



Inside Illinois DNR

April 2024 • Volume 12, Number 4

In This Issue

- Eclipse viewing at Illinois state parks
- Spring trout season
- Spring turkey season
- Wingshooting clinics

Find Out More

DNR Home Page

Natural Resources

Parks and Recreation

Mines and Minerals

Hunting and Trapping

Fishing

Education/Outreach

Safety and Rules

Online Services

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



Have you purchased your 2024 fishing license yet?

Fishing licenses for the 2024 season are now on sale both online and at [local vendors](#). These licenses are good until March 31, 2025.

I want to thank everyone for buying their fishing licenses. Revenue from license sales is used to fund fish management, research, and outreach. Your purchase directly funds these vital conservation activities.

For trout anglers, the 2024 Illinois spring trout season opens Saturday, April 6 at 58 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state. The daily harvest limit for each angler is five trout. All anglers, including those who intend to release fish caught before April 6, must have a fishing license and an inland trout stamp unless exempt.

Trout stamp purchases provide funding for the Illinois Catchable Trout Program, allowing IDNR to stock more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted during the spring season. An additional 80,000 trout are stocked for the fall trout season, which begins in October.

For information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Not all sites are open for trout catch-and-release season and not all sites open at 5 a.m. opening day.

The spring trout season offers opportunities for families to get outdoors and enjoy fishing. In Illinois, fishing is free for children under the age of 16, which makes the spring trout season a great time to get youth involved in outdoor recreation.

Be sure to check ifishillinois.org for lots of other fishing information, including regulations, frequently asked questions, and pond management information.



DNR in the News

[Representatives IDNR, IEMA, IDOT, and IDPH discuss preparations for the 2024 solar eclipse over southern Illinois](#)

[Urban fishing program teaches West Side youth how to fish for free](#)

[Trout fishing season starts April 6 in Illinois](#)

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



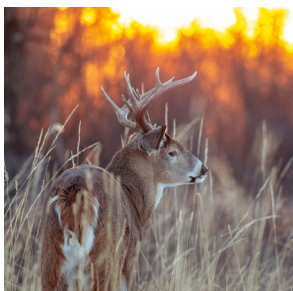
Make Illinois state parks your home for the 2024 total solar eclipse

Seven years after the 2017 total eclipse thrilled and delighted viewers in the Midwest, another total solar eclipse will be visible over 128 miles of Illinois the afternoon of April 8, 2024. More than 30 Illinois state parks and sites managed by IDNR are in the eclipse's path of totality. Numerous other parks and sites lie just outside the path of totality, offering equally spectacular views of the eclipse, though for shorter periods of time. [Go online](#) for more information and a map of parks in the path of totality.



State parks featured in Illinois Office of Tourism's new video series

Illinois state parks and outdoor recreation are featured in the Illinois Office of Tourism's new outdoor video series. "Real People, Real Stories, Real Outdoors" features stories from Illinois adventurers and spotlights the range of outdoor recreation activities available throughout the state. The series aims to capture genuine experiences of Illinois residents and visitors exploring the outdoors, while highlighting the state's natural beauty and [outdoor adventures](#).



Deer firearm hunting permit applications

Illinois residents are reminded it's time to apply for 2024 [firearm deer hunting season permits](#). Resident Illinois hunters can apply online for the first lottery for firearm and muzzleloader deer permits until April 30.

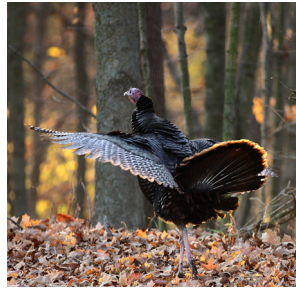
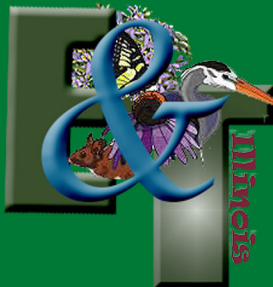


Boating in Illinois

Visit the Boating in Illinois website to answer all your watercraft questions, such as how to register or renew a boat, boating regulations, and [watercraft FAQs](#).



Highlights



2024 spring turkey hunting season

The 2024 [spring turkey hunting season](#) begins April 8 in the south zone and April 15 in the north zone. Park visitors please be aware that sections of parks may be closed for hunting.



2024 youth spring turkey hunting season

The 2024 [youth spring turkey hunting season](#) continues April 6-7. The north zone and south zone are open concurrently for both days.



Visit the Fort de Chartres Rendezvous Market Fair

Join in the fun at the [Rendezvous Market Fair April 6-7](#) at Fort de Chartres State Historic Site, 1350 State Route 155, Prairie Du Rocher. There will be many activities, including merchants and blanket traders, shooting competitions, and stickball games inside the fort walls.



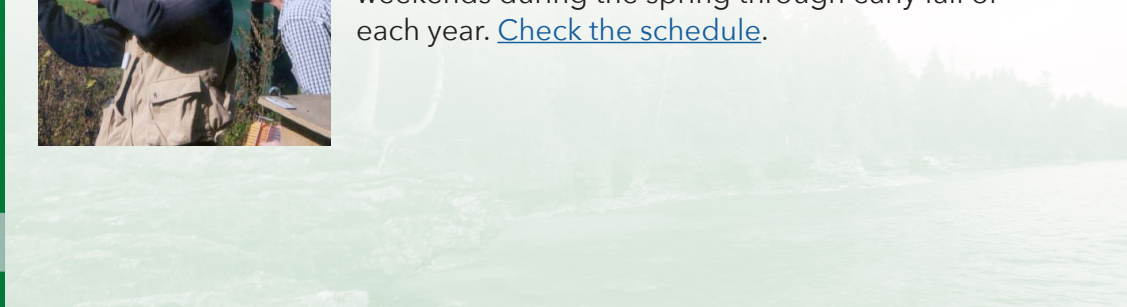
Stop the spread of invasive species

As the boats come out of storage, remember to be aware of [invasive species](#) that pose a threat to lands and waterways. To fight the spread of aquatic invaders, the IDNR is asking residents to "be a hero transport zero." The best way to stop the spread of invasive species is to remove, drain, and dry boats after use in any Illinois waterway.



Learn to shoot at a wingshooting clinic

IDNR is offering wingshooting clinics at locations throughout Illinois. The clinics are conducted on weekends during the spring through early fall of each year. [Check the schedule.](#)



Highlights



Click for info



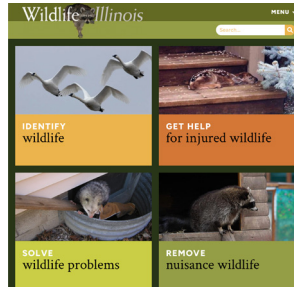
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Living with wildlife in Illinois

Visit the [Wildlife Illinois website](#) for information about solving wildlife problems, preventing wildlife problems, seasonal wildlife behaviors and more.



Apply for an Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant

The [application deadline](#) is Dec. 4 for Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action grants. Teachers, nature center personnel, and adults who are youth group leaders (grades pre-kindergarten through 12) in Illinois may apply. Generous donations from the Jadel Youth Fund, the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation, and others make this program possible.



Youth habitat projects funded through the Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Grant program

Seventeen [Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants](#) totaling more than \$55,200 have been awarded for habitat development at schools and other public places.



Illinois bobcat season concludes with 370 harvested

The 2023-2024 [Illinois bobcat season](#) concluded Feb. 15 with 370 bobcats harvested by hunters and trappers. A total of 214 (55%) of bobcats were taken by hunting, while trapping accounted for 156 (40%) of the harvest.



Visit DNR on



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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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