

# **ILLINOIS COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT URBAN FISHING PROGRAM**

**Division of Fisheries  
Calendar Year 2015 Annual Report  
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**Submitted by:**

**Illinois Urban Fishing Program Staff**

**Brenda McKinney  
Scott Isringhausen  
Van Grissom**

**Additional Division of Fisheries Staff**

**Rick O'Neil  
Lori Johnson**

**Special thanks to retired Urban Fishing Program Coordinators**

**Herb Dreier  
Mark Yehling**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Illinois Urban Fishing Program was launched in 1985 in Chicago, Illinois. The program's multiple objectives were (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.

In 1994, the program was expanded state-wide and now primarily consists of the following three components

- Free summer fishing clinics that include fishing at nearby stocked lagoons
- School fishing and non-fishing education programs
- Fishing and education programs at scout and 4-H camps, city and state parks, church camps, etc.

During CY '15 fish were stocked at **39** 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 2014 year, **7** additional ponds were stocked in Cook County where historically summer fishing clinics had been held. Also, there were **4** special event stockings. 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 **20,630** youngsters attended one of **1006** 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 and **129,290** 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, **1,501** 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 **374** non-fishing Education Programs for more than **43,532** 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 **18,853** 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 **1,581** fishing and non-fishing programs for nearly **72,843** participants in 2015.

## 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 Sports 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 which were followed by fishing at a nearby stocked lagoon. The summer clinic program has been expanded to additional parks but the original format remains the same.

We also offered other fishing and aquatic environmental educational programs throughout the year. 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**

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 **373** fishing clinics were held for **12,340** 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**

<b>Park</b>	<b># of Clinics</b>	<b># of Participants</b>	<b>Lbs. stocked Channel Catfish</b>	<b># Hybrid sunfish</b>
Auburn	-0-	-0-	1,050	3,250
Columbus	64	2,445	3,300	5,625
Douglas	34	1,109	3,300	5,000
Garfield	0	-0-	3,000	5,000
Gompers	58	1,750	1,800	2,600
Humboldt	34	1,110	3,600	5,625
Jackson	0	0	0	0
Marquette	31	1,049	3,600	6,250
McKinley	44	1,411	3,750	6,000
Palmisano	0	0	0	4,500
Sherman	50	1,466	3,000	6,000
Riis	-0-	-0-	-0-	400
Washington	62	2,100	3,600	6,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>12,340</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>56,250</b>

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 **3,220** participants took part in one of the **2** special event programs.

Trustee Melvin Lightford had two fishing events held at Waumpum Lake. Four Urban fishing clinic instructors provided educational and fishing clinics for **300** kids from the city of Maywood. The kids caught bluegills, and smallmouth bass.

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 **95** aquatic-outreach fishing clinics in **29** Chicago Public Schools for **2,690** 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.

The Chicago Urban Fishing Program was asked to participate in a new event called **Freedomfest** which was held at Miracle Marina in Chicago. This was the first time that the Urban Fishing program has participated. Approximately **100** people attended. An informational table with Urban Fishing rulers, specimens of exotic species, and casting targets for kids was provided. Artificial bait was used as prizes. This organization has requested that the Urban Fishing program will continue to be in partnership with them not just during the summer months but all year.

A total of 16,160 individuals participated in the Chicago Urban Fishing Program during the year. Summer Fishing Clinics had 12,340 participants, Special Event Outreach Fishing Programs had 300 participants, School Fishing Programs had 2,920 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 2,002 loans during the year. We have ten sites: Albany Park Branch Library, Sherman Park Library, Rogers Park Public Library, Uptown Public Library, Humboldt Park Library, Douglas Park Library, McKinley Park Branch Library, Blackstone Library, Vodak East Side Library, and Eden's Place Nature Center. 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. Participants were allowed to borrow fishing poles for seven days. Locations and phone numbers for "loaner sites" are shown in an appendix at the end of this report.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2016 PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned for the Chicago Urban Fishing Program will include summer fishing clinics at nine Chicago Park District sites and the stocking of catchable sized fish at 13 park district lagoons. We also plan to expand the Aquatic Outreach Program to additional schools.

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

**Brenda McKinney**  
**Chicago Urban Fishing Program Coordinator**  
**9511 Harrison Street**  
**Des Plaines, IL 60016**  
**Phone: 847-294-4137 or 312-771-9741**  
**Fax: 847-294-4128**

E-mail: [Brenda.mckinney@illinois.gov](mailto:Brenda.mckinney@illinois.gov)

## **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	825
Mundelein/Comm Park Pond	1,635
Wheaton/Elliot Park Lake	2,040
Schiller Park/Schiller Park Pond	2,445
Northbrook/Lake Shermerville	1,110
Dolton/Flatfoot Lake	6,120
Alsip Park District Lake	1,110
<b>SPECIAL EVENTS</b>	
Wm Power/Wolf Lake	500
Richton Park	1,000
Godley Park	300
Mundelein Police derby prior to July 10	1,600
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17,085</b>

## **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**

<b>Clinic Site</b>	<b># of Clinics</b>	<b># of Participants</b>	<b>(#) Hybrid Sunfish Stocked</b>
Moline Area (	27	269	9,300
Peoria/Glen Oak Park	52	679	1,740
Rockford/Belvidere	30	382	1,740
<b>Totals</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>8,730</b>

A **Fishing Expo** is a large single-day event that usually includes a large number of participants. 2014 marked the 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

#### **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**

1. Continue the Summer Urban Fishing Clinics.
2. 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:

**Lori Johnson**  
**Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources Canal House**  
**P.O. Box 903**  
**Rock Falls, IL 61071**  
**Phone: 815-625-2903**  
**Fax: 815-625-4669**  
**E-mail: [lori.johnson@illinois.gov](mailto:lori.johnson@illinois.gov)**

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS URBAN FISHING PROGRAM

## INTRODUCTION

When a person is introduced to fishing, they are being presented with 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 places emphasis on the positive attributes of being outdoors helps to create an experience where children become more comfortable with nature. Fishing allows children to feel a sense of accomplishment and a healthy self-esteem. 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. In addition, these experiences allow for a better understanding of conservation efforts.

Fishing is a new activity for many participants in our program as the summer clinics are the first experience for many of our participants. It is for this reason that Aquatic Conservation Outreach Coordinators seek to the important aspects of fishing and the aquatic world. In addition, it is important that they catch fish in order to become excited and instill within them a desire to want to fish again and begin to foster attitudes of good stewardship. Fishing is an activity at which anyone can gain expertise and it is a great way for families to experience the great outdoors.

Our outreach programs are divided by those that have fishing as a component or those that are strictly on aquatic conservation and education. Whenever possible, fishing would be included to allow participants to a have hands on learning experience. Research has shown that individuals are more likely to want to fish again and to develop fishing as a hobby **if they have the fishing experience**. Moreover, it is better to have multiple fishing excursions in order to allow participants to continue the learning process. This also raises his or her interest in the sport and conservation efforts. Children are **not likely** to become interested in fishing if they don't have the fishing experience.

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 **8,964** (2014 = 6,073, *percent change of 47.6%*) individuals participated in the **310** (2014 = 269, *percent change of 15.2%*) programs that were held this year. One of the largest non-fishing education programs stems from the "Touch-a-Fish" station located in Conservation World at the Illinois state Fair. This year

**18,853** individuals participated in this event.

## **PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDED FISHING**

**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, Washington Park in Springfield and Miller Park located in Bloomington, Illinois. Due to the angling success at the Colbert Park location that was had last year. We returned there for 34 additional clinics at this location for 2015. A total of **2,722** people (mostly children) attended one of the **156** clinics held in the Central Illinois area.

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.

**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.

Fishing rods 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. Clinic locations and the numbers of catchable-sized fish that were stocked are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5. Clinic Locations, Fish Stocking and No. of Program Participants Totals**

<b>Clinic Site</b>	<b># of Clinics</b>	<b># of Anglers</b>	<b># Hybrid Sunfish Stocked</b>
Crystal Lake, Urbana	9	115	9,165
Kaufman Lake, Champaign	11	205	0
Colbert Park, Savoy	34	297	0
Fairview Park, Decatur	36	622	2,205
Washington Park, Springfield	30	1,253	4,095
Miller Park, Bloomington	36	230	4,410
Illinois State Fair Pond	46	1,501	3,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>4,223</b>	<b>22,875</b>

### **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 **4,378** individuals fished in one of **119** programs that were held. These programs and their totals are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6. Other Programs That Included Fishing**

<b>Program Type</b>	<b># of Events</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
Special Fishing Clinics	18	1,080
School Fishing Clinics	31	1,315
Clinics by Volunteer Instructors	15	300
Derbies by Volunteer Instructors	10	100
<b>Totals</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>4,296</b>

The Illinois State Fair is always exciting in its carnival atmosphere. The fishing clinics were held inside of Conservation World. This year there was quite a change to the area with rocks lining the pond and artificial turf being used in order to reduce the amount of muddy shoreline around the pond. These changes received many compliments by families that attended. The pond was filled with water and then stocked with about **3,000 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 **1,501 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. Other volunteers also 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 **18,853 individuals** participated in this opportunity to touch something slimy or to hold one of these aquatic creatures.

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/replace damaged fishing equipment at each site.

### **PROGRAMS THAT DID NOT INCLUDE FISHING**

Non-fishing programs consisted of fishing events, outdoor shows, fairs, and schools. Totals for these events are shown in Table7.

**Table 7. Programs That Did Not Include Fishing**

<b>Program Type</b>	<b># of Events</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
In-School Aquatic Outreach Programs	22	1037
Community Aquatic Outreach Programs	33	1319
Illinois State Fair "Touch a Fish" *	9	18,853
<b>Totals</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>21,209</b>

\*The "Touch a Fish" display was open all 9 days of the Illinois State Fair.

### **PROGRAM TOTALS**

A total of **28,227** individuals participated in the Central Illinois Urban Fishing Program during the year. Summer Fishing Clinics had **2,722** participants, Special Event Outreach Fishing Programs had **2,981** participants, School Fishing Programs had **2,352** participants, and Aquatic Outreach Programs had **20,172** participants.

### **"ACCESS TO FISHING" PROGRAM**

The **"Access to Fishing"** (rod and reel loaner program) program now has 29 **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 2,000 times** during the year at these **29** 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. Increase the number of in-school fishing/environmental classes given at schools in the Central Illinois region.
2. Promote attendance for the Urban Fishing Summer Clinics by conducting interviews on both local radio and television within the Central Illinois region.
3. 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**  
**Central Illinois Urban Fishing Program Coordinator**  
**One Natural Resources Way**  
**Springfield, Illinois 62702**  
**Phone: (217) 720-3501**  
**E-mail: [van.grissom@illinois.gov](mailto: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

**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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>4,248</b>	<b>17,200</b>

**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 above for clinic student locations and fish stocking numbers. The asterisk\* indicates CER classes at other fishing sites.

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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**

<b>Program Type</b>	<b># of Events</b>	<b># of Participants</b>	<b>Channel Catfish (lbs.)</b>	<b>Hybrid Sunfish (#)</b>	<b>Trout (#)</b>
Fishing Expos	6	4,040	-	1,800*	1,200
HOFNOD Program	10	309	-	-	-

Special Fishing Clinics	5	108	-	-	-
Fishing Derbies	1	50	-	-	-
Volunteer Fishing Clinics	4	190	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4,697</b>		<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,200</b>

### 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**

<b>Program Type</b>	<b># of Events</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>6,923</b>

\*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](mailto:scott.isringhausen@illinois.gov)**

## 2015 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. Dilonardo

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

Crystal Lake Nature Center



330 N. Main St.  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
815/455-1763  
Contact: John Fiorina

815/741-7277  
Contact: Debbie Green

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

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

Round Lake Park District  
Prairie Grass Nature  
Museum  
860 Hart Road  
Round Lake, IL 60073

Pilcher Park  
Joliet Park District  
2501 Highland Park Dr.  
Joliet, IL 60435

Lake View Nature Center  
17 W 063 Hodges Rd.  
Oak Brook Terrace, IL 60181

847/546-8558  
Contact: Nature Museum

St. Charles Park District  
101 South Second St.  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
630/513-4335  
Contact: Melissa Caine

Schaumburg Park District  
1111 E. Schaumburg  
Schaumburg, IL 60194  
847/985-2100  
Contact: David A. Brooks

Blackwell Forest Preserve  
Butterfield Road 2  
mile west  
of Winfield Rd.  
Warrenville, IL  
630/876-5937  
Contact: Bob McNeel or  
Pat Weber

Wauconda Park District  
600 N. Main Street  
Wauconda, IL 60084  
847/526-3610  
Contact: Mark Ftacek

Herrick Lake  
Butterfield Road 1/4 mile  
East of Herrick Road  
Wheaton, IL  
630/876-5937  
Contact: Bob McNeel or  
Pat Weber

Wildwood Park District  
3325 Sears Boulevard  
Wildwood, IL 60030  
847/223-7275  
Contact: Maureen Jekot

Willow Brook Rec. Dept.  
7760 Quincy St.  
Willow Brook, IL 60527  
630/323-8215  
Contact: George Scukanec

The Little Red Schoolhouse

Nature Center  
9800 South 104th Avenue  
Willow Springs, IL 60480  
708/839-6897  
Contact: Julie Vandervort

Regina Dominican High  
School  
701 Locust Rd.  
Wilmette, IL 60091  
847/256-3725  
Contact: Bridget Venturi-  
Veenema

Winfield Public Library  
5291 Winfield Road  
Winfield, IL 60190  
630/653-7599  
Contact: Christine Lemke

**CENTRAL ILLINOIS**  
**Contact: Van Grissom**  
**217/782-6424**

Weinberg-King State Park  
P.O. Box 203  
Augusta, IL 62311  
217/392-2345

Augusta Public Library  
202 Center St.  
Augusta, IL 62311  
217/392-2211

Carthage Public Library  
538 Wabash Ave.  
Carthage, IL 62321  
217/357-3232

Jim Edgar Panther Creek  
SFWA  
10149 County Highway 11  
Chandlerville, IL 62627  
217/452-7741

Ridge Lake Biological Station  
17211 Ridge Lake Road  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217/345-6469

Charleston Public Library  
712 S. Sixth St.

Charleston, IL 61920  
217/345-4720

Chatham Public Library  
600 E. Spruce St.  
Chatham, IL 62629  
217/483-2713

Siloam Springs State Park  
Concession Stand  
Clayton, IL 62324  
217/894-6271

Weldon Springs State Park  
Box 87  
Clinton, IL 61727  
217/935-0307

Vermillion Co. Cons District  
Kennekuk Cove County Park  
222 A-Henning Road  
Danville, IL 61834  
217/442-1691

Macon Co. Cons. District  
Rock Springs Center  
3939 Nearing Lane  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217/423-7708

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

McLean Co. Cons District  
Evergreen Lake  
2450 N. Comlara Rd.  
Hudson, IL 61748

309/726-2022  
Contact: Mike Steffa

Rantoul, IL 61866  
217/893-3955

618/462-1181 ext. 155

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

Beaver Dam State Park  
14548 Beaver Dam Lane  
Plainview, IL 62685  
217/854-8020

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

Benld Library  
308 East Central Street  
Benld, IL 62009  
217/835-4045

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 Public Library  
502 South Main  
Benton, IL 62812  
618/438-7511

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

Benton IDNR Region V Office  
11731 State Highway 37  
Route 4, Box 208  
Benton, IL 62812  
618/435-8138

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

Carbondale Public Library  
405 West Main  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
618/457-0354  
Contact: Cathy Steudel

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

Carlinville Public Library  
510 North Broad St.  
Carlinville, IL 62626  
217/854-3505

Quincy Public Library  
526 Jersey St.  
Quincy, IL 62301  
217/223-1309

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**  
**Contact: Scott**  
**Isringhausen**  
**618/786-3323**

Little Grassy Fish Hatchery  
1258 Hatchery Lane  
Makanda, IL 62958  
618/629-4100

Illinois Veteran's Home  
1707 N. Twelfth  
Quincy, IL 62301  
217/222-8641  
Contact: Linda Schmidt

Alton Hayner Public Library  
326 Belle Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
618/462-0651

Carlinville Public Library  
510 North Broad St.  
Carlinville, IL 62626  
217/854-3505

Rantoul Public Library  
106 W. Flessner

Alton IDNR Region IV Office  
4521 Alton Commerce Pkwy  
Alton, IL 62002

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

Centralia Public Library  
Irvington Branch  
500 Superior St.  
Irvington, IL 62801  
618/249-8143

Chester Public Library  
733 State St.  
Chester, IL 62233  
618/826-3711

Collinsville Memorial  
Public Library  
408 West Main  
Collinsville, IL 62234  
618/344-1112

Frank Holten State Park  
4500 Pocket Rd.  
East St. Louis, IL 62205  
618/874-7920

Lessie Bates-Davis  
Neighborhood House  
1200 North 13th St.  
East St. Louis, IL 62205  
618/874-0777

Edwardsville Public Library  
112 S. Kansas Street  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
618/692-7556

Fairfield IDNR Office  
R.R. 3, Box 979  
Fairfield, IL 62837  
618/842-2179

Fairmont City Center  
2870 North 44 Street  
Fairmont City, IL 62201  
618/482-3966

Galatia Public Library  
217 South Main Cross Street

Galatia, IL 62935  
618/268-9200

Germantown Library  
403 Munster Street  
Germantown, IL 62245  
618/523-4599

Godfrey Parks and Rec.  
6810 Godfrey Road  
P.O. Box 5067  
Godfrey, IL 62035  
618/466-1483

Granite City Regional  
Six-Mile Library District  
2201 Delmar Avenue  
Granite City, IL 62040  
618/452-6238

Greenville Public Library  
414 E. Main  
Greenville, IL 62246  
618/664-3115

Harrisburg Recreation Dept.  
P.O. Box 313  
Harrisburg, IL 62946  
618/252-2111

Hillsboro Public Library  
214 School St.  
Hillsboro, IL 62049  
217/532-3055

Johnston City Arrowhead  
Lake  
1600 Peterson Street  
Johnston City, IL 62951  
618/983-3535

Litchfield Carnegie Library  
400 North State Street  
Litchfield, IL 62056  
217/324-3866

Little Grassy Campground &  
Marina  
788 Hidden Bay Lane  
Makanda, IL 62958  
618/457-6655

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