



Inside Illinois DNR

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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



With temperatures beginning to drop, there's no doubt autumn has arrived in Illinois. The leaves are beginning to change color, and I encourage you to get out to our wonderful state parks to enjoy the natural splendor of fall foliage and the autumn season.

IDNR is partnering again this year with the Illinois Office of Tourism on the popular Illinois Fall Colors Trip Planner. IDNR foresters provide weekly reports about leaf color changes happening all over the state as the basis for this great travel tool. Be sure to visit Illinois state parks for beautiful vistas and fall leaf viewing, and check out the fall color reports.

Fun fall activities are happening at state parks and historic sites throughout Illinois. Here are just a few:

- Don't miss the Fort Massac Encampment on Oct. 21 at Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis, featuring vendors, activities, and a battle reenactment.
- The Lewis and Clark State Historic Site in Madison County will explore the diverse and changing history of pies in the United States on Oct. 7 and host its annual craft fair on Oct. 21.
- At Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site in central Illinois, enjoy the annual candlelight walk from 7-9 p.m. Oct. 6 and 7 for a unique nighttime experience. Come back on Oct. 28 for the fall festival.
- Starved Rock State Park in LaSalle County is hosting a Native American history program on Oct. 8, and on Oct. 21 the park will host a guided fall colors hike, ghost stories, and children's programs about bats and animals around the world.

These are just a few events that are being offered at our state sites during the month of October. Whatever you choose to do, don't miss out on the beautiful October views at the Illinois state parks.



DNR in the News

[2023 Chicago Labor Day parade moves to Pullman](#)

[The 18 Best Campgrounds In Illinois - Top-Rated & Hidden Gems](#)

[IDNR recognizes 2 Starved Rock State Park volunteers with statewide award](#)

[Centuries after Native American remains were dug up, a new law returns them for reburial in Illinois](#)

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



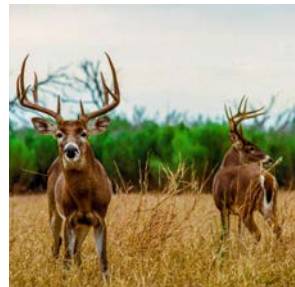
2023 ICF Director's Hunt - Nov. 27 and 28

The Illinois Conservation Foundation invites you to participate in the 2023 director's hunt at Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish & Wildlife Area in Cass County on Nov. 27 and 28. [Purchase your ticket today.](#)



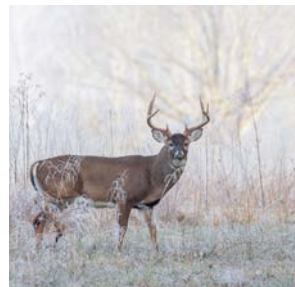
Public Hunting Areas Report: 2022-2023 wildlife harvest

The [Illinois Public Hunting Areas Report](#) is developed each year to provide information on public hunting/trapping efforts and wildlife harvest. This report provides both hunting and trapping information on IDNR owned, leased, or managed public hunting sites.



2023-2024 deer archery hunting season opens Oct. 1

[Deer archery hunting season](#) opens Oct. 1, in Cook, DuPage and Lake counties, and a portion of Kane County east of State Rt. 47: Oct. 1-Jan. 14. In all other counties and that portion of Kane County west of State Rt. 47: Oct. 1-Jan. 14. EXCEPTION: Archery deer hunting is CLOSED during firearm seasons Nov. 17-19 and Nov. 30-Dec. 3.



Deer firearm and muzzleloader hunting information

County-specific firearm and muzzleloader permits remaining after the third lottery drawing will be available for sale only over the counter at [license vendors](#) beginning Oct. 17, on a first-come, first-served basis.



2023-2024 fall turkey archery season opens Oct. 1

The [fall turkey archery season](#) opens Oct. 1 for Cook, DuPage and Lake counties, and that portion of Kane County east of State Route 47: Oct. 1-Jan. 14. For all other counties and that portion of Kane County west of State Route 47: Oct. 1-Jan. 14. NOTE: fall turkey archery hunting is CLOSED during deer firearm seasons Nov. 17-19 and Nov. 30-Dec. 3.

Highlights



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Apply for 2024 spring turkey hunting permit

[Illinois resident hunters](#) may apply for one spring turkey hunting permit in the first lottery. Applications are being accepted Oct. 3-Dec. 1, 2023



2023 fall turkey shotgun season Oct. 21-29

Permits will be [sold until quotas are exhausted](#), or until the close of the season, Oct. 29. Persons may purchase one or more permits during this period, subject to availability, except that no one may exceed the limit of two permits in total, including lottery-issued and landowner permits.



Youth deer firearm season Oct 7-9

[Youth deer firearm season](#) is Oct. 7-9. Hunters may only purchase one youth deer permit which are available for purchase over the counter at license vendors until Oct. 9. The Youth Deer Season is only open to hunters who have not reached their 18th birthday prior to the opening date of the season.



Apply now for youth wingshooting clinics, pheasant hunts at three state parks

Young hunters between 10 and 17 can apply now for [youth wingshooting clinics](#) and pheasant hunts in October at three state parks.



Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame to induct five new members

Five Illinoisans - Deanna Bazan, David Monk, Peter M. Murphy, Ed Pfaff and Gretchen Steele - will be inducted into the [Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame](#) in the spring, the Illinois Conservation Foundation board of directors announced.

Highlights



Lake closures

Find more information on [lake closures](#), LaSalle Cooling Lake will close Oct. 15.



Fall Color Information

Visit www.enjoyillinois.gov for the latest fall color information.



Illinois EPA Grants Provisional Variance at Request of Prairie Path Water Company

The Illinois EPA has granted in part a provisional variance to [Prairie Path Water Company](#) (Northern Hills) from the five-day Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD5) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) effluent limits in the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES Permit). The provisional variance will allow various repairs to components, including the package plant treatment system and clarifier, of the Northern Hills Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), extend the life of the STP, and improve its operations. The Illinois EPA has denied Northern Hills' request for a provisional variance from the Ammonia Nitrogen (Ammonia) effluent limit set forth in the NPDES Permit. during a lottery and mailed to successful applicants.



Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site candlelight walk

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site candlelight walk is Oct. 6 and 7, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. [The Candlelight Walk](#) offers the only opportunity to see the village at night. Period clothed interpreters will be inside many of the log homes and shops in the village to talk about life in 19th century Illinois.

Highlights



Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site fall festival

[Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site fall festival](#) is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m on Oct. 28. Period clothed interpreters will demonstrate daily tasks throughout the historic village such as candle dipping, soap making, blacksmithing, spinning wool, gardening, and natural dyeing.



Prairie Paintings from Illinois Nature Preserves at the Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery

[The Long View exhibition](#) features paintings from 23 nature preserves across Illinois by artist and conservationist Philip Juras. The work celebrates the 60-year legacy of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and offers a window into the past and present ecology of the Prairie State on display through Oct. 21.



Kid's Crafter-noon at Illinois State Museum Dickson Mounds

Make fun arts and crafts from 2-3:30 p.m., Oct. 14 at the [Illinois State Museum Dickson Mounds](#). A variety of supplies and materials will be available for kids to create pieces of their liking to take home. All ages are welcome with adult supervision.



The Fort Massac Encampment at Fort Massac State Park

History comes to life in [Fort Massac State Park](#) on Oct. 21 and 22 at the Fort Massac Encampment. Step back into life of the late 1700's as you see the sights, taste the foods, hear the music, and experience the battle. This event has become one of Southern Illinois' largest events and one you don't want to miss.



Lewis and Clark State Historic Site 4th annual craft fair

Local artisans will make their finely crafted goods available for purchase at the [4th Annual Historic Craft Fair](#) on Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Goods ranging from baskets to shawls to pottery and more will be available. Do some early holiday shopping. Or get something well-made for yourself.

Highlights



Nature and culture hike at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site Oct. 14

There is a nature and culture hike from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 14 at [Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site](#) with Julie Zimmermann, PhD. Learn about native plants and animals and how the Mississippian culture interacted with them and the environment. This two-hour hike will travel along some of the less commonly traveled trails, so make sure to wear appropriate clothing, sturdy shoes suitable for hiking, and to bring water. Sunscreen, bug spray, and snacks are advised, make sure any refuse is properly disposed of at the Interpretive Center.



Pere Marquette State Park hosts a fishing and night owl program Nov. 3

[Pere Marquette State Park](#)'s fishing and night owl program is Nov. 3. The educational fishing program begins at 5:30 p.m. for any kids who would like to come fish at the Blue Gill Pond next to the Visitor Center. At 7:30 p.m. begins the program on owls and other creatures that might be heard or seen outdoors while camping or hiking. Following the program, the night hike will start. This hike is around two miles and a portion of it will be uphill. When the hike is over join us for a hotdog and marshmallow roast. Refreshments and drinks are provided but we ask that each family brings one flashlight. We also advise that everyone wears hiking shoes. There is no fee for this event or need to register.



Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site Grande Levee celebration Oct. 14

A [Grande Levee celebration](#) featuring food, activities, and musical entertainment will take place on Oct. 14, at the Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site, Illinois' oldest state capitol building. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, visitors can enjoy demonstrations, the selling of wares, ham & beans by Crown Point Church, folk music by Chris Vallillo, Randy Duncan who portrays Abraham Lincoln, will appear in the House of Representatives chamber, Charles Lyons will present Times in History, a traveling museum, Fayette County Art Connection will have three members painting, children's area with fun period games and Animal Tales will present creepy critters. The Grand Levee is a celebration of the grand receptions that took place during the 1800s to honor government dignitaries and important visitors when Vandalia was the seat of Illinois state government. The event is free and open to the public.

Highlights

November



David Davis Mansion Historic Site Christmas barn sale

Enjoy an opportunity to purchase gently used and vintage Christmas decorations, and a few treasures from the [David Davis Mansion](#) which are being retired from our holiday. This event will take place in the barn of the David Davis Mansion, which is at the back of the property, and will be clearly marked. Sales are cash or check only. All proceeds support the education and preservation mission of the David Davis Mansion Foundation collection.

December



Lewis and Clark State Historic Site arrival weekend

On Dec. 12, 1803, the [Lewis and Clark expedition](#) arrived at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and fixed on a place to build Camp River Dubois. Arrival weekend, Dec. 9 and 10 celebrates this arrival with reenactors, demonstrators, and more. The event will feature exhibitors of vintage tools, firearms, 18th Century medicine, military re-enactors, and artillery. Come see how the soldiers of the Corps of Discovery lived during their winter encampment in the Illinois Country from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More event information visit

<https://dnr.illinois.gov/calendar.html>



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