



August 20, 2024

Weekly Update



IDNR's team kept busy during the State Fair running Conservation World tents such as archery, fishing competitions, the BB gun range, the Climate Action Plan tent, and more. Kids of all ages got to brush up their skills and celebrate getting bullseyes while learning about how everyone plays a part in conserving natural resources. This year, Director Phelps-Finnie dedicated Conservation World to the late Brent Manning, former Director of IDNR. Governor Pritzker and Lt. Governor Stratton joined the ribbon cutting ceremony to honor Manning.

In addition to the State Fair, the IDNR team has been busy mocking up proposals for the Veto 24 and Spring 25 sessions. This summer has passed quickly and is coming to an end on a busy note for IDNR. Before things kick off for Veto 24, the team has several site visits and events planned. We'll see you soon 😊!

Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Park Site Visit

In early July, the IDNR legislative team visited Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Park with Leader Castro, and her staff, and Representative Yednock. The wonderful park staff taught us history of the lands and showed us the beautiful features – such as natural cliff faces and waterfalls. These two state parks offer some of the most stunning nature that Illinois has to offer and draws visitors from all over the world. On a really busy day, you can often hear languages and dialects that span the globe. Fall and winter, despite the chilly temps, are great times to visit the parks as well. Nature is year-round!



DNR Info

IDNR performs a wide-range of duties for the state: providing state parks and historic sites, hunting/fishing laws and licensing, conservation efforts, managing waters throughout the state, and much more! The website contains a plethora of information, even an A-Z index, that constituents can explore to answer questions and learn about the natural resources of the state. Check it out here: [Illinois Department of Natural Resources](https://www.idnr.gov/).



[Historic Site Highlight: Douglas Tomb – Downtown Chicago](#)

This site offers a scenic park south of downtown and is the burial place of distinguished statesman Stephen Arnold Douglas (1813-1861). Visitors are able to see the towering monument that portrays an important part of Illinois history to remember.

[State Park Highlight: Illinois Caverns State Natural Area – Waterloo](#)

Which more than 9.6km of passages, Illinois Caverns is the second-largest cave in Illinois. Visitors can explore the depths of the state that many never know exist. For those who have never explored caves, they are quiet, cool in temperature, and give breadth to just how cool nature is. Explorers can see stalactites, stalagmites, rimstone dams, flowstone, and soda straws. Additionally, there is an underground stream that meanders through the cave's enriched bed. Cave-adapted animals, such as bats and salamanders, can be spotted as well. It's quite literally a cool, hidden-feature of Illinois that is worth exploring. **Visitors must apply for and acquire a cave exploration permit. This can be found here: [cavepermit.pdf \(illinois.gov\)](#)**



[Contact the DNR Legislative Team:](#)

The DNR legislative team would like to bid farewell to our two summer interns: Adrien and Lily! They both did a wonderful job, and we are sad to see them go. We hope they were inspired by DNR and go onto to fruitful careers advancing the conservation of our state!

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