



Wilderness Inquiry's Canoe Mobile Partner Paddle, bringing together conservation professionals and environmental educators for a paddle down the Chicago River. Photo credit: Angie Banks



A robin rests on a Natural Area Development in progress sign at Steelworkers Park, Photo credit: Emanuel Love

ILLINOIS COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Coastal Management Program is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the environmental, economic, and social value of Illinois' Great Lakes coast.

Construction of the new Bay Marine building at Waukegan Harbor.



Photo credit: Bay Marine

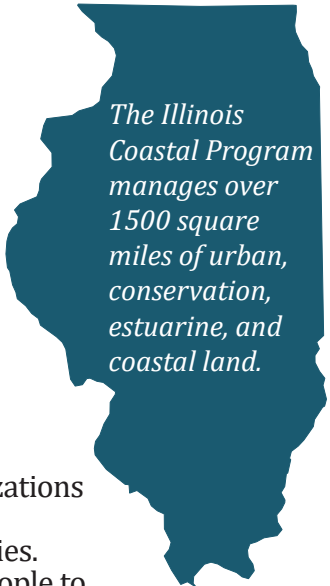
Chicago Public Schools students sampling for aquatic invertebrates at Montrose Beach.



Photo credit: Lisa Gotner

State Program in Action

- Funded the development of 39 regional, community, or site-specific plans in the last 5 years to protect coastal resources, develop and enhance recreation and access, and support waterfront economic development.
- Built a regional network of 35 coastal community leaders and managers from 12 communities who work together to apply the best-available science to pilot cost-effective shoreline management strategies, engage local communities, and address policy and permitting challenges.
- Collaborated with federal, state, and local organizations to fund, organize, and host three Lake Michigan Water Trail events in northern Illinois communities. These summer 2018 events enabled over 300 people to experience Lake Michigan, many for the first time.
- Funded 100 acres of prairie and forest habitat restoration and provided staff support for 96 acres of wetland habitat restoration. Connected 47,874 people to our coast through five years of education programming.



Looking to the Future

- Develop sustainable shoreline protection for high quality coastal habitats at Illinois Beach State Park by supporting partnerships that provide data collection, analysis, engineering, and implementation.
- Enhance economic and environmental revitalization of Illinois' Great Lake Ports by investing in planning, capacity building, strategic partnerships and community involvement.
- Expand and enhance recreational opportunities at coastal parks and natural areas including promotion of the Lake Michigan Water Trail.



Erosion at Illinois Beach State Park where the Dead River meets Lake Michigan. Photo credit: Diane Tecic

HELPING PREPARE FOR COASTAL HAZARDS

In Illinois, our communities live, work, and play on Lake Michigan's coast. With current higher lake levels and more frequent storms, we experience quick and drastic shoreline change. Through a network of leaders and managers from federal and state agencies, park districts, ports, and congressional offices, we work together on regionally-impactful and tangible approaches to public shoreline management. These projects include US Army Corps of Engineers and community agreements on shoreline nourishment and education and outreach materials that help stakeholders navigate the complex permitting process.

"Participation in the Sand Management Working Group aligns with our mission of environmental stewardship. Solutions to coastal issues need a regional approach. As caretakers of public lands, it is important that we take part by supporting research, working with fellow agencies and communities, and sharing what we learn with a wider audience."

-Rebecca Grill, Park District of Highland Park

Working with Partners in Illinois



Once a highly contaminated area with a legacy of manufacturing activity, Waukegan Harbor and the nearby waterfront area is experiencing a tremendous period of renewal and growth. The Waukegan Waterfront Working Group is a key partnership in this reinvigoration. This group unites representatives from the city, port and park district, to identify and implement projects that will maximize the area's natural and economic potential as one of Illinois' lakefront gems. Together, we are realizing a shared vision for a vibrant and welcoming locale for residents, tourists, and business alike.

Diane Tecic
Coastal Program Director
Illinois Department of Natural
Resources
312-814-0665
Diane.tecic@illinois.gov



Coastal States Organization
Hall of the States
444 North Capitol St., NW, Suite 638
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 508-3860
www.coastalstates.org