

Grants Administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

GRANT	WHO CAN APPLY?	WHEN TO APPLY?	TYPES OF PROJECTS FUNDED
Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development and Land & Water Conservation Programs	Local units of government can apply for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. Projects vary from small neighborhood parks or tot lots to large community and county parks and nature areas.	Applications must be received between May 1 and July 1 of each calendar year.	<p>Examples Include: A combo soccer/football fields, combo baseball/softball fields, park pavilions, picnic tables, grills, basketball and tennis courts, interpretive trail signage, fishing piers, wetland observation decks, extensions of trail loops, parking lot expansions, splash pads, trails with fitness stations, water quality basins with native plantings, shelters with picnic tables; preservation/biological improvement of permanent wetlands, outdoor classroom / treehouse shelters, adventure / educational play structures and interpretive prairie gardens.</p> <p>Click here</p>
Park and Recreational Facility Construction Grant Program	Local governments can apply for park and recreation unit construction projects including acquisition, development, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvements, architectural planning and installation of capital facilities consisting, but not limited to, buildings, structures and land for park and recreation purposes and open spaces and natural areas.	Application schedule and award dates vary.	<p>Capital Expenditures for additional indoor/outdoor recreational purposes may include, but are not limited to, demolition, site preparation/improvements, utility work, reconstruction or improvement of existing buildings/facilities, expansion of buildings/facilities and new construction.</p> <p>Land Acquisition projects such as the construction of new public indoor/outdoor recreation buildings, structures and facilities; expansion of existing public indoor/outdoor recreation buildings, structures and facilities; general park purposes such as regional/community/neighborhood parks; frontage on public surface waters for recreation use; open space/conservation purposes to protect floodplains, wetlands, natural areas, wildlife habitat and unique geologic/biologic features and additions to such areas.</p> <p>Click here</p>
Public Museum Capital Grant Program	Public museums can apply for financial assistance to develop new and updated exhibits, expand facilities, renovate and restore buildings and make infrastructure improvements.	Application schedule and award dates vary.	<p>This program is jointly administered by IDNR's Illinois State Museum and IDNR's Division of Grant Administration.</p> <p>Click here</p>

Additional information, instructions and application forms are available at www.dnr.illinois.gov/Grants/Pages/default.aspx.

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Federal Recreational Trails Program	Federal, state and local government agencies, not for profit organizations and private operators of recreational facilities open to the public can apply for funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails.	Applications must be received between January 1 and March 1 of each calendar year.	Examples Include: Trail construction and rehabilitation; restoration of areas adjacent to trails damaged by unauthorized trail uses; construction of trail-related support facilities and amenities; and acquisition from willing sellers of trail corridors through easements or fee simple title. Click here
Bike Path Grant Program	Local governments having statutory authority to acquire and develop land for public bicycle path purposes can apply. Grants assist eligible units of government acquire, construct and rehabilitate public, non-motorized bicycle paths and directly related support facilities.	Applications must be received between January 1 and March 1 of each calendar year.	Examples Include: Linear corridor land acquisition costs, including associated appraisal fees, and bicycle path development or renovation including site clearing and grading, drainage, surfacing, bridging, fencing, signage and directly related support facilities such as potable water and restroom facilities. Click here
Boat Access Area Development Program	Local governments can apply for financial assistance for the acquisition, construction, and expansion/rehabilitation of public boat and canoe access areas on Illinois lakes and rivers.	Applications must be received between July 1 and September 1 of each calendar year.	Examples Include: Water frontage land acquisition for public access areas; new construction or renovation of boat/canoe launching ramps and courtesy docks, restrooms and security lighting, parking areas, access roads and walkways, other boating-related facilities deemed appropriate by IDNR. Click here
The Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant Program	Local governments can apply for financial assistance for the development of local urban and community forestry programs; activities must help to establish, manage, conserve and preserve the urban and community forests from inner city to associated public lands.	USDA Forest Service-Urban and Community Forestry-State allocation. Grants are given annually as funds are allocated.	Examples Include: Tree care/preservation ordinances, tree board establishment, tree inventories, comprehensive urban forestry management plans, forest insect/disease mitigation plans, residual wood strategic plans, public education on urban forestry, training of city staff on tree care, tree planting/beatification, tree care demonstrations and utility conflict resolution. Click here

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Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat Grant Program	Teachers, nature center personnel and youth group leaders can apply and must emphasize student/youth involvement in planning, development and maintenance of schoolyard wildlife habitats, plus increase the educational and wildlife habitat value of the site (school grounds or other public area).	Application packet: Postmarked by November 30 Notification to Applicants: February 1 Submission of final report: November 30 (of following year)	Examples Include: Enhancing or establishing and maintaining a schoolyard habitat plot, butterfly garden, rain garden, wetland, nesting platform or watering station; designing/building a bird feeding station; and constructing/installing bat roosting boxes. Click here
Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Program	Teachers in Illinois, including home schooling educators, can apply to receive funds to take their students on a field trip to study some aspect of Illinois' natural resources. The destination must be in Illinois. The field trip must occur in the calendar year in which funds are awarded. These grants are offered through one application period annually.	Application packet: Postmarked by January 31 Notification to Applicants: March 15	Examples Include: Field trips to nature centers, state parks, forest preserve district sites, museums, national forests and related destinations. Click here
Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program	Any appropriate not-for-profit organization or government agency that has the expertise, equipment, adequate staff/workforce and permission from the landowner (if applicable) to develop and/or manage habitat can apply for the Illinois Habitat Fund grant. Appropriate not-for-profit organizations can apply for the State Pheasant Fund . Appropriate not-for-profit organizations, governmental entities, educational institutions or corporations can apply for the State Furbearer Fund .	Habitat and Pheasant - August 1 Furbearer Fund – March 1 Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund – January 1 Wildlife Preservation – April 1	IL Habitat Fund – Eligible projects include those which preserve, protect, acquire or manage habitat. State Pheasant Fund – Dedicated to the conservation of wild pheasants. Eligible projects may include: land acquisition, pheasant habitat improvement on public or private land, pheasant research, or education of the public regarding pheasants and pheasant hunting.

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<p>(cont.) Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program</p>	<p>Appropriate not-for-profit organizations can apply for the Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund to protect, acquire, enhance or manage wildlife habitat and to support limited research and educational programs to further advance this mission. These programs are funded by Illinois sportsmen through the purchase of Habitat Stamps and Migratory Waterfowl Stamps.</p> <p>Eligible recipients are limited to any individual, group, organization or entity seeking to preserve, protect, perpetuate or enhance non-game wildlife and/or native plant resources in Illinois through research, management or education can apply for grants from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant Program, a program designed to preserve, protect, perpetuate and enhance non-game wildlife and native plant resources of this State through preservation of a satisfactory environment and an ecological balance. Additionally, the maintenance of wildlife rehabilitation facilities that take care of Threatened or Endangered Species portion of the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund is intended to keep these facilities in a state of good repair necessary to provide safe and sanitary conditions for the species and the staff.</p> <p><u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> The federal funding the Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program receives may not be renewed. Please check back with IDNR for updates regarding the program.</p>	<p>Habitat and Pheasant - August 1</p> <p>Furbearer Fund – March 1</p> <p>Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund – January 1</p> <p>Wildlife Preservation – April 1</p>	<p>State Furbearer Fund – Dedicated to the conservation of fur-bearing mammals. Eligible projects are limited to those that educate hunters and trappers of fur-bearing mammals within the State and the general public concerning the role that hunting and trapping has upon fur-bearing mammal management; the laws associated with the harvesting of fur-bearing mammals; the techniques used in the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing mammals; the conservation, management, and ecology of fur-bearing mammals; and the promotion of products made from wild fur-bearing mammals.</p> <p>Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund – Dedicated to the conservation of waterfowl that pass through Illinois during their migrations. Eligible projects are limited to development of waterfowl propagation areas within the Dominion of Canada or the United States that specifically provide waterfowl for the Mississippi Flyway, and projects to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan for the development of waterfowl areas within the Dominion of Canada or the United States that specifically provide waterfowl for the Mississippi Flyway.</p> <p>Wildlife Preservation Fund – Eligible projects include those which preserve, protect, perpetuate and enhance non-game wildlife and native plant resources of Illinois through preservation of a satisfactory environment and an ecological balance. Projects proposed for grant funding must focus on management, site inventories or education and cannot exceed \$2,000.00.</p> <p>Click here</p>

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IDNR Grant Programs (Update 6/5/17)

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Illinois Coastal Management Program Grants	<p>Units of government, educational institutions, and 501(c)3 not-for-profit organizations working within the Illinois Coastal Zone can apply for grants for environmental education and outreach, planning, signs and workshops. All projects must be for public benefit and must help to preserve, protect, or enhance Illinois' Lake Michigan coastal resources.</p> <p>Starting in 2015, units of government within the Illinois Coastal Zone can apply for grants for land acquisition, low-cost construction and habitat restoration.</p>	<p>Application schedule and award dates vary.</p>	<p>Examples Include: Creation or expansion of environmental education programs, interpretive displays/signs, outreach campaigns, sustainable coastal planning and workshops. Must be on Illinois Lake Michigan Coastal topics.</p> <p>Starting in 2015, grant categories will include: Land acquisition and easements for public access, resource protection, and improvement; habitat restoration; invasive species management, access; and low-cost (<\$100,000) construction projects such as informational kiosks, boardwalks, pathways, fences.</p> <p>Click here</p>
Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund Program	<p>Incorporated, private snowmobile clubs in Illinois can apply for financial assistance.</p>	<p>Applications must be received between January 1 and May 1 of each calendar year.</p>	<p>Examples Include: Trail signs/fencing; trail groomers; bridges or fence traversing ramps (portable); parking facilities and warming shelters/restrooms (located on public park land).</p> <p>Click here</p>
Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Program	<p>Government agencies, not-for-profit organizations and other eligible groups or individuals can apply to develop, operate, maintain and acquire land for off-highway vehicle parks and trails; facilities must be open and accessible to the public; also can help restore areas damaged by unauthorized OHV use.</p>	<p>Applications must be received between January 1 and March 1 of each calendar year.</p>	<p>Examples Include: Cost of land acquisition from willing sellers for OHV trails and scramble areas; construction, rehabilitation, maintenance and design for OHV trails/routes and scramble areas; restoration of areas damaged by OHV usage; and rider education and safety programs.</p> <p>Click here</p>
Local Government Snowmobile Program	<p>Local governments located in a region of Illinois with sufficient snow cover and having statutory authority to acquire and develop lands for public park and recreation purposes can apply. Grants provide up to 50 percent reimbursement of approved facility development/rehabilitation costs and 90 percent of approved trail corridor land acquisition costs for public snowmobile trails and areas in the state.</p>	<p>Applications must be received between January 1 and May 1 of each calendar year.</p>	<p>Examples Include: Land acquisition for snowmobile areas/trail corridors; snowmobile trail construction and signage; trail grooming equipment; parking areas, security lighting, restroom facilities and warming shelters; and snowmobiles and communication equipment for local agency patrol use.</p> <p>Click here</p>

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