake, Illinois chorus frog\*, western hognoe snake\*, Illinois mud turtle\*, lark sparrow

### WESTERN FOREST-PRAIRIE DIVISION

**Description:** Located in west central Illinois, this glacial plain historically had prairies on the flat uplands and forests elsewhere. Outcrops of sandstone, limestone and shale are common in some areas. This division has a good drainage system with forested ravines between flat prairies. The Galesburg and Carlinville sections are part of this division.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 12.2

**Places to Visit:** Argyle Lake State Park in McDonough County and Siloam Springs State Park in Adams County

**Typical Plants:** white oak, black oak, red oak, silver maple, blazing star, Indian grass, big bluestem, little bluestem, wild bergamot, yellow coneflower, New Jersey tea, downy sunflower, shooting star

**Characteristic Plants:** prairie trout-lily, Wolf's bluegrass\*, bunchflower\*

**Typical Animals:** five-lined skink, broadhead skink, ornate box turtle, racer, western fox snake, prairie kingsnake, dickcissel, bald eagle\*, veery, meadow jumping mouse, masked shrew, meadow vole

**Characteristic Animals:** eastern massasauga rattlesnake\*, sedge wren

### MIDDLE MISSISSIPPI BORDER DIVISION

**Description:** This narrow band of river bluffs, limestone cliffs and rugged terrain can be found along the Mississippi and lower Illinois rivers' floodplains. Limestone cliffs and outcrops are common. Hill prairies may be found on the top of south- and west-facing bluffs. Oak-hickory forests grow in the ravines and on north- and east-facing slopes. Caves and sinkholes are also found here. The Glaciated and Driftless (unglaciated) sections are part of this division.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 4.4

**Places to Visit:** Pere Marquette State Park in Jersey County

**Typical Plants:** black oak, red oak, post oak, white oak, American basswood, sugar maple, slippery elm, hickories, silver maple, sideoats grama, little bluestem, blazing star, purple prairie clover

**Characteristic Plants:** pink milkwort\*, narrow-leaved green milkweed\*

**Typical Animals:** gray treefrog, ground skink, timber rattlesnake\*, prairie kingsnake, wood duck, bald eagle\*, wild turkey, great blue heron, gray fox, raccoon, white-tailed deer

**Characteristic Animals:** spectaclecase mussel\*, green frog, alligator snapping turtle\*, worm snake, diamondback water snake

### SOUTHERN TILL PLAIN DIVISION

**Description:** This large, relatively flat area in south-central Illinois was glaciated but not by the most recent Wisconsinian glaciation, although the streams in this area were important for draining its glacial meltwaters. The clay soils support a mixture of forests and prairies. The Effingham Plain and Mt. Vernon Hill Country sections are part of this division.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 19.8

**Places to Visit:** Ramsey Lake State Park in Fayette County and Washington County Conservation Area in Washington County

**Typical Plants:** post oak, white oak, shingle oak, blackjack oak, pin oak, swamp white oak, mockernut hickory, shagbark hickory, sugar maple, silver maple, wild black cherry, willows, river birch, eastern cottonwood, sycamore, white ash, little bluestem, Indian grass, New Jersey tea, big bluestem, coneflowers

**Characteristic Plants:** violet collinsia\*, prairie rose gentian\*

**Typical Animals:** tiger salamander, Fowler's toad, southern leopard frog, eastern box turtle, wood thrush, wild turkey, red-headed woodpecker, red fox, coyote, eastern chipmunk, white-tailed deer, rice rat

**Characteristic Animals:** crawfish frog, ground skink, five-lined skink, broadhead skink, slimy salamander

### WABASH BORDER DIVISION

**Description:** The Wabash Border Division includes the bottomlands of the Wabash River and its tributaries, the uplands bordering the Wabash and the forests of the Vermilion and Little Vermilion rivers and Crab Apple Creek. It has eastern trees like the beech and yellow-poplar in the upland forests. The Bottomlands, Southern Uplands and Vermilion River sections are part of this division. All of this division was glaciated except for a small area in the southern part.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 4.8

**Places to Visit:** Beall Woods Nature Preserve in Wabash County and Kickapoo State Park in Vermilion County

**Typical Plants:** sweetgum, swamp cottonwood, sugar maple, silver maple, pin oak, overcup oak, Shumard oak, black oak, white oak, eastern redbud, hop hornbeam, sycamore, black walnut, beech, yellow-poplar

**Characteristic Plants:** bloodleaf\*, halbred-leaved tearthumb\*

**Typical Animals:** gray treefrog, wood frog, longtail salamander, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, pileated woodpecker, fox squirrel, beaver, white-tailed deer

**Characteristic Animals:** fanshell mussel\*\*, wavy-rayed lampmussel\*, fat pocketbook mussel\*\*, little spectaclecase mussel\*, river chub\*, river redhorse\*, northern madtom\*, greenside darter, bluebreast darter\*, harlequin darter\*, redback salamander, eastern sand darter\*, river cooter\*

### OZARK DIVISION

**Description:** Found in southwestern Illinois, the Ozark Division is part of the Ozark uplift, a dome-like structure of bedrock centered in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri. Hill prairies, caves, sinkholes and sandstone ravines are commonly found in the area. Many species that live here are typical of the Ozarks and are present nowhere else in Illinois. The Northern, Central and Southern sections are part of this division. A portion of this division was glaciated.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 1.2

**Places to Visit:** Fults Hill Prairie Nature Preserve in Monroe County and Pine Hills Recreation Area in Union County

**Typical Plants:** post oak, red oak, black oak, Ohio buckeye, sugar maple, beech, yellow-poplar, black hickory, little bluestem, big bluestem, farkleberry, lowbush blueberry, celandine poppy

**Characteristic Plants:** shortleaf pine\*, wild azalea, red buckeye, cucumber magnolia, Bradley's spleenwort\*, black spleenwort\*

**Typical Animals:** cave salamander, timber rattlesnake\*, copperhead, summer tanager, red-shouldered hawk, Mississippi kite\*, hooded warbler, worm-eating warbler, Kentucky warbler, bobcat, eastern wood rat\*, Indiana bat\*\*

**Characteristic Animals:** striped scorpion, blacktail shiner, spring cavefish, great plains rat snake\*, eastern narrowmouth toad\*, coachwhip snake\*, flathead snake\*

### LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BOTTOMLANDS DIVISION

**Description:** South from Alton along the Mississippi River, this area once was covered with prairies, wetlands, rivers and forests. The Mississippi River itself is muddy, and its fishes include silt-tolerant, plains species. Combined with the adjacent Pine Hills area, La Rue Swamp/Pine Hills contains 43 percent of the plant species known in Illinois. The Northern and Southern sections are part of this generally unglaciated division.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 1.0

**Places to Visit:** Kidd Lake Marsh in Monroe County and La Rue Swamp in Union County

**Typical Plants:** silver maple, honeylocust, sugarberry, pecan, beech, red buckeye, pin oak, overcup oak, Shumard oak, cherrybark oak, pumpkin ash, swamp cottonwood, water locust, cattail, pickerelweed, river bulrush

**Characteristic Plants:** large sedge\*, cynosuadium\*, mock bishop's weed\*, nettle\*

**Typical Animals:** banded pygmy sunfish, bird-voiced treefrog\*, green treefrog, western mud snake, cottonmouth, red-shouldered hawk, great egret, wild turkey, golden mouse\*, mink

**Characteristic Animals:** bantam sunfish\*, sturgeon chub\*, plains minnow, pallid sturgeon\*\*, Mississippi green water snake\*, little blue heron\*, snowy egret\*\*, Mississippi kite\*

### SHAWNEE HILLS DIVISION

**Description:** This unglaciated hill country is found at the southern tip of Illinois. It was originally forested except for small, rocky openings. It is characterized by a high, east-west embankment of sandstone cliffs and a series of lower hills. The Greater Shawnee Hills and Lesser Shawnee Hills sections are part of this division.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 2.5

**Places to Visit:** Giant City State Park in Jackson County and Wildcat Bluff at the Cache River State Natural Area in Johnson County

**Typical Plants:** Christmas fern, marginal fern, lady fern, Forbes' saxifrage, sideoats grama, sphagnum, club mosses, panic grass, post oak, chinkapin oak, white oak, red oak, black oak, shagbark hickory, beech, yellow-poplar, Ohio buckeye, sugar maple, sycamore

**Characteristic Plants:** French's shooting star\*, filmy fern\*, wild mock orange, Bradley's spleenwort\*, southern grape fern\*, Willdenow's sedge\*, climbing milkweed\*, Illinois wood sorrel\*, rock chestnut oak\*

**Typical Animals:** marbled salamander, gray treefrog, copperhead, northern fence lizard, great crested flycatcher, white-breasted nuthatch, American redstart, gray fox, coyote, bobcat, Indiana bat\*\*

**Characteristic Animals:** Packard's cave amphipod\*, blackspotted topminnow, spottail darter, stripetail darter, least brook lamprey\*, southeastern myotis\*, golden mouse\*

### COASTAL PLAIN DIVISION

**Description:** This unglaciated region of swampy, forested bottomlands and low hills is found at the extreme southern edge of Illinois. The uplands are composed of gravel, clay and sand hills which have a covering of loess, silt deposited by wind. The lowlands have loam and clay soils, and swamps are present. The Cretaceous Hills and Bottomlands sections are part of this division.

**Percent of Total Illinois Area:** 1.3

**Places to Visit:** Heron Pond Nature Preserve in Johnson County and Mermet Lake Conservation Area in Massac County

**Typical Plants:** red oak, swamp white oak, swamp chestnut oak, white oak, black oak, cherrybark oak, beech, sugar maple, yellow-poplar, shagbark hickory, baldcypress, sycamore, buttonbush, little bluestem, big bluestem, cinnamon fern, marsh fern, royal fern, phragmites, pecan

**Characteristic Plants:** silverbell tree\*, netted chain fern, stora\*, red iris, blue jasmine\*, water willow\*, creeping loosestrife\*, white melanthera\*, water elm\*, Nuttall's oak\*

**Typical Animals:** cottonmouth, bald eagle\*, black vulture, red-shouldered hawk, Acadian flycatcher, barred owl, bobcat, river otter, swamp rabbit, golden mouse\*, rice rat\*

**Characteristic Animals:** orange-foot pimpleback mussel\*\*, cypress minnow\*, mole salamander, spotted dusky salamander\*, bird-voiced treefrog\*, green treefrog, broad-banded water snake\*, eastern ribbon snake\*

### KEY:

- \* = Illinois endangered
- \*\* = Illinois endangered and federally endangered
- ▲ = Illinois threatened
- ▲▲ = Illinois threatened and federally threatened

**Typical** = species commonly found in this natural division and which may also be found in other Illinois natural divisions

**Characteristic** = species found only in this Illinois natural division or in one similar in composition

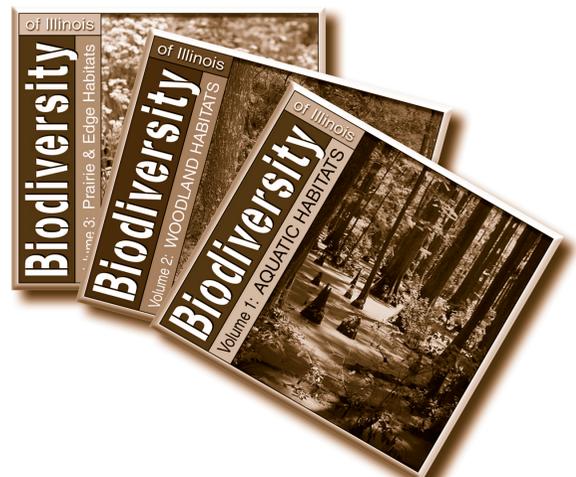
Endangered and threatened status classifications are based on information available in 2007 and are subject to change.

## Biodiversity of Illinois CD-ROMs

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Division of Education has produced a series of three CD-ROMs to allow students and teachers to explore the biodiversity of the state. These CDs provide supplemental information about Illinois species and habitats. They are designed in a field guide format that includes information about life history, Illinois range, common and scientific names, status, habitat, classification and more. Each species is represented by at least one photograph. The sounds produced by many of the species are available for the listener and are described in the text for the hearing impaired. Descriptions and photographs of Illinois habitats are included. The CDs are cross-platform for use on Macintosh® and personal computers and are configured for use on an in-school network. Several search features are incorporated. This poster may be used as a supplement to the CDs, and many of the species mentioned on the poster are described in detail on the CDs. CDs are available to teachers in Illinois schools by written request on school letterhead. Send the request to the following address.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Education  
One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271

*Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I : Aquatic Habitats*  
*Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume II : Woodland Habitats*  
*Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume III : Prairie and Edge Habitats*



## Resources:

Visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/biodiversity/index.htm> for resources to supplement this poster, including: descriptions of the natural division sections; an article about glaciation in Illinois; scientific names of the species discussed on the poster; and references used in developing the poster.