

The Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan & Strategy Version 2.0 (the next 20 years)

Campaigns

Campaigns were designed as organizational features within Illinois' original Wildlife Action Plan (CWCP 1.0) to aggregate **conservation actions** addressing the most widespread and urgent issues affecting Illinois' wildlife and their habitats. While they continue to maintain this purpose they have matured into features focused on **conservation action strategies** implemented by public agencies involved in the management of native species and the lands that support them. The intent for Campaigns in this version of the Action Plan (CWCP 2.0) is to outline and facilitate collaboration by public agencies with broad land management and species conservation responsibilities toward co-identified objectives and through the implementation of targeted actions that address stressors limiting **Species of Greatest Conservation Need** (SGCN) and the **Natural Communities** that support them.

Four Campaigns broadly focused on major Habitat Types have been identified for Illinois' Wildlife Action Plan (CWCP 2.0) (Forests & Woodlands, Prairies & Savannas, Streams & Open Waters, Permanent & Seasonal Wetlands). These Campaigns were selected to include the principal **Natural Community Classes** supporting native species in Illinois (IDNR 2023). Information about other Natural Community Classes (i.e., Bedrock, Cave, Shore) can be found in the Landscape Section.

While there is some overlap between them each Campaign's Chapter is intended to function independently to introduce a coordinated vision, achievable objectives, key Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and an approach to track the effectiveness of our **Conservation Actions**. Campaigns identify opportunities for conservation benefit on **Natural, Working, and Developed Lands** by recognizing key **stressors** and outlining **Conservation Action Strategies** to address them with individual and cooperatively targeted actions. Additionally, each Campaign identifies **Focus Areas** as geographical locations where conservation actions are expected to be concentrated by cooperating agencies to achieve common objectives. Focus Areas may include biodiversity hotspots, key habitats for Endangered or Threatened Species, High-Quality Natural Areas, or other locations supporting Native Species or natural features.

In this Section of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan we present some shared features of the four Campaigns followed by individual Chapters that follow a common format. Campaign Chapters were developed independently by an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Coordinator and associated Conservation Partners so individual Campaigns may differ somewhat in their content.

Conservation Action Strategies

There are several common strategies that support the implementation of the Campaigns. These strategies are designed to develop, support, and grow Public Agency Programs that function to protect, enhance, maintain, or restore Natural Communities and Native Species populations in Illinois.

Monitoring Strategy – Programs focused on the conservation status of Natural Communities and Native Species populations on Public and Private Lands in Illinois.

1. Targeted surveys for Illinois Stewardship Species, Threatened or Endangered Species, and other SGCN on Public Lands
2. General surveys for Native Species on private lands using community science

Land Protection Strategy – Programs that maintain the extent of rare Natural Communities.

1. Prioritize protection and stewardship efforts on rare and at-risk Natural Community Types
2. Direct the expression of the observed Natural Community to match the potential Natural Community Class through active stewardship

Land Stewardship Strategy – Programs that improve the condition of Natural Communities and Native Species habitats within each of the Landuse Sectors.

1. Enhance Natural Community Quality through directed stewardship efforts
2. Enhance Native Species habitats through directed stewardship efforts

Outreach Strategy – Programs to provide outreach and technical support for the conservation of Natural Communities and Native Species within each of the Landuse Sectors.

1. Support outreach and technical support for Natural Community Stewardship
2. Support outreach and technical support for Native Species

Illinois Stewardship Species

Those species which require lands or waters in Illinois to maintain their regional conservation status at any time of the year were identified as Illinois Stewardship Species. Each Illinois Stewardship Species was assigned to a Campaign based on the key Natural Community Class it is a part of (Appendix III). These species should be considered priorities for conservation within their assigned Campaigns.

Focal Monitoring Species

Focal Monitoring Species were selected for each Campaign based on their representativeness of a Natural Community Type or a species assemblage that are still common enough for use in monitoring and assessing community or ecosystem health. Their primary purpose is effectiveness monitoring to determine benefits derived from implementation of Conservation Action Strategies within Campaigns.

Focus Areas

Each Campaign has identified a small number of geographical areas where partnering organizations have agreed to focus conservation efforts. Focus Areas are identified within each of the Landscape Sectors as recognition of the importance of each Sector's contribution to conserving Native Species in Illinois.

Forests & Woodlands Campaign

The Campaign Chapter will be available for review independently from the Campaign Section Introduction.

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Permanent & Seasonal Wetlands Campaign

The Campaign Chapter will be available for review independently from the Campaign Section Introduction.

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Prairies & Savannas Campaign

The Campaign Chapter will be available for review independently from the Campaign Section Introduction.

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Streams & Open Waters Campaign

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