



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



Summer is here, and it's a great time to get out and explore all Illinois has to offer. The staff at IDNR sites across the state look forward to seeing you as you seek outdoor recreation and learning opportunities at our state parks, natural areas, historic sites, and museums.

Illinois has a lot to offer for anyone considering day trips, weekends away, or longer vacations. For history buffs, the Springfield State Historic Sites team is ready to welcome you, with free reservations for tours and special free Walk, Hike and Bike History Tours on weekdays and weekends all summer in Springfield.

The Illinois State Museum is hosting a variety of summer events, exhibitions, and special programs for children and families on Illinois' art, culture, history and more. The state museum has locations in Springfield, at Dickson Mounds Museum near Lewistown, and at the Lockport Gallery in Lockport.

Illinois state parks, fish and wildlife areas, recreational areas, and natural areas are convenient destinations for enjoying hiking, picnics, wildlife watching, boating, fishing, trail riding, stargazing, family reunions, and simply enjoying nature and relaxing.

Communities located near our state parks welcome visitors throughout the year with festivals, fairs, great places to shop, and places to eat. Interest in camping continues to grow, so be sure to make plans ahead of time and reserve your state park campsite in advance. Just visit <https://exploremoreil.com> to reserve your spot.

No matter where you take a road trip in Illinois this summer, you're sure to find fun and excitement. Visit the [IDNR website](#) and the [Enjoy Illinois website](#) for great ideas. Then pack up the family and hit the road this summer.



DNR in the News

[Outdoor Illinois](#)

[What to expect at Starved Rock Lodge](#)

[IDNR announces 2023 wingshooting clinic schedule at locations statewide](#)

[Wingshooting clinic in June](#)

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



Illinois Free Fishing Days June 16-19

The [2023 Illinois Free Fishing Days](#) celebration will take place June 16-19. During this four-day celebration, people may fish in Illinois without purchasing a license, salmon stamp or inland trout stamp. Give fishing a try during Free Fishing Days.



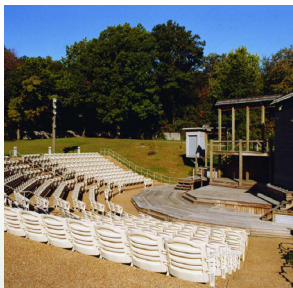
IDNR accepting applications for Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship grants

IDNR will accept applications through June 16 for [Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship grants](#). The goal of this grant program is to increase the delivery of much needed stewardship activities to natural areas protected within the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission system. Stewardship needs throughout the state have continued to outpace the ability to deliver these services by individuals, volunteers, organizations, and government agencies. The 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.



The Summer Frolic at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site is June 17

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site will host a [Summer Frolic](#) June 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Celebrate frontier heritage with period-clothed interpreters demonstrating throughout the historic village.



Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site Theatre in the Park

Make sure to [order your tickets](#) to the great performances at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site Theatre in the Park. Performances are held at the site's Kelso Hollow outdoor theatre throughout the summer.

Highlights

HISTORIC *Preservation* DIVISION

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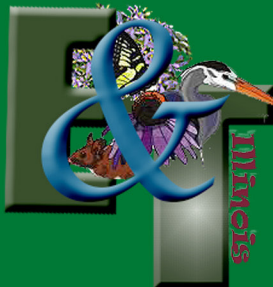
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Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair



A great catch for families at the Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair at Pere Marquette State Park near Grafton

Families are invited to a day of fun and educational activities at the [Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair](#) on June 10 at Pere Marquette State Park near Grafton. The event, now in its 34th year, will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features a variety of outdoor activities, including a catch-and-release bluegill pond where young anglers can have their photograph taken with their catch; the popular One-Cast station, where everyone wins a prize; and bow-fishing stations where children can shoot at moving targets in a pool or at a 3D target. Every child who completes at least seven stations will receive a prize and have the chance to catch a trout in the trout pond.



The 53rd Annual Fort de Chartres Rendezvous

The [53rd Annual Fort de Chartres Rendezvous](#) is June 3 and 4 at Fort de Chartres State Historic Site, 4 miles west of Prairie du Rocher from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The two-day popular annual Rendezvous features shooting competitions, military drills, dancing, music, food, and traders of 18th century-style goods.

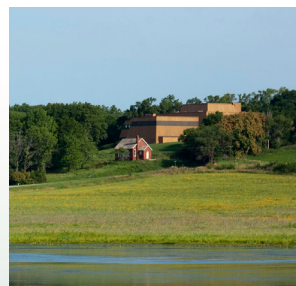
Illinois State Museum History Comes Alive

The [Illinois State Museum History Comes Alive](#): Growing Up X Tours explore what it was like to "grow up X" through the toys, technology, and experiences shared by the people who lived it.



Dickson Mounds Museum Illinois Archaeology Lecture Series June 18

Illinois State Archaeological Survey's Thomas J. Loebel, PhD, RPA, will present "[The DeWulf Paleoindian Project](#)" as part of the Illinois Archaeology Lecture Series on June 18 at 2 p.m. at the Dickson Mounds Museum.





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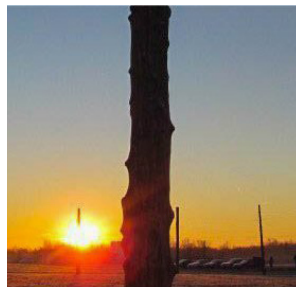


<https://ilconservation.org/Who-We-Are/ICF-Membership>



Indian Market Days June 3-4

In conjunction with the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, [Native American artists](#) will sell handmade artwork at the Gateway Conference Center in Collinsville June 3 and 4. Many different Tribal affiliations will be represented.



Summer Solstice Observance at Cahokia Mounds

Cahokia Mounds World Heritage Site will celebrate the [Summer Solstice on June 18](#) at 5:20 a.m. Meet at the Woodhenge reconstruction for an informational talk to learn about the discovery, form and function of this Pre-Columbian structure.



Wild Summer Mushrooms Program at Giant City

Join Alex Holmes, educator and wild edibles enthusiast, for a beginner's guide to southern Illinois' summer edible mushrooms at Giant City State Park on June 25. During this program participants will learn how to safely, ethically and legally harvest the forest's fungal bounty. After an indoor presentation, join Alex outdoors for a cooking demonstration to learn how to use a few of summer's most scrumptious 'shrooms. [Registration required](#).

[More IDNR events](#).



Hunters Apply for Fall Turkey Hunting Permits

Illinois residents only can apply for a [fall turkey hunting firearm permit](#) through July 2.



Highlights



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Deer Firearm and Muzzleloader Firearm Hunting Application Information

[Deer firearm and muzzleloader firearm hunting permit](#) second lottery applications are available for nonresidents and Illinois residents who did not apply or were not successful in the first lottery drawing can apply through June 30.



Nonresident Combination Deer Hunting Archery Lottery Application Information

The [nonresident combination archery lottery](#) application period is June 1-30. This is an online-only application, only for nonresidents. Apply on www.ExploreMoreIL.com. If awarded, hunters receive one Either-Sex Archery permit and one Antlerless-Only permit. Limit of one application. IDNR mails permits to successful recipients after the lottery drawing.



More than 16,000 wild turkeys harvested during Illinois' spring season

Turkey hunters harvested a preliminary statewide total of [16,121 wild turkeys](#) during the 2023 Illinois spring turkey season. This compares with the 2022 statewide turkey harvest of 13,701.



Illinois Conservation Foundation accepting nominations for the 2023 Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame

Since 2002, the foundation has recognized individuals who have records of exemplary service in and commitments to improving conservation efforts and outdoor recreation opportunities in Illinois. Nominations must be submitted on the official [Hall of Fame Nomination form](#) by July 14, 2023, to be considered.



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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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