



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor  
Colleen Callahan, Director

To: Colleen Callahan  
Director, IDNR  
From: Gary K. Eicken  
Chief, OGMA  
Date: November 17, 2021  
Re: Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship Projects

A selected committee of IDNR Natural Heritage Biologists reviewed and scored grant applications for the FY21 Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship (INAS) grants. Eligible grant applicants are Conservation Land Trusts exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c) (3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code and whose originating documents include in its purposes the restoration and stewardship of land for conservation purposes.

The goal of the INAS grant program is to increase the delivery of much needed stewardship activities to natural areas protected within the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) system. Stewardship needs on natural areas throughout the state have continued to outpace the ability to deliver these services by individuals, volunteers, organizations, and government agencies. This grant program is designed to fund projects that immediately address this deficiency and begin to expand on the stewardship capacity of Conservation Land Trusts through grants that will expand their staff and equipment for these activities.

Funding for this grant program is derived from a portion of the Illinois Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) and must be used by the IDNR for the stewardship of natural areas, including habitats for endangered and threatened species (Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Act, 525 ILCS 35/14).

Stewardship actions funded by this grant program must be included in the management schedules approved by the INPC and are limited to a maximum of \$100,000 per proposal. Eligible costs may include staff time related to the project, equipment, and materials necessary to complete stewardship projects such as tools, safety items, herbicide, construction materials, and indirect costs. Benefit costs are not eligible. Matching funds are required on all projects. The minimum match requirements allowed by administrative rule are 5% or \$1,000, whichever is less, to ensure that all land trusts will have access to the program.

## Summary of Recommendations

Application Recommended for Funding Totals	\$ 455,995.84
Applications Not Approved for Funding Totals	\$ 339,620.69

**Total INAS FY2021 Funding Amount Requested \$455,995.84**

The below table lists the applications recommended for funding. Of the 15 applications, 8 are recommended for funding. The remaining 7 are not recommended either due to low scoring or because they not complete all the eligibility requirements.

<b>RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING</b>						
<b>County</b>	<b>Grantee Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>	<b>% Match</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>
Jo Daviess	Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation	Rx Burn, Invasives control, forest improv, tree planting, removal of woody species, 6 locations	\$55,000.00	\$15,700.00	22%	\$70,700.00
Coles, Charleston IL, Embarras Watershed	Grand Prairie Friends	Buy Kubota Tractor, Rx Burn and Herbicide for Invasives	\$71,534.10	\$5,440.00	7%	\$76,974.10
McHenry	The Land Conservancy of McHenry County	Buy a mini skid steer, Rx Burn, Herbicide Invasives, 5 locations	\$60,295.80	\$14,660.00	20%	\$74,955.80
Kankakee	The Nature Conservancy	Tractor	\$55,786.92	\$5,578.08	9%	\$61,365.00
Champaign Dewitt	Land Conservation Foundation	Spraying Invasive Species	\$20,000.00	\$1,000.00	5%	\$21,000.00
Pope	Illinois Audubon Society	Invasives control at Round Pond NP	\$60,000.00	\$1,000.00	2%	\$61,000.00
Lee and Will Counties	The Conservation Foundation	Rx burns and canopy thinning	\$82,500.00	\$22,000.00	21%	\$104,500.00
Hancock and McDonough Counties	Prairie Hills RCD	Equipment, Rx Burns and invasives control;	\$50,879.02	\$19,948.00	28%	\$70,827.02
<b>Total Recommended Funding</b>			<b>\$455,995.84</b>			
<b>NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING</b>						
<b>County</b>	<b>Grantee Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>	<b>% Match</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>
Hennepin IL, Putnam	The Wetlands Initiative	Herbicide invasives control and natives plantings	\$51,457.79	\$2,613.05	5%	\$54,070.84
Winnebago, Ogle, Whiteside, Jo Daviess	Natural Land Institute	Buy a truck	\$40,000.00	\$18,000.00	31%	\$58,000.00
Jersey	Great Rivers Land Trust	Bush Honeysuckle Spraying	\$24,510.00	1290	5%	\$25,800.00
Matterson IL, Cook, Grundy, Kankakee, Hodgkins IL	Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves	Buy a boat trolling motor, hand tools, fencing, Rx Burn, Herbicide, equipment	\$26,652.90	1000	4%	\$27,652.90
Lake Forest IL	Lake Forest Open Lands Assoc	Rx burn, Herbicide for invasives control, 4 locations, contractors	\$100,000.00	100000	50%	\$200,000.00
Ogle	Middle Rock Conservation Partners	Fire Break Mowing, Brush Encroachment	\$54,000.00	\$1,000.00	2%	\$55,000.00
Lee, Ogle, Whiteside	Middle Rock Conservation Partners -#2	Rx Fire Support, Herbicide, Chainsawing	\$43,000.00	2000	4%	\$45,000.00
<b>Total Not Funded</b>			<b>\$339,620.69</b>			
<b>Total Funds Requested</b>			<b>\$795,616.53</b>			

For any review of the materials considered by the Biologist Committee as well as the grant proposals themselves, they are stored on a sharepoint page for your remote viewing if needed.

Any questions about the grant proposals and scoring recommendations should be directed to Todd Strole IDNR. Any technical questions about grant paperwork processes should be directed to Susan J. Duke IDNR Grant Administrator for the Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Program.

Please indicate approval of the INAS funding recommendations by signing below. Funds are currently available to award the recommended projects.

**Office Recommendation**



Gary Eicken  
Chief Grant Administrator  
IDNR Office of Grant Management and Assistance

  
Date

APPROVE



DISAPPROVE

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**AGENCY DIRECTOR SIGN-OFF**



Colleen Callahan  
Director of Illinois Natural Resources

Date

APPROVE



DISAPPROVE

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