

ILLINOIS URBAN FISHING PROGRAM

Division of Fisheries Calendar Year 2014 Annual Report (January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014)

Submitted by:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Illinois Urban Fishing Program was launched in 1985 in Chicago, Illinois. The program's multi-pronged objective was (1) teach the sport of fishing to all age demographics, (2) enhance fishing opportunities in densely populated urban landscapes, and (3) seek to instill an appreciation and understanding of natural resources.

The program was expanded state-wide in 1994 and now primarily consists of 1) free summer fishing clinics that include fishing at nearby stocked lagoons, 2) school fishing and non-fishing education programs, and 3) fishing and education programs at scout and 4-H camps, city and state parks, church camps, etc.

During CY '14 fish were stocked at **36** sites. Summer fishing clinics were regularly held at **9** Chicago locations and **20** sites in Northwestern, Central and Southern Illinois (see tables below). Similar to calendar 2013 year, **7** additional ponds were stocked in Cook County where historically summer fishing clinics had been held. No clinics were held at these due to lack of staffing. Fishing clinics were held twice daily Monday through Friday for about nine weeks at most of these fishing sites during the summer. Approximately **22,757** youngsters attended one of **1,139** summer fishing clinics that included fishing at a nearby stocked lagoon. Fish stocking remained important for the program and approximately **30,000** lbs. of channel catfish, **113,717** hybrid sunfish were stocked. Members of the general public were also able to catch and take these fish at most sites. In addition to the Urban Summer fishing clinics, **1,547** kids fished at the temporary pond created for the Springfield State Fair.

Additional volunteers and volunteer organizations have become more involved in conducting and assisting with programs. Volunteers and volunteer organizations with IDNR training and assistance held **246** fishing clinics and events for **16,092** children and adults last year. These individuals and organizations play a very important role in the ongoing success of the program.

Urban Fishing Program coordinators held **330** non-fishing Education Programs for more than **43,178** participants at numerous schools and other settings during the year to teach environmental education and an appreciation for natural resources, and to promote summer fishing programs. This figure includes the **27,500** people that participated in the “Touch-a-Fish” station at the Illinois State Fair.

The popular “**Access to Fishing**” rod and reel loaner program was established in 1997. There are currently **137** “**Access to Fishing**” loaner sites in Illinois, and rods and reels were borrowed **14,281** times last year. The list of sites follows this report.

In total the Urban Fishing Program, with **three** full-time coordinators, **20** summer interns and their volunteer network, held or sponsored a total of **1,766** fishing and non-fishing programs for nearly **83,832** participants in 2014.

INTRODUCTION

In past generations, Americans fished frequently and often did so out of necessity for food. Times have changed and now fishing is often done for pleasure as a way to relax with family and friends and to spend time outdoors. Fish may still be kept for food but are many times released to be caught again. According to a recent American Sport fishing Association (ASA) survey 40 million Americans fish, which are more people than play golf (24.4 million) and tennis (10.4 million) combined. In addition, these 40 million anglers generate about \$45 billion in retail sales annually. Responsive Management reported that 30 million anglers sixteen years and older fished in 2006. The overall economic output from fishing is about \$125 billion annually that supports more than 1 million jobs.

The sport of fishing presents an opportunity to instill outdoor ethics and to cultivate an appreciation for our natural resources. Realizing that we live on a planet that is 70%

water, we must strive to be good stewards of our natural resources if we are to coexist with plants and animals.

Parts of Illinois have been transformed from quiet rural settings into urban sprawl and areas that were once pristine country sides are now filled with houses, strip malls and fast food restaurants. Along with this change in the landscape came changes in attitudes, values and priorities. Such changes have resulted in more single-parent families. With the burden of rearing children and earning a living, outdoor ethics and an understanding of our natural resources are not always taught. These situations along with society's other less desirable influences are producing many youngsters who desperately need outdoor experiences. Is there a solution? Can fishing be part of a solution that turns struggling members of our younger generation into good citizens? Research has shown many benefits of fishing, including its contribution to family cohesiveness and values, an enhanced and increased understanding of the environment, and many health-related benefits. Efforts to provide Illinois children with additional outdoor activities and experiences were expanded in 2010 with IDNR's "**No Child Left Inside**" initiative.

There is hope on the horizon! Reports show that kids are more likely to fish when they become adults if they experience fishing before reaching high school age. A survey by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation showed that 20% of Hispanics and African Americans who do not fish would like to fish but do not participate for various reasons. This survey also showed that participation by members of these minority groups during their teen-aged years was important in influencing them to take up fishing as a lifelong hobby. Hispanics and African Americans tend to fish with others rather than individually and view fishing as an opportunity to socialize.

A recent survey by Responsive Management showed that most kids learn to fish from a parent/family member but they are willing to learn from someone else provided that person is skilled. A child must have fun while learning to fish; therefore it is important that they catch fish. Children tend to get bored and show disinterest when they don't catch fish. Moreover, most children would like to touch what they catch. Some beginning anglers might shy away from fishing because they don't like to handle bait. Girls can get interested in fishing but surveys show many still think of fishing as a boy's sport. We must keep in mind that in today's world there is competition for a child's interest when they have access to television, video and computer games. These types of indoor games offer an almost sure chance of easy entertainment without being boring.

Another survey showed that most anglers under 35 years of age are not being introduced to fishing by their parents. If that is the case it means that our Urban Fishing Program can fill an important niche by bringing fishing to many people who might not otherwise experience it.

Responsive Management says that satisfaction is high for 90% of active anglers and very high for 67% of the participants. The majority of today's anglers focus on the importance of fishing for relaxation and as a **family activity**, and sees catching big fish as being less important as the experience itself. It has been reported that two reasons people don't fish as often are a lack of time and no lakes nearby that offer good fishing.

To address the needs to provide and get more Illinois children involved with outdoor activities and experiences the Department initiated the "**No Child Left Inside**" program in 2010.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of the Illinois Urban Fishing Program include teaching children to fish, stocking sufficient numbers of catchable-sized fish in an effort to provide quality sport fishing opportunities for urban anglers, and attract and introduce citizens to the outdoors

by instilling an interest and appreciation for plants and animals. These program objectives have remained the same each year.

Steps deemed necessary to get someone interested in fishing are 1) create a threshold experience, 2) have available equipment, 3) have a suitable place to fish, 4) have a mentor to teach fishing, and 5) have social support of friends and family. Our goal is to have the Urban Fishing Program provide for all or most of these five criteria.

PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDE FISHING

Free Fishing Clinics

Summer fishing clinics are regularly held at **19** local park district sites (see map) and occasionally at additional sites as needed (see Central and Southern Illinois reports for these additional sites). Clinics begin in mid-June and continue throughout July, into mid-August. Sessions are held twice daily, Monday through Friday. Instructors are hired and trained to conduct clinics at each site. Each clinic lasts about 2.5 hours and has two portions: 1) an approximately 45-minute educational session and 2) a "hands-on" fishing session at a nearby stocked lake. The clinics are designed to teach fishing safety, proper angler ethics, aquatic and general ecology, fish identification, knot tying, the importance of becoming good stewards of natural resources and the importance of choosing good friends. Following the classroom educational session, attendees practice casting, learn the art of setting the hook and then are taken fishing.

The clinic instructor presents clinics using large laminated posters as well as video programs, along with hands-on demonstrations using various types of fishing gear. Group size is generally limited to 20-30 young people per session. Larger groups are discouraged because angling education is less effective when instructors are not able to give adequate individual attention and it is easier to ensure safety with smaller groups. Catch and Release fishing is usually practiced during clinics. Reservations are requested for those attending the clinics and individuals are encouraged to attend a clinic more than once. At many sites the local park district assists the IDNR by taking

reservations.

Fish Stocking

Surveys show that kids are more likely to become interested in fishing if they have fun while learning. This is more likely to happen if they catch fish. Therefore, the stocking of catchable-sized channel catfish and hybrid sunfish (green sunfish x bluegill) is an integral part of the Urban Fishing Program. The general public is also allowed to catch fish at most sites. Catchable sized channel catfish were only stocked in the Chicago lagoons this past summer at the rate of approximately 200 lbs/acre and hybrid sunfish were added at most sites at the rate of 500 fish/acre/year. Sunfish were stocked in 2 - 5 deliveries between late Spring through early August. Catfish weighed an average of 1 - 2 lbs. and sunfish were 4 - 7 inches long.

OTHER PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDED FISHING

Studies show that a program that teaches fishing is much more effective at getting participants hooked on the sport if participants are able to actually go fishing. Therefore, clinics included fishing if possible. Other programs, besides the Summer clinics, that include fishing are: special event clinics, events held by volunteer instructors, fishing expos, daily fishing clinics at the state fair, school fishing programs and fishing derbies.

Special Event Clinics

Special event clinics are similar to regular summer clinics, but are held on weekends, after school, or at different locations near lakes with a suitable fish population.

Volunteer Instructor Clinics

The volunteer instructor fishing clinics are held by individuals, employees of state or local parks, recreation department employees, 4-H and scout camp leaders, etc., and are held at sites with a lake where fishing is available. The volunteers are trained and provided with Urban Fishing Clinic Program educational materials and with fishing equipment. This facet of the Urban Program has shown large growth and has the potential for more,

allowing additional children to learn to fish at a low cost.

Fishing Expos

Fishing Expos are large fishing clinics where each topic of the Program is taught at a separate station by trained instructors. After completing each instructional station, participants then go fishing. These events are normally sponsored in part or entirely by local fishing clubs, service clubs, and/or private businesses. Expos are one-day events and are designed to accommodate between 100-500 participants.

Fishing Derbies

Fishing Derbies usually involve a larger group of anglers (40-200 people), and include fishing without the educational part of the summer clinic program. Educational sessions may not be practical due to large group size, participants arriving at different times, time constraints, etc.

School Fishing Programs

School Fishing Programs consist of school fishing field trips, after-school fishing programs, and P.E. fishing programs. For all programs the educational portion is presented at the school or by the lake before actually fishing. With many fishing field trips and after-school programs, parents or grandparents meet the lower-grade students at the lake to help. These family-mentored angling programs are held in high esteem because it is more likely that these children and adults will go fishing again by themselves. With P.E. programs the teachers take students fishing during their P.E. classes for several weeks near the end of the school year with fishing poles that IDNR provides for their use. Teachers who offer these fishing programs are truly enthusiastic and dedicated. After-school rod and reel maintenance became a way of life for these teachers.

PROGRAMS THAT DO NOT INCLUDE FISHING

In Illinois, weather limits Program activities that include on-site fishing to the warmer months of April through October. If inclement weather or other limitations such as large

group size, time constraints, lack of a suitable body of water, etc. occur, non-fishing activities are held. These programs include school classroom programs, fishing/outdoor shows and outdoor Conservation Field Day programs.

School Classroom Programs

The School Classroom Programs include a variety of types of sessions. Some programs discuss lake ecosystems and related topics and then allow students to pick up and handle live fish and other aquatic animals. Other programs include slide show fish related presentations followed by question and answer periods. Some programs are educational bingo-type fish games.

Fishing/Outdoor Shows

Fishing/Outdoor Sports Shows are usually held indoors during the winter and they are set up to handle hundreds of persons wanting to visit with vendors selling fishing and outdoor products. Our activities, at times, offer the use of a fish simulator that allows participants to experience what it might be like to catch a large fish. We also promote our various summer fishing programs and give away aquatic and fish related literature.

Conservation Field Day Programs

Conservation Field Day programs consist of 15 - 25 minute presentations about fish and general aquatics, and are usually held outdoors at state parks for school groups that are on a field trip. Numerous groups of students participate and each group rotates from station to station.

“ACCESS TO FISHING” PROGRAM

The Illinois “**Access to Fishing**” rod and reel loaner program began in 1997 and remains a unique way of allowing anglers to try fishing without having to buy equipment. Rods and reels purchased by or donated to IDNR are placed in establishments such as libraries, lake-side concession stands, bait stores, etc. This equipment is available to be borrowed at no cost, and is handled much like checking out and returning a library book. Tackle packets (containing hooks, sinkers, a bobber, etc.) and instructional fishing

literature are also available at no cost for users to keep when they borrow a fishing pole.

This Program is popular with recent fishing clinic participants, the first-time angler, and the occasional angler who does not yet want to invest in equipment. It also makes it possible for example, for a parent to take their children and additional neighborhood children fishing, and be able to provide a fishing pole for each.

The equipment is maintained by local volunteers, employees of the lending facility that houses the equipment, and by IDNR employees, etc. Locations and phone numbers for "loaner sites" in each area are shown in an appendix at the end of this report.

CHICAGO URBAN FISHING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Urban Fishing Program was initiated in Chicago in 1985. Programs were held in city parks and consisted of summer educational fishing sessions also allowed participants the opportunity to fish at a nearby, stocked lagoon. The summer clinic program has been expanded to additional parks but the original format remains the same.

Throughout the year we offered other fishing clinics and education programs that emphasized both aquatic ecology and environmental stewardship. These programs were held in schools, with senior groups and day care facilities, in parks on weekends, etc. An important goal of this program was getting individuals interested in fishing so that they might develop it as a hobby in future years. If someone is to develop fishing as a hobby, it is most important that they actually go fishing when learning the sport. Therefore, activities in this report will be divided into those that included fishing and those that did not include fishing.

PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDED FISHING

Summer Fishing Clinics

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Summer Fishing Clinics were started in 1985 at Marquette, Gompers, and Columbus Parks. The Program was expanded and now fishing clinics and fish stockings take place at the following parks: Auburn, Columbus, Douglas, Garfield, Gompers, Humboldt, Jackson, Palmisano, Marquette, McKinley, Riis, Sherman, and Washington. A total of **537** fishing clinics were held for **14,878** participants and this past year we stocked **30,000** pounds of catchable sized channel catfish and **56,250** hybrid sunfish.

Table 1: Summer Fishing Clinics and Fish Stocking

Park	# of Clinics	# of Participants	Fish Stocking Lbs. Channel Catfish	# Hybrid sunfish
Auburn	-0-	-0-	750	2,500
Columbus	80	2,080	3,300	5,625
Douglas	39	1,772	3,300	5,000
Garfield	0	-0-	3,000	5,000
Gompers	76	2,261	1,800	2,500
Humboldt	39	1,773	3,600	5,625
Jackson	74	1,515	3,000	5,625
Marquette	44	1,310	3,000	5,000
McKinley	61	1,520	3,000	5,625
Palmisano	0	0	0	3,250
Sherman	50	1,218	2,400	5,000
Riis	-0-	-0-	-0-	500
Washington	74	1,429	2,850	5,000
Totals	537	14,878	30,000	56,250

IDNR provided fishing equipment and bait for the participants to use. Wax worms and spikes were the preferred bait and it was generously provided at cost by Henry's Sports and Bait Shop, Inc. of Chicago.

OTHER PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDED FISHING

Special event clinics were conducted on weekends, after school, or times when the structured clinic schedule and/or site could not be utilized. Special events also meant clinics for "special" groups, such as special education and special recreation groups, block clubs, school groups, senior citizens, park districts, and others that had expressed an interest. During the year **2,920** participants took part in one of the **nine** special event programs.

The Sheriff's Office of Cook County's youth services department held two fishing events at Lake Tampier. Four of the Urban Fishing clinic instructors provided educational and fishing clinics for **75** kids this summer. Most of the kids caught bluegills, crayfish, and largemouth bass. This is the second year that the Urban Fishing program has participated in this event.

Trustee Melvin Lightford had two fishing events held at Waumpum Lake. Four Urban Fishing clinic instructors provided educational and fishing clinics for **150** kids from the city of Maywood. The kids caught bluegills, perch and smallmouth bass. The weather was hot but everyone had a great time.

Jonas Salk School had a back-to-school fishing event held at Hidden Lakes located in Bolingbrook. This was the first year for this event. Approximately **30** people participated. Parents and kids caught bluegill, large and smallmouth bass and trout.

Chandler Newburg Center invited the Chicago Urban Fishing program to provided fishing clinics for Lovelace Park which is located in Evanston. Approximately **60** kids participated in this event. The kids caught crappie, bullheads and bluegills.

School fishing programs were held for elementary and high school students. Each program included a power-point presentation which was followed by educational games.

We held **86** aquatic-outreach fishing clinics in **21** Chicago Public Schools for **2,005** students. Urban Fishing T-shirts were awarded as prizes and most students went fishing at a later date.

PROGRAMS THAT DID NOT INCLUDE FISHING

The Chicago Urban Fishing Program participated in the sixth annual event called "Kidzfest" which was held in Joliet. The Chicago Urban Fishing Coordinator along with six of her Summer instructors provided an informational table with literature, specimens of exotic species and casting targets for kids. Artificial bait was used as prizes. Over **500** students participated in target casting and approximately **5,000** people attended this event. The students along with their parents had a great time.

Also, this year the Chicago Urban Fishing Program was asked to participate in the **Joliet Farmers Market** event. This was the first time that Urban Fishing program has been involved. Approximately **100** people attended. An informational table with Urban Fishing rulers, specimens of exotic species, and casting targets for kids was provided. Artificial lures were awarded as prizes.

PROGRAM TOTALS

A total of **17,798** individuals participated in the Chicago Urban Fishing Program during the year. Summer Fishing Clinics had **14,878** participants, Special Event Outreach Fishing Programs had **315** participants, School Fishing Programs had **2,005** participants, and Aquatic Outreach Programs non-fishing programs had **600** participants.

"ACCESS TO FISHING" PROGRAM

The "Access to Fishing" rod and reel loaner program had **2,052** loans during the year. We have **nine** sites: Albany Park Branch Library, Sherman Park Library, Uptown Public Library, Humboldt Park Library, Douglas Park Library, McKinley Park Branch Library,

Blackstone Library, Vodak East Side Library, and Henry's Bait Shop. Each site was provided with 25 rod and reel combos to lend out. In order to participate in the program, parents were required to sign an agreement which waived liability for the City of Chicago and the Chicago Public Libraries. A bar code was attached to each rod and reel and cataloged for their records. The rod and reel combo was checked out of the libraries using the same system for checking out books. Henry's Bait Shop was also a loaner site and required a valid driver's license to borrow fishing gear. Participants were allowed to borrow fishing poles for seven days.

The Sherman Park Library participates as an "Access to Fishing" site. Due to the popularity of this service, the library sent Brenda McKinney a thank you note. Here is an excerpt of the letter.

"Just wanted you to know how much I appreciate the fishing pole program offered through the participating public libraries across Chicago. I am a Service Coordinator for New Pisgah Haven Homes at 80th and Racine. New Pisgah is a senior facility that is independent living and the seniors that I serve are low-income. I work hard to raise funds and find economical ways to provide activities for them. It is really important to me to provide them with experiences that they would not otherwise afford. I raise money to make sure that we can take at least two FREE trips a month. We love to fish! We visit many reservoirs and look forward to our outings. Norh Jones is one of our resident fishermen and is very skilled. He is available to maintain the poles when you need it.

Please don't end this program. It is so valuable to the senior community and I have been spreading the word to all my comrades in the industry. Thank you to everyone at Sherman Park and the Department of Natural Resources! What a great program!"

Locations and phone numbers for "loaner sites" are shown in an appendix at the end of this report.

FISCAL YEAR 2015 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Activities planned for the Chicago Urban Fishing Program will include ...

1. Continuing the summer fishing clinics at the nine Chicago Park District sites.
2. Continue the stocking of catchable sized fish at the 13 park district lagoons.
3. Expand the Aquatic Outreach Program to reach additional schools.
4. Continue to offer equipment, material and expertise to Access to Fishing sites within the city of Chicago.

If you have questions or comments regarding the Chicago Urban Fishing Program, please contact:

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS URBAN FISHING PROGRAM

Currently, the northeastern Illinois Urban Fishing Program is limited to stocking catchable-sized fish at seven locations shown in Table 1 below. The "Access to Fishing" sites loaned fishing tackle equipment **8,379** from **37** loaner sites in the suburban area outside Chicago city limits. Loaner locations are shown in the index at the end of this report.

Table 2. Site locations and number of fish stocked.

Stock Location	Hybrid Sunfish (#)
Lyons/Cermak Quarry	816
Mundelein/Comm Park Pond	1,632
Wheaton/Elliot Park Lake	2,040
Schiller Park/Schiller Park Pond	2,448
Northbrook/Lake Shererville	1,088
Dolton/Flatfoot Lake	6,120
Alsip Park District Lake	1,088
Totals	15,232

NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS URBAN FISHING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Since its humble beginnings in Chicago in 1985, the Illinois Urban Fishing Program has been dedicated to improving the sport of fishing by demonstrating proper safety and responsibility to beginning anglers. The skills demonstrated and the knowledge imparted is invaluable in our modern society.

While school team sports usually become spectator sports after graduation, fishing can turn into a lifelong activity. Most anglers develop an appreciation for natural resources, wildlife, and a clean environment by participating in wholesome outdoor recreation.

As conservationists, our success is not only measured in the resources we pass on to our children and grandchildren, but also by the attitude we have instilled in them. They are the future custodians of our land, water and wildlife. The Urban Fishing Program tries to instill an awareness of safety, a willingness to become involved in conservation, and an attitude of responsibility toward all of our natural resources.

Our programs teach fishing, aquatic education, or a combination of the two. Our

programs may or may not include fishing. Those that include fishing are much more valuable in instilling a desire for a person to adopt fishing as a lifelong hobby.

PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDED FISHING

Fishing Clinics and Fish Stockings

The Northwestern Illinois Urban Fishing Program was initiated in 1995. Three sites were initially chosen based on population centers and availability of suitable waters. These sites were: Levings Lake in Rockford (Winnebago County), Glen Oak Park Lagoon in Peoria (Peoria County), and Riverside Lagoon in Moline (Rock Island County). Spencer Lake and the Mill Race Ponds in Belvidere were added to the Rockford clinic site in the Spring of 1999. Participants were mostly school-age children, although a few adult and senior groups attended. Catchable-sized fish were stocked at most sites to improve fishing success. In 2014 we held **179** clinics for **1622** participants. (Refer to Table 1 for fishing clinic and fish stocking information).

Table 3. Summer Fishing Clinics and Fish Stockings

Clinic Site	# of Clinics	# of Participants	(#) Hybrid Sunfish Stocked
Moline Area	56	529	1,750
Peoria/Glen Oak Park	76	696	1,750
Rockford/Belvidere	47	397	8,100
Totals	179	1,622	11,600

A **Fishing Expo** is a large single-day event that usually includes a large number of participants. 2014 marked the 16th annual Kids Fishing© expo held at Baker's Lake in Peru, Illinois, in cooperation with the Better Fishing Association (BFA). The BFA has a large number of dedicated volunteers that work very hard to make this a successful educational experience. At this year's clinic, more than **160** volunteers worked to provide an outstanding experience for more than **800** children and about the same number of adults. Teachers at Lincoln School in Sterling, Freeport Jr. High and Rochelle Jr. High

along with Outdoor Adventure Fest staff at the Sterling YMCA took more than **1300** youngsters fishing. Totals for these programs are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Other Programs That Included Fishing

Program Type	# of Events	# of Participants
Bakers Lake	1	835
School/Other Clinics	5	1,410
Totals	6	2,245

PROGRAMS THAT DID NOT INCLUDE FISHING

Region 1 fish biologists also presented numerous non-fishing aquatic ecosystem programs. This past year they held **200** events for more than **7400** students.

PROGRAM TOTALS

A total of **11,564** individuals participated in the Northwestern Illinois Urban Fishing Program during the year. Summer Fishing Clinics had **1,919** participants and Fishing Expos/Other Fishing Programs had **2,245** participants.

“ACCESS TO FISHING” PROGRAM

In the spring of 1997, sixteen “Access to Fishing” sites were established in Northwestern Illinois. Since that time, additional locations have been added and we now have a total of **20** sites. Last year fishing poles were borrowed **400** times

CALENDAR YEAR 2015 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The high quality and successful Baker’s Lake Kids Fishing will again be co-sponsored with the Better Fishing Association.

If you have any questions about this report or the Northwestern Illinois Urban Fishing Program, please contact:

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CENTRAL ILLINOIS URBAN FISHING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Fishing is a new activity for many participants in our program and the summer clinics are the first experience for many of those participants. For this reason we do our best to teach children the important aspects of fishing and aquatic stewardship. In addition, it is important that they catch fish in order to become excited about fishing. This will encourage them and infuse within them a desire to fish again. We also stress that fishing is a sport where everyone can be an expert.

When individuals are introduced to fishing, they are being introduced to an activity they can enjoy their entire life. With today's hectic pace, fishing can make one forget life's pressures and just enjoy being outdoors. An introduction to fishing that emphasizes the positive attributes of being outdoors can create an experience where children become more comfortable with the outdoors. Moreover, a proper introduction to fishing raises a child's self-esteem. In addition, fishing is a unique hobby that can be done alone or be used as an experience that builds closeness with friends and/or family members.

Some of our programs included fishing, while others did not as a learning experience. Whenever possible fishing was included because individuals are more likely to want to fish again and develop fishing as a hobby if they have the fishing experience. Multiple

fishing trips are even better at teaching someone to fish and to get them interested in fishing for the rest of their life. Children are not likely to become interested in fishing if they don't have a *quality* fishing experience.

PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDED FISHING

Programs that included fishing were: summer fishing clinics, special fishing clinics, state fair fishing clinics, school fishing programs, volunteer instructor fishing clinics, and fishing derbies. A total of **6,073** individuals participated in one of **269** of these fishing programs.

Summer fishing clinics were held twice daily during week days for about nine weeks in the summer. A seasonal fishing instructor was hired by IDNR to teach fishing, and nearby ponds were stocked at most sites to help assure fishing success.

Sites for these programs included Crystal Lake Park in Urbana, Kaufman Lake in Champaign, Fairview Park in Decatur, and Washington Park in Springfield. This year two clinics were arranged at Colbert Park in Savoy. This was to the closing of Kaufman Lake due to construction during the last few weeks of the Summer. A total of **2,009** people (mostly children) attended one of **125** clinics. (Refer to Table 5 for specific numbers for fishing clinics and attendees, and the percent of anglers who caught at least one fish).

In order to increase attendance at clinics, promotional letters were sent to children's groups such as day care centers, YMCAs, and Boys and Girls Clubs. News releases/interviews were also given to radio and TV stations and to newspapers.

Table 5. Summer Fishing Clinics and Angler Totals

Clinic Site	# of Clinics	# of Anglers	# Hybrid Sunfish Stocked
Crystal Lake, Urbana	8	105	2,205
Kaufman Lake, Champaign	18	245	3,000

Colbert Park, Savoy	2	44	0
Fairview Park, Decatur	43	567	735
Washington Park, Springfield	54	1,048	3,400
Totals	125	2009	13,435

Fish stocking has become an integral part of the Program. If children are to become interested in fishing, it is very important that they catch fish while they are learning. Fish were stocked on a bi-weekly schedule during the Summer at most clinic sites to help improve success. Some offsite lakes used occasionally were not stocked because they had a sufficient fish population that allowed most attendees to catch fish. All lakes were pre-fished before programs to make sure fish were available. The stocking locations and numbers of catchable-sized fish that were stocked are shown in Table 5.

Fishing poles were rigged with small hooks (size 12 circle hooks) and small bobbers to target sunfish because those fish were more numerous and easier to catch. Kids are more likely to become interested in fishing if they catch fish. Catching a small fish is far superior to not catching anything.

Volunteer help during fishing programs has become an integral part of the Urban Fishing Program. The extra help provided more individual attention for children, that usually meant more success at catching fish and also made events safer. Many volunteers helped our young anglers this year and group leaders were always urged to bring enough adults to have a one-to-five adult/child ratio.

OTHER PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDED FISHING

Other programs that included fishing were special fishing clinics, fishing derbies, school fishing programs, fishing clinics by volunteer instructors and state fair fish clinics. A total

of **3,133** individuals fished in one of **119** programs that were held. These programs and their totals are shown in Table 6.

The State Fair Fishing Program is exciting with its carnival atmosphere. It was again held using a small temporary pond about 2/3 the size of a tennis court near Conservation World's entrance. The pond was filled with water and then stocked with about **4,095 hybrid sunfish** along with a few catfish and largemouth bass shortly before the fair started. As in the past, the fish were susceptible to being caught and most of the **1,547 anglers** caught at least one fish. The pond's small size limited the number of attendees to 30 - 35 kids per session. Parents were always encouraged to participate by helping their children bait hooks and remove fish. Additional volunteers came forth to help.

The Touch-a-Fish station was located near the entrance to Conservation World where participants were allowed to touch or hold a fish, turtle or crawdad and this was again extremely popular. It seemed to be a new experience for many. Approximately **27,500 individuals** participated in this opportunity to touch something slimy or to hold one of these aquatic creatures. Special thanks to Dr. Jim Lamer and the Western Illinois University- Alice Kibbe Biological Station for the loan of the turtles and to all who helped with this exhibit.

The **Volunteer Instructor** program is becoming a more important and larger part of the central Illinois program. With this program fishing clinics were held by employees of a state or local park, a recreation department, church, 4-H or scout camp, individuals, etc. The employees of organizations or individuals were trained and given educational posters, fishing poles, and other program necessities. Numerous fishing clinics were held at each site, and these sites included: Weldon Springs State Park, Comlara Park in McLean County, the Charleston Park District, the Quincy Park District, Heartland Community College in Bloomington, In addition, numerous fishing derbies were held at the 4-H Camp at Allerton Park near Monticello. IDNR trained new employees where necessary and helped repair or replace damaged fishing equipment at each site.

Table 6. Other Programs That Included Fishing

Program Type	# of Events	# of Participants
Special Fishing Clinics	13	579
School Fishing Clinics	11	832
Clinics by Volunteer Instructors	2	229
State Fair Fishing Clinics	47	1,547
Totals	119	3,133

PROGRAMS THAT DID NOT INCLUDE FISHING

Non-fishing programs consisted of fishing events, outdoor shows, fairs, and schools. The non-fishing program that drew the largest crowd was the Touch-a-Fish station at the Illinois state Fair. Approximately **27,500** individuals participated in this event.

Totals for these events are shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Programs That Did Not Include Fishing

Program Type	# of Events	# of Participants
School Aquatic Outreach Programs	5	447
Non-School Aquatic Outreach Programs	3	300
Illinois State Fair "Touch a Fish" *	10	27,500
Totals	18	28,255

*The "Touch a Fish" display was open all 10 days of the Illinois State Fair.

PROGRAM TOTALS

A total of **33,286** individuals participated in the Central Illinois Urban Fishing Program during the year. Summer Fishing Clinics had **2,009** participants, Special Event Outreach Fishing Programs had **603** participants, School Fishing Programs had **425** participants, and Aquatic Outreach Programs non-fishing programs had **447** participants. At the State Fair 47 fishing clinics were held for 1,547 young people.

“ACCESS TO FISHING” PROGRAM

The “Access to Fishing” (rod and reel loaner program) program now has **27 loaner sites** in the central Illinois area. Usually, eight or ten rod and reel combos were placed at each site, although several sites were given more. Large colorful promotional posters from the American Sport Fishing Association were used to increase awareness. Fishing poles were used approximately **2,600** times during the year at these 27 sites. Locations and phone numbers for “loaner sites” are shown in the appendix at the end of this report. Some sites are designated as “Super Loan Sites”, meaning a minimum of 20 rods and reels will be loaned out for groups such as school classrooms, large scout groups, etc. These super sites are also noted in the appendix.

CALENDAR YEAR 2015 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Plans for the Southern Illinois Urban Fishing Program next year include:

1. Redesign the Kids Fishing Exhibit for the 2015 Illinois State Fair by working in conjunction with the Office of Strategic Services DNR Printing/Graphic Coordinator.
2. Increase the number of in-school fishing/environmental classes given at schools in the Central Illinois region.
3. Seek to encourage PTA Family Fishing nights within the region by promoting the services of IDNR fisheries division.
4. Promote attendance for the Urban Fishing Summer Clinics by conducting interviews on both local radio and television within the Central Illinois region.
5. Expand the number of “Access to Fishing” sites within the region by 5% before the next fiscal year.

If you have questions or comments about this report or the Central Illinois Urban Fishing

Program, please contact:

Van Grissom, M.S.
Central Illinois Urban Fishing Program Coordinator
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702
Phone: (217) 720-3501
E-mail: van.grissom@illinois.gov

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS URBAN FISHING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Southern Illinois Urban Fishing Program is a fun-filled practical introduction to fishing for people of all ages. Thousands of children and their families receive basic training in the sport of angling each year through the efforts of the Urban Fishing staff.

The Southern Illinois IDNR Urban Fishing programs are managed by the IDNR Division of Fisheries and are supported by fishing clubs, educators, service clubs and interested anglers. These groups and individuals share ownership of the program and promote fishing as a wholesome sport.

The emphasis of the Urban Fishing Program is to teach the basic principles of fishing. Ideally, each session should include an actual fishing experience. By experiencing fishing, participants learn water safety and fishing ethics. Many others find that the experience of fishing allows them to conceptualize how the lake ecosystem works as a whole. This realization encourages conservation practices with the added bonus of being able to experience the freedom of the great outdoors.

Furthermore, the experience of fishing provides an opportunity for young anglers to build their confidence with their newly acquired skills. Many participants come to enjoy fishing

as a stress-free, low-cost pastime while others mold the many facets of ichthyology into satisfying career paths.

This report separates these activities into fishing and non-fishing events. A total of **16,608** persons participated last year in the **39** counties of southern Illinois served by the Southern Illinois Urban Fishing Program Coordinator and **9,685** fished.

PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDED FISHING

Summer Fishing Clinics were staffed by five IDNR Conservation Education Representatives (CER) clinic instructors who taught **4,248** anglers. The CERs were headquartered at five locations: Gordon Moore Park in Alton, Frank Holten State Park in East St. Louis, Veterans Park in Mt. Vernon, Foundation Park in Centralia, and at Southern Illinois University Campus Lake in Carbondale. However, CERs also held fishing programs at alternate sites shown in Table 8. Fishing classes were scheduled twice daily during weekdays for about 10 weeks in the Summer. Catchable-sized hybrid sunfish were stocked at the clinic sites to help improve success for the anglers. See Table 8 below for clinic student locations and fish stocking numbers. The asterisk* indicates CER classes at other fishing sites.

Table 8. Summer Fishing Clinics and Fish Stockings

Clinic Site	# of Clinics	# of Participants	(#) Hybrid Sunfish Stocked
Alton/Gordon Moore Park	41	609	5,000
Edwardsville/LeClaire Lake*	5	254	1,000
Belk Park, Wood River	16	275	1,000

Edwardsville Rod-Gun Club	10	100	0
Mt. Vernon Bush Creek	4	56	0
East St. Louis/Holten SP	100	1,479	5,000
Carbondale/SIU Camp Lake	39	362	2,500
Carbondale/SIU Touch-Nature	10	181	0
Mt. Vernon/ Veterans Park	34	249	1,200
Centralia/ Foundation Park	19	198	1,500
East St. Louis Kappa Alpha Fraternity	1	125	0
Carlyle Camp Joy*	19	360	0
Totals	298	4,248	17,200

OTHER PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDED FISHING

Large outreach programs that the Southern Illinois Urban Fishing Program co-sponsored were Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair at Pere Marquette State Park, Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days weekend at John A. Logan Community College, Lewis and Clark Community College Water Stewardship Festival, the national award winning Fish Tales Program held at Shawnee Community College, and Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program held at Pere Marquette State Park. This past year we added a fishing area at the Du Quoin State Fair.

The **Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair** is the largest youth fishing event in Illinois. We attracted over **4,000** people including **1,300** children that registered for fishing instruction.

At Pere Marquette State Park, we hosted the 23rd annual event during the IDNR Free Fishing Days weekend. The numbers were down this year due to rain. The Urban Fishing Staff and volunteers administered 6 of the 28 fun-fishing events which included: 1) felt/Velcro fish pond, 2) casting, 3) pitch and flip station, 4) knot tying, 5) sport fishing simulator station, and the favorite of many, 6) the bluegill pond, which was stocked with 750 hybrid sunfish and a few channel catfish.

Youth who visited at least seven stations to learn fishing skills were qualified to fish for trout and were then eligible to select a prize from the prize tent. Special attractions included an appearance by Fred Bird, the mascot of the St. Louis Cardinals Baseball Team, and the wildlife-trained antics of Camo-the-Clown (David Freeman). Also, the Fetch and Fish 4,000 gallon aquarium with many species of Illinois fish, attracted many, as did the Cabela's scavenger hunt and fish preparation station. The three new stations came back again this year including Audubon Center, Kampsville Archaeological Center and the local fire department. Each station provided participants learning experiences. The Audubon Center's had a display entitled "Home is Where the Habitat Is". Kampsville Archeological Center's display taught kids the ancient ways of fishing, and the local fire department had a smoke house for the kids to go through.

In addition **Radio Disney Broadcasting** from St. Louis and television reporting helped make this annual event a favorite of many Illinois and St. Louis area families. The best thing about The Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair is that it is a free event and every child will leave with a prize. A child can actually catch a trout, have it cleaned at the fish cleaning station, and then take it to the fish preparation station to have the fish cooked. This event reaches many urban families.

The annual **Becoming an Outdoor Woman Program** is designed to give women introductory experiences and instruction in various outdoor activities. Some of the courses include catching a fish, tying a fly, shooting a gun, paddling a canoe, plus many others. Program instructors emphasize the basics in instruction while providing

information on equipment, associated clubs and/or organizations, and additional training opportunities. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources provides a supportive, safe, non-threatening and non-competitive learning environment.

The annual Fall **Southern Illinois Celebration of Hunting and Fishing Days** at John A. Logan Community College in Carterville attracted approximately **43,000** people in September. The Fishing Program stocked **500 lbs.** of channel catfish and **1,300** hybrid sunfish in the college reflecting pool, and over **2,000** kids caught fish. The newly renovated Urban Fishing trailer was a hit as kids and parents viewed large mounted fish including the state record bluegill, a three-pound eight ounce trophy fish, and the 1995 World Record blue catfish (79 lb. 12 oz). The annual Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days event has hosted over a half million sportsmen and their families since 1987. This free event, the largest of its kind in the United States, is held the last weekend of September and showcases outdoor recreation in Illinois.

The **Lewis and Clark Community College Water Stewardship Festival** attracted over 500 students and teachers from 18 schools. The educational emphasis of the event was to raise the awareness of the science of water. The Urban Fishing area enabled over 500 youth to catch fish during 15-minute fishing sessions. Many volunteers kept the hooks baited and practiced good catch and release methods with **1,000** hybrid sunfish that were stocked.

The national award-winning **Fish Tales Program** managers held their 12th annual fishing camp at Shawnee Community College in Ullin, IL. A total of 300 participants from 10 schools attended. During the training sessions, the youth learned outdoor ethics as they enjoyed fishing.

The **Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs (HOFNOD) Program** combines sport fishing, environmental education, a life learning skill, and drug prevention into one package. This portion of the Urban Fishing Program continued to be a highly regarded program

used by elementary science teachers and high school environmental class room instructors.

Other Urban Fishing Programs that included fishing were special clinics and derbies. Totals for outreach programs that included fishing are shown in Table 9.

Table 9. Other Programs That Included Fishing and Fish Stockings

Program Type	# of Events	# of Participants	Channel Catfish (lbs.)	Hybrid Sunfish (#)	Trout (#)
Fishing Expos	6	4040	-	1,800*	1,200
HOFNOD Program	10	309	-	-	-
Special Fishing Clinics	5	108	-	-	-
Fishing Derbies	1	50	-	-	-
Volunteer Fishing Clinics	4	190	-	-	-
Totals	26	4697		1,800	1,200

PROGRAMS THAT DID NOT INCLUDE FISHING

These non-fishing programs were presented at fishing events, outdoor shows, fairs, and schools as well as non-school educational programs where various aspects of fishing and environmental appreciation were taught. Again this year members of the Urban Fishing Program staff were presenters during the Kids Day Safety activities at the Du Quoin State Fair. Totals for these events are shown in Table 10.

Table 10. Programs That Did Not Include Fishing

Program Type	# of Events	# of Participants
School Aquatic Outreach Programs	75	2,787
Non-School Aquatic Outreach Programs	15	2191
Du Quoin State Fair Casting Practice/Urban Fishing Tent *	10	1,525

Fishing Safety Clinics DuQuoin State Fair	10	420
Totals	110	6,923

*The Urban Fishing Tent was open all 10 days of the Du Quoin State Fair

“ACCESS TO FISHING” PROGRAM

The Southern Illinois Urban Fishing Access Program continues to allow youth to experience the sport of fishing and the great outdoors by providing libraries and other loaner sites with fishing tackle that can easily be borrowed by youthful anglers.

Alton’s Hayner Library was the first rod and reel loaner site in Illinois. There are now **44** sites in Southern Illinois. During CY 2014, approximately **850** youth borrowed a fishing pole. Rods and reels are usually bar-coded by the libraries before being loaned out. Tackle packs containing hooks, sinkers, a bobber, and fishing tips are also available to each borrower.

Two new loaner sites were added to the program in CY 15. The Smithton Library and Giant City State Park now have loaner poles and tackle available. Locations and phone numbers for the Southern Illinois loaner sites are shown in the appendix at the end of this report.

CALENDAR YEAR 2015 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Plans for the Southern Illinois Urban Fishing Program next year include:

1. Increase the number of in-school fishing/environmental classes in the Metro-East area. Encourage those students to bring their parents to actual fishing training that is available at the Urban Fishing Clinic Sites or to attend Family Fishing Events held at state and local parks.

2. Promote attendance at the regular Urban Fishing Summer Clinics. Encourage advanced reservations and informing youth groups about the free fishing clinics. Continue to involve the media to inform the public about the availability of the free fishing clinics in their area.
3. Offer Library Access to fishing sites at training opportunities for their youthful patrons during their summer reading programs.
4. Build upon past experience and successes to promote attendance at the Urban Fishing Programs. Continue to perfect these quality programs that help instill a respect for the conservation of our natural resources and introduce sport fishing to our youth.
5. We have now expanded the Conservation World area at the Du Quoin State Fair by adding a youth fishing pond to fish at during the fair. It was a huge success last year and we plan to add more fishing days next year.
6. Put signage at each of the Summer clinic sites to try to help the attendance at the summer clinic sites in Southern Illinois. Also, continue to promote the Summer fishing program by radio, TV, and newspaper.

If you have any questions about this report or the Southern Illinois Urban Fishing Program, please contact the Urban Fishing Coordinator at 618-786-3323 or Division of Fisheries in Springfield at 217-782-6424.

If there are any questions about this report or the Southern Illinois Urban Fishing Program, please contact:

Scott Isringhausen
Southern Illinois Urban Fishing Program Coordinator
13112 Visitor's Center Lane
Grafton, Illinois 62037
Phone: 618/786-3323

E-mail: scott.isringhausen@illinois.gov

2014 ACCESS TO FISHING EQUIPMENT LOANER LOCATIONS

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

Contact: Lori Johnson,

815/625-2903

Parkhurst Memorial Library
3 S. Jefferson
Amboy, IL 61310
815/857-3925
Contact: Rebecca Gant

Astoria Public Library
220 W. Broadway
Astoria, IL 61501
309/329-2423
Contact: Whitney Parrillo

Boone County Cons. Dist.
603 N. Appleton Rd.
Belvidere, IL 61008
815/547-7935
Contact: Tim Craig

Canton Park District
250 South Avenue D
Canton, IL 61520
309/647-1345
Contact: Jon Johnson

Chillicothe Public Library
430 N. Bradley Ave.
Chillicothe, IL 61523
309/274-2719
Contact: Susan Drissi

Franklin Grove Public Library
Box 326
Franklin Grove, IL 61031
815/456-2823
Contact: Jeff Munson

City of Galesburg
Recreation Department
P.O. Box 1387
Galesburg, IL 61402
309/345-3683

Contact: Roger Sensabaugh

Angler's Edge Pro Shop
217 East Riverside Blvd.
Loves Park, IL 61111
815/877-6082
Contact: E. J. Dillonardo

Macomb Public Library
235 South Lafayette
Macomb, IL 61455
309/833-2714
Contact: Dennis Danowski

Oregon Park District
304 S. 5th Street
Oregon, IL 61061
815/732-3101
4417 S. Stewart Avenue
Chicago, IL 60609
773/624-8686
Fax: 773/624-9603
Contact: Michael Howard

Henry's Bait Shop
3130 S. Canal St.
Chicago, IL 60616
312/225-8538
Fax: 312/225-5232
Contact: Steve Palmisano

Albany Park Branch Library
5150 N. Kimball
Chicago, IL 60625
312/744-1933
Fax: 312/744-6266
Contact: John Glynn

Blackstone Public Library
4904 S. Lake Park Ave.
Chicago, IL 60615
312/747-0511
Fax: 312/747-5821
Contact: Ann Keough

Douglas Park Library
3353 W. 13th St.
Chicago, IL 60623
312/747-3725
Contact: Laverne Griffin
lavgriff@chipublib.org

Humboldt Park Library
1605 North Troy
Chicago, IL 60647
312/744-2244
Fax: 312/744-5522
Contact: Jose Perez

McKinley Park Branch Library
1915 W. 35th St.
Chicago, IL 60609
312/747-6082
Contact: Jose Megrete

jmegrete@chipublib.org
Sherman Park Library
5440 S. Racine
Chicago, IL 60609
312/747-0478
Contact: Joyce Wiggins
jwiggins@chipublib.org

Uptown Public Library
929 W. Buena
Chicago, IL 60613
312/744-8400
Contact: Connie Cooper/
Laura Jenkins
clcooper@chipublib.org

Vodak - East Side Branch
Public Library
3710 E. 106th Street
Chicago, IL 60617
312/747-5500
Fax: 312/747-7861
Contact: Brian Sternberg

Wm. Powers Conservation Area 12949 S. Avenue O Chicago, IL 60633 773/646-3270 Contact: Saki Villalobos	Oak Lawn Public Library 9427 S. Raymond Ave. Oak Lawn, IL 60453 708/422-4990	River Trail Nature Center 3120 N. Milwaukee Northbrook, IL 60062 847/824-8360 Contact: Susan E. Holt/Charlie
Crystal Lake Nature Center 330 N. Main St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014 815/455-1763 Contact: John Fiorina	Pilcher Park Joliet Park District 2501 Highland Park Dr. Joliet, IL 60435 815/741-7277 Contact: Debbie Green	Lake View Nature Center 17 W 063 Hodges Rd. Oak Brook Terrace, IL 60181 630/941-8747 Contact: John Stoddard
Evanston Parks Ecology Center 2024 McCormick Blvd. Evanston, IL 60201 847/864-5181 Contact: Karen Taira	York Center Park District 609 South Luther Ave. Lombard, IL 60148 630/629-0886 Contact: Sharon Neubauer	Orland Hills Recreation Dept. 16033 South 94th Ave. Orland, IL 60477 708/349-7211 Contact: Glenn Bilina
DuPage County Forest Preserve District Churchill Woods Forest Preserve St. Charles Rd. Glen Ellyn, IL 630/792-2100	Monee Reservoir/Whalon 27341 Ridgeland Ave. Monee, IL 60449 708/534-8499 Contact: Lisa Archamble	Iron Oaks Environmental Learning Center 20000 Western Ave. Olympia Fields, IL 60461 708/481-2330 Contact: Kelly Joslin
Godley Park District 500 Kankakee St. Godley, IL 60407 815/458-6129 Contact: Linda Schott	I & M Canal State Trail Gebhard Woods P.O. Box 272 Morris, IL 60450 815/942-0796 Contact: Jill Jackson	Palatine Park District/ Birchwood Park Salmon Shop 250 E. Wood St. Palatine, IL 60067 847/705-5123 ext. 238 Contact: Todd Ranum
Grayslake Park District 243 Harvey Avenue Grayslake, IL 60030 847/223-4404 Contact: Tracy Putkonen	New Lenox Community Park District 1 Manor Drive New Lenox, IL 60451 815/485-3548 Contact: Lea Pipiras	Maine Township 1700 Ballard Rd Park Ridge, IL 60068 847/297-2510 Contact: Mary Swanson
Cabelas 5225 Prairie Stone Parkway Hoffman Estates, IL 60169 847/645-0400 ext. 8190 Contact: Hahnz Teope	Greenbelt Cultural Center 1215 Green Bay Road North Chicago, IL 60064 847/968-3477 Contact: Crystal Ayers	Wildwood Nature Center Park Ridge Park District 2701 W. Sibley Ave. Park Ridge, IL 60068 847/692-5127 Contact: Jenny
Moraine Hills State Park 1510 S. River Rd. McHenry, IL 60051 815/344-1294 Contact: Stacy Iwanicki	Northbrook Park Dist. 3323 Walters Ave Northbrook, IL 60062 847/291-2995 Contact: Julie Hansen	Northwest Special Recreation Assoc. 3000 W. Central Rd. Suite #205

Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 847/392-2848 Contact: Kristen Troy	Willow Brook Rec. Dept. 7760 Quincy St. Willow Brook, IL 60527 630/323-8215 Contact: George Scukanec	Chandlerville, IL 62627 217/452-7741
Round Lake Park District Prairie Grass Nature Museum 860 Hart Road Round Lake, IL 60073 847/546-8558 Contact: Nature Museum	The Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center 9800 South 104th Avenue Willow Springs, IL 60480 708/839-6897 Contact: Julie Vandervort	Ridge Lake Biological Station 17211 Ridge Lake Road Charleston, IL 61920 217/345-6469
St. Charles Park District 101 South Second St. St. Charles, IL 60174 630/513-4335 Contact: Melissa Caine	Regina Dominican High School 701 Locust Rd. Wilmette, IL 60091 847/256-3725 Contact: Bridget Venturi- Veenema	Charleston Public Library 712 S. Sixth St. Charleston, IL 61920 217/345-4720
Schaumburg Park District 1111 E. Schaumburg Schaumburg, IL 60194 847/985-2100 Contact: David A. Brooks	Winfield Public Library 5291 Winfield Road Winfield, IL 60190 630/653-7599 Contact: Christine Lemke	Chatham Public Library 600 E. Spruce St. Chatham, IL 62629 217/483-2713
Blackwell Forest Preserve Butterfield Road 2 mile west of Winfield Rd. Warrenville, IL 630/876-5937 Contact: Bob McNeil or Pat Weber	CENTRAL ILLINOIS Contact: Van Grissom 217/782-6424	Siloam Springs State Park Concession Stand Clayton, IL 62324 217/894-6271
Wauconda Park District 600 N. Main Street Wauconda, IL 60084 847/526-3610 Contact: Mark Ftacek	Weinberg-King State Park P.O. Box 203 Augusta, IL 62311 217/392-2345	Weldon Springs State Park Box 87 Clinton, IL 61727 217/935-0307 Contact: Carol Thompson
Herrick Lake Butterfield Road 1/4 mile East of Herrick Road Wheaton, IL 630/876-5937 Contact: Bob McNeil or Pat Weber	Augusta Public Library 202 Center St. Augusta, IL 62311 217/392-2211	Vermillion Co. Cons District Kennekuk Cove County Park 222 A-Hennining Road Danville, IL 61834 217/442-1691
Wildwood Park District 3325 Sears Boulevard Wildwood, IL 60030 847/223-7275 Contact: Maureen Jekot	Carthage Public Library 538 Wabash Ave. Carthage, IL 62321 217/357-3232	Macon Co. Cons. District Rock Springs Center 3939 Nearing Lane Decatur, IL 62521 217/423-7708
	Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA 10149 County Highway 11	Eagle Creek/Wolf Creek SP Box 116 Findlay, IL 62534 217/483-8260 Contact: Richard Glazebrook
		Hamilton Public Library 861 Broadway Hamilton, IL 62341 217/847-2219
		Havana Nature Center

406 S. Schrader Havana, IL 62644 309/543-6240 Contact: Diane Furrow	Quincy, IL 62301 217/222-8641 Contact: Linda Schmidt	Alton IDNR Region IV Office 4521 Alton Commerce Pkwy Alton, IL 62002 618/462-1181 ext. 155
McLean Co. Cons District Evergreen Lake 2450 N. Comlara Rd. Hudson, IL 61748 309/726-2022 Contact: Mike Steffa	Rantoul Public Library 106 W. Flessner Rantoul, IL 61866 217/893-3955	Beaver Dam State Park 14548 Beaver Dam Lane Plainview, IL 62685 217/854-8020
Mill Creek Park 20482 N. Park Entrance Rd. Marshall, IL 62441 217/889-2882	Rantoul Recreation Dept. 1306 Country Club Lane Rantoul, IL 61866 217/893-0461 Contact: Andy Graham	Benld Library 308 East Central Street Benld, IL 62009 217/835-4045
Lincoln Trail State Park Bait Shop P.O. Box 81 16985 E. 1350th Rd. Marshall, IL 62441 217/826-8131	SkyRush Park R.R. 3, P.O. Box 11 Rushville, IL 62681 217/322-6628 Contact: Don McGowan	Benton Public Library 502 South Main Benton, IL 62812 618/438-7511
Allerton Park 4-H Camp 499 Old Timber Road Monticello, IL 61856 217/762-2741 Contact: Curt Sinclair	Savoy Recreation Center 402 W. Graham Savoy, IL 61874 Contact: Tiffany DeSpain.	Benton IDNR Region V Office 11731 State Highway 37 Route 4, Box 208 Benton, IL 62812 618/435-8138
Nauvoo State Park Box 426 Nauvoo, IL 62354 217/453-2512	IL Dept. of Natural Resources One Natural Resources Way Springfield, IL 62702 217/782-0041 Contact: Rori Krohe	Carbondale Public Library 405 West Main Carbondale, IL 62901 618/457-0354 Contact: Cathy Steudel
Heartland Community College 1500 W. Raab Road Normal, IL 61761 309/268-8513 Contact: Janet Bead Davis	Towanda District Library 301 S. Taylor Towanda, IL 61776 309/728-2176	Carlinville Public Library 510 North Broad St. Carlinville, IL 62626 217/854-3505
Pontiac Public Library 211 E. Madison Pontiac, IL 61764 815/844-7229	Watseka Park District 206 E. Walnut Watseka, IL 60970 815/432-3931 Contact: Sheri Johnson	Little Grassy Fish Hatchery 1258 Hatchery Lane Makanda, IL 62958 618/629-4100
Quincy Public Library 526 Jersey St. Quincy, IL 62301 217/223-1309	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS Contact: Scott Isringhausen 618/786-3323	Carlinville Public Library 510 North Broad St. Carlinville, IL 62626 217/854-3505
Illinois Veteran's Home 1707 N. Twelfth	Alton Hayner Public Library 326 Belle Street Alton, IL 62002 618/462-0651	Eldon Hazlett State Park Homer Guthrie Pond Carlyle, IL 62231 618/594-3015
		Caseyville Public Library 419 South 2nd Street

Caseyville, IL 62232 618/345-5848 Centralia Public Library 515 East Broadway Centralia, IL 62801 618/532-5222	Germantown Library 403 Munster Street Germantown, IL 62245 618/523-4599
Centralia Public Library Irvington Branch 500 Superior St. Irvington, IL 62801 618/249-8143	Godfrey Parks and Rec. 6810 Godfrey Road P.O. Box 5067 Godfrey, IL 62035 618/466-1483
Chester Public Library 733 State St. Chester, IL 62233 618/826-3711	Granite City Regional Six-Mile Library District 2201 Delmar Avenue Granite City, IL 62040 618/452-6238
Collinsville Memorial Public Library 408 West Main Collinsville, IL 62234 618/344-1112	Greenville Public Library 414 E. Main Greenville, IL 62246 618/664-3115
Frank Holten State Park 4500 Pocket Rd. East St. Louis, IL 62205 618/874-7920	Harrisburg Recreation Dept. P.O. Box 313 Harrisburg, IL 62946 618/252-2111
Lessie Bates-Davis Neighborhood House 1200 North 13th St. East St. Louis, IL 62205 618/874-0777	Hillsboro Public Library 214 School St. Hillsboro, IL 62049 217/532-3055
Edwardsville Public Library 112 S. Kansas Street Edwardsville, IL 62025 618/692-7556	Johnston City Arrowhead Lake 1600 Peterson Street Johnston City, IL 62951 618/983-3535
Fairfield IDNR Office R.R. 3, Box 979 Fairfield, IL 62837 618/842-2179	Litchfield Carnegie Library 400 North State Street Litchfield, IL 62056 217/324-3866
Fairmont City Center 2870 North 44 Street Fairmont City, IL 62201 618/482-3966	Little Grassy Campground & Marina 788 Hidden Bay Lane Makanda, IL 62958 618/457-6655
Galatia Public Library 217 South Main Cross Street Galatia, IL 62935 618/268-9200	

Logan Sallie Public Library
1808 Walnut Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966
618/684-3271

Marion Carnegie Library
206 South Market
Marion, IL 62959
618/993-5935

Maryville Community Library
8 Scheiber Court
Maryville, IL 62062
618/288-3801

Metropolis Community Center
516 Superman Square
Metropolis, IL 62960
618/524-3411

Nashville Public Library
219 East Elm Street
Nashville, IL 62263
618/327-3827

Nokomis Library
22 South Cedar Street
Nokomis, IL 62075
217/563-2734

Sparta Public Library
211 West Broadway St.
Sparta, IL 62286
618/443-5014

Steelville Library
107 West Broadway
Steelville, IL 62288
618/965-3135 Ext. 6

Top of the Hill Bait Shop
537 Illinois Ave. Ext.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
618/684-2923

Trenton Public Library
118 East Indiana Street
Trenton, IL 62293
618/224-7662

Ullin City Hall
101 N. Central Avenue
Ullin, IL 62992
618/8453612

West Frankfort Public Library
402 East Popular
West Frankfort, IL 62896
618/932-3313

Wood River Public Library
326 E. Ferguson Avenue
Wood River, IL 62095
618/254-4832

Worden Public Library
111 East Wall Street
Worden, IL 62907
618/616-1224