

Department of Natural Resources Strategic Plan

Agency Mission

To manage, conserve and protect Illinois' natural, recreational and cultural resources, further the public's understanding and appreciation of those resources, and promote the education, science and public safety of Illinois' natural resources for present and future generations.

Strategic Priorities

1. Maintain and meet the outdoor educational and recreational demands of Illinois' citizens in a manner that preserves and protects fish, wildlife, natural areas and other natural resources of our state.
2. Pursue direct acquisition of property to meet IDNRs ecosystem based management and resource compatible recreation objectives
3. Improve the quality of life for Illinois citizens through the proper management of the water resources of the state, including water supply, flood damage reduction, watershed planning and regulation of development within the floodplains
4. Effectively integrate Information Technology into IDNR operations to increase productivity and enhance service delivery.
5. Repair, reclaim, and restore land and water resources including those that were degraded by mining activity prior to the passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act in 1977.
6. Encourage the public's safe use of recreational and natural resources
7. Work together with conservation partners to conserve wildlife & plant species before they become rarer and more costly to protect.

Summary of Agency Operations

The Department of Natural Resources manages and protects the limited natural and cultural resources of the state and provides outdoor recreational opportunities in a safe and responsible manner.

Key Initiatives

1. Implement a new invasive species control, research & education program to address the most pressing invasive species problems on state lands & waters to prevent further degradation of those resources.
2. Continue to monitor sales and improve customer service with the DNR Direct, Point of Sale network to facilitate the purchase of licenses and permits.
3. Continue development, marketing and promotion of all events at the new World Shooting and Recreational Complex near Sparta in south west Illinois.
4. Make multiple years of data available through publications, the Internet, maps, and other materials.
5. Continue work begun on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant to create floodplain maps of Illinois.
6. Implement key component of the Wildlife Action Plan through coordination of field level efforts and improved technology.
7. Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Update - DNR will work with a contractor over a 3-year period to develop an accurate and comprehensive up-to-date catalog of natural areas in Illinois.
8. Water Quantity Management Plan-Pursuant to Executive Order 2006-Work continues on a major budget initiative for a three year, \$5 million effort to develop a comprehensive water quantity planning initiative in two regional pilot areas in Illinois.
9. The Department has implemented the Conservation Stewardship Program initiated by the passage of SB 17.
10. DNR is in the process of developing and implementing a long-term management plan for the complicated issues surrounding the preservation and management of lakeshore at IL Beach SP for a wide range of natural resource & recreational purposes. This effort is being conducted with the review of state and federal regulatory officials.
11. Implement the Tech Academy, a new 2 year program through the IL State Museum for low-income students. The program encourages them to pursue careers in environmental sciences and natural resources. This program, piloted through a National Science Foundation grant, is a national model to attract students into the sciences.

12. Expand the Department's OWR operations and capital programs for safety enhancements at State owned dams located on public waters by upgrading and rehabilitating spillways and supporting facilities including dam removal, dam modifications, and safety signage and markings to reduce the risk of injury to the waterway using public.

Updated October 2008