



Inside Illinois DNR

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IDNR Careers

IDNR offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. [Click here](#) to see the job openings available.

www.dnr.illinois.gov

Message from Director Natalie Phelps Finnie



Although it's still cold outside, it's time to think spring as IDNR's Mason State Tree Nursery begins accepting orders for seedlings and pollinator seed packets.

Our nursery staff makes native seed packets for butterflies and pollinator habitats that include a variety of different species of Illinois flowering plants and grasses. Landowners looking to plant trees for enhancing habitats and conserving soil have a variety of seedlings to choose from at the tree

nursery in Mason County.

Native trees and plants support wildlife, improve air and water quality, and are beautiful additions to parks, boulevards, urban yards and rural homesteads. Beginning Feb. 2, landowners can place online orders for tree seedlings. Available species include hickory, walnut, cypress, pecan, oak and pine varieties. View the [Mason State Tree Nursery website](#) for more information and place an order for spring.

If cabin fever is setting in and you can't wait until spring, check out one of IDNR's many events in February. Our parks, historic sites and museums are hosting a variety of programs for Black History Month, Valentine's Day and Lincoln's birthday. View the [IDNR calendar online](#) for more details.



DNR in the News

[Springfield and Grandview win big in Illinois park grants](#)

[ICF announces Illinois Outdoor Excellence Awards winners](#)

[Eagle watching events around Illinois](#)

[Illinois waterfowl dates and zone changes finalized](#)

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



Illinois Conservation Foundation announces Illinois Outdoor Excellence Awards winners

The Illinois Conservation Foundation announced the recipients of its annual [Outdoor Excellence Awards](#). The awards recognize individuals and organizations whose work has strengthened conservation, outdoor recreation and public access across Illinois.



\$36 million in grants for local park projects

Nearly [\\$36 million in grants](#) were awarded to 67 local park projects throughout Illinois to help communities acquire land and develop recreational opportunities. The grants were awarded through the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development, or OSLAD, program, which is administered by IDNR.



Celebrate Lincoln's birthday at Vandalia Statehouse

The [Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site](#) will celebrate President Abraham Lincoln's birthday and America's 250th anniversary with a free public event from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 in the House of Representatives chamber where Lincoln once served.



Illinoisans invited to unite in service to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday throughout 2026

celebration of the founding of the [United States 250](#) years ago, Gov. JB Pritzker invites Illinoisans to unite in service by volunteering with organizations of their choice to foster community connection and build a legacy of giving back throughout 2026.



Highlights

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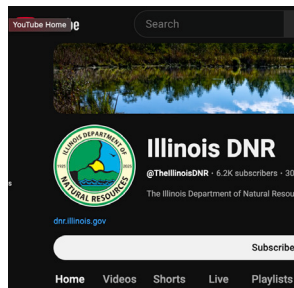
ICF accepting applications for conservation achievement scholarships

The Illinois Conservation Foundation is accepting applications for its [2026 Conservation Achievement Scholarships](#), which will award up to four one-time scholarships of \$2,000 each to Illinois high school seniors committed to conserving the state's natural resources.



Dickson Mounds Museum to host Fulton-Mason Eagle Day

Illinois State Museum-Dickson Mounds will host the annual [Fulton-Mason Eagle Day](#) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 with a full day of free, family-friendly programming celebrating bald eagles and the natural resources of the central Illinois River Valley.



Find IDNR on YouTube

Visit IDNR's [YouTube channel](#) for great video content from Illinois state parks, historic sites, and other locations. Learn about outdoor recreation opportunities and learn from IDNR experts.



IDNR is hiring

Looking for a career in conservation? IDNR is hiring statewide. There are a variety of jobs including working at state parks and historic sites to office careers at our headquarters in Springfield. [Apply online.](#)



Highlights



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Enjoy Valentine's Day with a moonlight walk and music at Black Hawk State Historic Site in Rock Island

Black Hawk State Historic Site in Rock Island invites the public to enjoy a [moonlight trail walk](#) followed by refreshments and live music on Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14.

HANDBOOK OF ICE FISHING



Ice fishing safety and information

IDNR reminds anglers to take precautions when ice fishing this winter. Review the [ice fishing handbook](#), your safety checklist, and prepare for outdoor conditions.



IDNR offers snowmobile safety education courses

IDNR offers [snowmobile safety courses](#) statewide and year-round. Visit the safety education class schedule online for all upcoming safety education courses.



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Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.

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