

Private Land Wildlife  
Habitat Management Program



**SHARE  
YOUR LAND  
WITH  
WILDLIFE**



# WILDLIFE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Illinois wildlife needs help. Like humans, wild birds and animals need shelter, food, and a place to rear their young. But unfortunately, habitat—the place where an animal lives—has vanished rapidly in the state and wildlife populations have declined at an alarming rate.

Although the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is working to enhance habitat on state-owned lands, 95% of Illinois' 36 million acres are owned by private landowners – the people who will determine wildlife's future. Wildlife depends on you, the landowner, to provide the essential habitat. Whether your property is small or large your help is needed.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Take time and learn to share your land with wildlife. For years to come your efforts will not only benefit the birds and animals, but you, your family, and friends.

Conserving and improving **habitat** is the key. And help is available to do just that through IDNR's ILLINOIS ACRES FOR WILDLIFE and your local Private Land Biologist (PLB).



## ILLINOIS ACRES FOR WILDLIFE

"Acres for Wildlife" is an IDNR **Landowner Assistance Program**. Through "Acres," landowners receive help in conserving or improving the wildlife habitat on their property.

Key provisions include: 1) the program is strictly voluntary; 2) landowners retain **complete** property control (trespass for any reason is prohibited without landowner permission); 3) there's no cost for IDNR services (or payments for participation).

In return for the assistance IDNR provides (see below), landowners pledge their willingness to protect and improve habitat on their land. Protecting a minimum of one acre of habitat for at least one year is required.

## WHAT IDNR PROVIDES

**Land Management Plans.** The PLB will be happy to discuss with you what is needed

on your land. For large acreages, the PLB will use aerial photographs and will walk over the land, if necessary, to learn what is needed. The PLB may also help you develop a plan designed to meet **your** wildlife goals.

The plan may suggest minor alterations in farm practices such as delayed mowing or reduced fall plowing. Odd areas and undisturbed areas (e.g., around ponds) are especially valuable to wildlife and can be enhanced by plantings or constructing artificial nest structures and brush piles. Information is provided in each plan or upon request on the habits and needs of specific animals.

**Free Seedlings.** IDNR will provide free tree and shrub seedlings for areas you decide to plant.

**A Sign.** For all rural landowners who qualify, an attractive sign is also provided to recognize your contributions and give wildlife a "boost."

**Equipment and Personnel.** On a limited basis personnel and specialized planting equipment can be provided to assist in getting improvements you undertake "on the ground."

**Cost Sharing.** The PLB will advise on other cost sharing programs including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), Conservation Practices Program (CPP), Forest Incentive Program (FIP) and the Illinois Forestry Development Act.

## URBAN AND SMALLER RURAL OWNERSHIPS

Why not beautify your home and attract wildlife too! PLB's will still provide guidance on smaller acreages that do not warrant a visit or a comprehensive wildlife plan. Literature in available on inviting wildlife to your backyard for anyone, urban or rural, who wants to observe wildlife close to home. The self-explanatory information lists trees, shrubs, and plants needed and how best to use these plant materials.

Urban cooperators receive an attractive window sticker instead of a sign.

## FOOD AND COVER SEED DISTRIBUTION

Interested landowners may also obtain free seed from IDNR for wildlife food and cover plots. Plots composed of corn, milo, sunflowers, or a mix of grains can be planted annually in odd areas and left unharvested for winter food and cover. Seed is distributed each spring through your local NRCS/SWCD office. Call for further details. Plots are permitted on annual set-aside (ACR) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands with **advance** approval of the Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA).

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

The PLB's are available for slide programs, talks, and field trips to interested groups that want to know about the problems facing Illinois wildlife and what you can do to help.

Share your land with wildlife. Without enough food, water, and cover, wildlife will disappear and our quality of life greatly lessened.

If you are interested in finding out more about ACRES FOR WILDLIFE . . .

1. Fill in the information below. (This in no way obligates you to enroll in the program.)
2. Fold this form with the mailing label on the outside, affix a stamp, and mail.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

STAMP

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT/NRCS OFFICE  
PRIVATE LAND WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM

Box# or Street Address

City

State

Zip



**For further information,  
contact one of  
the following offices:**

**District Private Land Habitat Biologist**

REGION I

District 1  
Castle Rock State Park  
1365 W. Castle Rd.  
Oregon, IL 61061  
815/732-7045

District 2  
205 East Seminary  
Mt. Carroll, IL 61053  
815/244-3655

District 3  
2100 S. Lake Storey Rd.  
P.O. Box 1137  
Galesburg, IL 61401  
309/344-2617

District 4  
215 North 5th Street  
Suite D  
Pekin, IL 61554  
309/347-5119

REGION II

District 5  
9511 W. Harrison  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
708/294-4324

District 6  
30550 S. Boathouse Rd.  
Wilmington, IL 60481  
815/476-2523

REGION III

District 7  
506 E. 7th Street  
Gibson City, IL 60936  
217/784-4730

District 8  
1495 Brozio Lane  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217/423-7708

District 9  
R.R. 2, Box 108  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217/345-2420

REGION IV

District 10  
Highway 106 West  
P.O. Box 477  
Pittsfield, IL 62363  
217/285-2221

District 11  
700 South 10th  
Havana, IL 62644  
309/543-3288

District 12  
4521 Alton Commerce  
Parkway  
Alton, IL 62002  
618/462-1181

District 13  
11840 St. Rt. 154  
P.O. Box 69  
Sparta, IL 62286  
618/443-2925

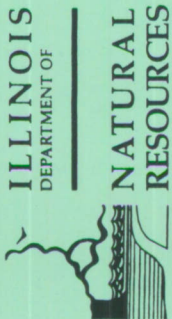
REGION V

District 14  
129 N. Kennedy  
Vandalia, IL 62471  
618/283-3070

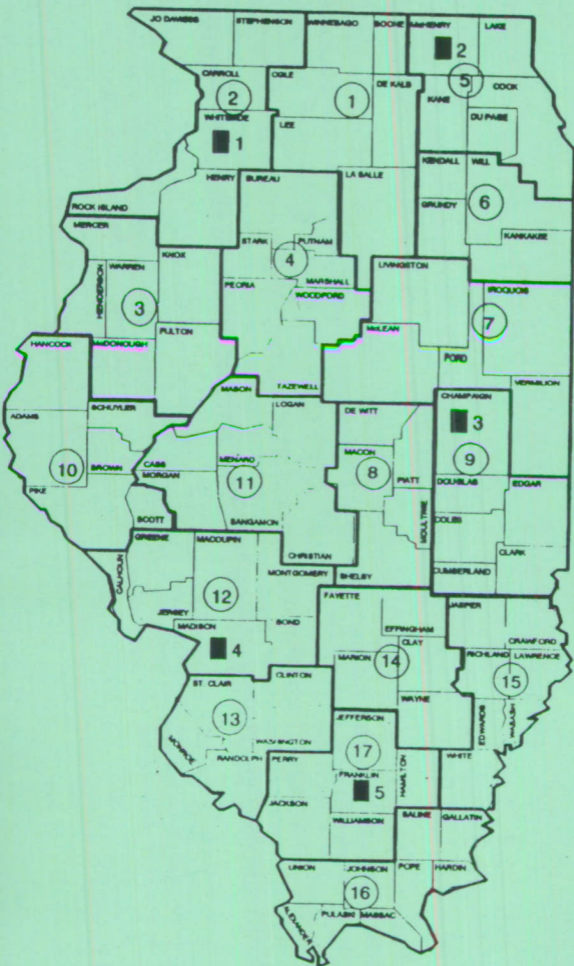
District 15  
1231 South West Street  
P.O. Box 313  
Olney, IL 62450  
618/393-6732

District 16  
Dixon Springs State Park  
R.R. 2, Box 186 A  
Golconda, IL 62938  
618/949-3476

District 17  
R.R. 4, Box 194  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
618/242-2062



# PRIVATE LAND DISTRICTS



ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF  

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NATURAL  
RESOURCES

...ted by Authority of the State of Illinois. GM 16795

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